



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

January 31, 2021 – 11:00 am

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



*“Jesus returned from the Jordan River full of the Holy Spirit, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. There he was tempted for forty days by the devil.”
Luke 4:1-2 (CEB)*

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Welcome to our service of worship! Although we are worshipping in a variety of locations, we still affirm that God is present in our worship, whether in-person or virtually. Our prayer is that all who worship with us this day will truly feel the presence of God in this time.

PRELUDE: *O How He Loves You and Me*

KURT KAISER / ARR. JOHN M. RASLEY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Thinking we know all the answers, yet wondering if we haven’t missed something:

we enter this sanctuary of Truth.

In the company of sinners, in cahoots with saints:

we gather as God’s people.

Standing by folks of deep, abiding faith; seated with those who stumble through the Kingdom:

we lift our praise to God.

* **OPENING HYMN #386:** *O for a World*

AZMON

*O for a world where everyone respects each other’s ways,
where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.*

*O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.*

*We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.*

The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the foolish ones are wise.

Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

*O for a world preparing for God’s glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.*

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

LUKE 4:1-13

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God!

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

We hunger for power, and you feed us the bread of humility; we long for freedom, and you invite us to drink the cup of self-denial. Faithful and Just God:

our songs of gratitude will echo down the hallways of creation.

You speak and all the props are knocked out from under our pride. Then, you astound us by reaching out your hand to lift us to our feet so we may follow you. Holy Gift of God:

our songs of praise will echo down the hallway of our hearts.

Without your wisdom, we would be speechless; without your peace, we would be heartless; without your presence, we would be graceless. Bearer of Truth:

our songs of joy will echo down the hallways of eternity.

It's very simple: all God asks is that we recognize our sin and acknowledge it. And why? When we offer our prayers of confession, God takes them from us and fills our hearts with such an abundance of mercy, we cannot hold it all.

God our God: we fill our souls with the empty sounds of our culture, and wonder why we are so empty when we need words of hope, of grace, of comfort. We are careful to follow the prescriptions our doctors give us, yet pay little heed to your hopes for us. We puff out our chests over what good people we are, yet do not notice how our pride trips those who seek to follow Jesus.

Forgive us, Holy One, and be gracious to us: astound us with your words, so we may learn your ways; nourish us with your mercy, so we may be filled with life; enter our empty souls, till they overflow with praise for your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Of all the astounding works of God, this may be the most wonderful: God is gracious and merciful - to us!

What has this to do with us? Everything! What is this? Good news, of the very best kind! We are forgiven. We give thanks to our God with all our hearts. Amen.

* **RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE:** *We Are Forgiven*

TRADITIONAL LITURGICAL TEXT / HAL HOPS

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. (Repeat)

* **SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

As the people of God gathered in these places, who are we?

We are a community of believers, called by God to WORSHIP, SERVE, TEACH, and SUPPORT.

With the whole church, let us say what we believe. Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

* **A DOXOLOGY:** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

BEACH SPRING

*God, whose giving knows no ending, from Your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by You, we turn to You, offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.*

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

HYMN OF THE DAY #84: *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

RATHBUN

*In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.
When the woes of life o'er-take me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.
Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.*

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Seek Ye First*

KAREN LAFFERTY / ARR. JOHN PURIFOY

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *The Gospel According to Hamilton: That Would Be Enough*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* **CLOSING HYMN #369:** *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

*I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

* **SENDING**

God sends us into the world,
so we may see Jesus at work in all the desolate places.
As one with compassion, Jesus calls,
so we may follow him to those who live on the fringe of life.
The Spirit opens our ears and our hearts,
so we may hear the cries looking for hope.

* **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

* **POSTLUDE:** *Bring Them In*

TOM BIRCHWOOD / W. A. OGDEN



Our Faith Community @ Work

WORSHIP Ministry: (Lead Elders: Nancy Purcell and Helen Brown)

WELCOME to this service of worship at Bethany Presbyterian Church (PCUSA). Whether you are a member or a visitor we are so glad that you are worshipping with us this morning and pray that this time of worship will be both renewing and rewarding for you. If you have any questions about Bethany, please speak to the pastor or call the church at 336.227.4041.

You can find us online through our website at www.bethanypreschurch.org; on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian; or on Twitter by following @bpresbyterian.

"I will show love to those who were called unloved and, to those who were called 'not-my-people', I will say 'you are my people' and they will answer, 'you are our God.'" (Hosea 2:23) Bethany Presbyterian Church is a place where the mind is nourished as well as the spirit, and where we affirm the dignity and worth of every person. As we are all created in the image of God, we believe discrimination is incompatible with Christ's Gospel of unconditional love. While we celebrate our Presbyterian identity, we acknowledge that we are not alone on the path to understanding God. We invite conversations that move us to seek a deeper understanding of life in the Spirit. **Be who you are and be welcome here.**

Audio Recordings of each Sunday's sermons are available through a link on our website, on our Facebook page, or at www.buzzsprout.com/9198. A **Video Recording** of our Zoom Worship and our YouTube Live stream will be available on our Facebook page and on our website.

Resources used in today's worship:

- *Glory to God* Presbyterian Hymnal
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)
- *Ministry Matters* website (www.ministrymatters.com)

This morning we continue our challenging sermon series, ***The Gospel According to Hamilton***. The Broadway musical *Hamilton* was a smash hit and continues to inspire millions of people as it is streamed online, following historic attendance numbers not only on Broadway but in traveling shows. This musical is filled with amazing writing, but also with many themes that we will consider in connection with our faith. If you have not had the chance to watch it, it is available on the Disney+ streaming service, for a very reasonable fee. Here are the themes for our series:

- January 3rd - *The Gospel According to Hamilton: Legacy*
- January 10th - *The Gospel According to Hamilton: Forgiveness*
- January 17th - *The Gospel According to Hamilton: What Comes Next?*
- January 24th - *The Gospel According to Hamilton: Grace Changes Everything*
- **January 31st - *The Gospel According to Hamilton: That Would Be Enough***
- February 7th - *The Gospel According to Hamilton: Take a Break*
- February 14th - *The Gospel According to Hamilton: Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Tells Your Story?*

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elders: Randy Cousins and Tina Patterson)

Our ongoing prayer list is below. Please let the church office know if there are any changes.

Bill Faucette
Jack Cook
Joan Richardson
Shannon Russell
Katherine Turner
Jeremy Harden
Anne McDaniels
Alex Thomas
Stewart Dillard
Shelvia Russell
Carol Brooks

Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Joey Leake
Ida Whitney
Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Christopher Bagley
Randy Thompson

John & Ann Sutton
Ruby Martin
Teresa Wilborn
Tiffany Tauchren
Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Mike Sutton
Pete Campbell
Ben Johnson
Grace Johnson
Frank Wrenn

Ritchie Fishburne
Janie Holt Clapp

Frederica Beatty

Sylvia Donley
Karen Maxwell

TEACH Ministry: (Lead Elders: Tracey Troxler and Shelby Smith)

All are invited to take advantage of the several educational opportunities for all ages on Sunday mornings. Sunday school classes begin at 9:45 a.m.

Fellowship Class (Fellowship Classroom – by ramp door)

This class is using our denomination's *Present Word* curriculum and lives up to the class name in all aspects of their life here at Bethany.

Children (Upstairs – the really, really green room!)

This class for younger children is using our denomination's *We Believe* curriculum in introducing our children to the faith.

Youth (Upstairs, across from the choir room)

Using a variety of creative curricula, this class explores topics that relate to faith and adolescence.

The **Virtual Winter Bible Study** continues to meet each Monday evening at 7:00 via Zoom.

SUPPORT Ministry: (Lead Elders: Chip Allen, Ben Russell, and Bill Abplanalp)

Elders of the Month for January are **Ben Russell** and **Bill Abplanalp**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 - Faith Formation (as scheduled)
- 11:00 - Worship (online only) - *The Gospel According to Hamilton Sermon Series - V*

Monday, the 1st:

- 7:00 - Winter Virtual Bible Study (via Zoom)

Sunday, the 7th:

- 9:45 - Faith Formation (as scheduled)
- 11:00 - Worship (online only) - *The Gospel According to Hamilton Sermon Series - VI*

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell

Ben Russell

Tracey Troxler

Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp

Helen Brown

Tina Patterson

Class of 2023:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Shelby Smith

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love learn serve



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Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org

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Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

Elder Emeritus: Bobby Peele

Elder Emeritus: Don Boggs

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Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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