



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina
www.bethanypreschurch.org
www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

February 2, 2025 – 11:00 am
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany & Communion
Scout Sunday



Adapted from "Ukrainian Girl Scout from Plast gives a Scout Salute," Viktor Gurniak

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice spoke from the cloud, "This is my Son, whom I dearly love. Listen to him!" Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.
Mark 9:7-8 (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. Know that you are loved and we are so glad you are here!

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Balm in Gilead*

ARR. BY FRED BROCK

WELCOME

My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From every mountainside,
Let freedom ring!

My native country, thee,
Land of the noble free,
Thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills,
Like that above.

Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees,
Sweet freedom's song;
Let mortal tongues awake;
Let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break,
The sound prolong.

Our fathers' God, to Thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

"SCOUT SUNDAY OBSERVANCE," P.R.A.Y.

God calls us together to worship this morning. From our work and play within the world, God gathers us to give thanks for creation's goodness, for the strength to labor, for the wisdom to relax.

From amidst our friends and family, God brings us here to participate in a community of faith, Christ's people, a new family. From everyday conversations, talks, and chatter, God invites us to engage one another in dialogue, to speak in truth from the depths of heart and mind, to pray freely. Let us heed God's call and rejoice in what God enables.

OPENING RESPONSE:

This Little Light of Mine (one verse)

This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

*HYMN OF THE DAY #564: *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*

KATHARINE LEE BATES

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet,
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness
And every gain divine.

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

(BASED ON 1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-11)

The Lord is our hope and our trust, our refuge and our fortress.
With confidence born out of faith in God's power to save and deliver us, let us confess our sin.

***Lord, we confess that we doubt your capacity to work through us.
We hold on to fears that we are unworthy to speak your words, so we stay silent even as your Spirit pulls at our tongues. We struggle to fathom the wholeness of your claim over us, so we ignore the light of your love as it emerges in the dark places of our lives.
We seek refuge in temporary towers, and are numb to the grasp of cruelty.
Forgive us. Help us to trust you, to lean upon you, to speak your word to a weary world and accept the completeness of your loving claim on our lives.***

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

(BASED ON 1 CORINTHIANS 13:7)

Hear the good news: Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. We know this love through Jesus Christ, and by this love, we know that we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

God has poured out love upon us, and we have received forgiveness for our sins. We can now live in peace! May mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

(INSPIRED BY GROUNDHOG DAY FEBRUARY 2)

God of all days holy, as a groundhog emerges from its winter dwelling and assesses the light, may your Spirit emerge through our hearts to assess these readings. In hearing these words, regardless of the accuracy of our interpretation or the length of winter's frozen clutch, may we be transformed by your loving presence and reminded that we are your people. ***Amen.***

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 71:1-6

PEW BIBLE, 718

LUKE 4:21-30

PEW BIBLE, 1249

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *In Peace, I Will Lie Down*

Josh Williford - Soloist

CHRIS OVERBY

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Do You Recognize Him?"*

RICK PURCELL, CRE

RECOGNITION OF SCOUTS AND SCOUTERS

Scout Law Responsive Reading

A true and worthy person recognizes their obligations and does them without being watched or compelled.

A Scout is trustworthy.

We owe much to many—to home, school, community, nation, and to God.

A Scout is loyal.

The Good Samaritan showed the spirit of doing a Good Turn.

A Scout is helpful.

A real friend is one who remains loyal in victory and in defeat.

A Scout is friendly.

Courtesy is the mark of a true gentleperson. It is shown in thoughtful acts and kindly respect for everyone.

A Scout is courteous.

Kindness is the way people show respect for others.

A Scout is kind.

Life is filled with things that we must do whether we like them or not.
One of the marks of growing up is to willingly accept responsibilities.

A Scout is obedient.

Our moods make our days. If we are grouchy, our day is gloomy. If we are happy, the day is always happier.

A Scout is cheerful.

The world offers many gifts. A wise person uses them with care.

A Scout is thrifty.

To each of us comes danger, difficult tasks, and temptations. When faced with a choice between courage and cowardice, we must be brave.

A Scout is brave.

Cleanliness is next to godliness. To have a clean body, a clean mind, and a clean record is a rewarding achievement.

A Scout is clean.

Character is determined by the things we worship. If we respect ourselves and our fellow people, and see them as gifts of goodness from God, we live on a high plane.

A Scout is reverent.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper today by inviting everyone who wants to participate up front to receive the bread and cup (we use gluten free bread and grape juice). If you are more comfortable remaining seated but would like to participate, raise your hand and we will come to your seat to serve you. We believe that Jesus invites everyone forward to his table to "taste and see," and so we proclaim that all are welcome to participate.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.***

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

AN OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY: #593**

THOMAS KEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

***BLESSING OUR GIFTS**

***CLOSING HYMN # 438:** *Blest Be the Ties That Bind*

JOHN FAWCETT

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.

From sorrow, toil, and pain,
And sin we shall be free;
And perfect love and friendship reign
Through all eternity.

***SENDING**

Love God,
Love yourself,
Love your neighbor.
Do not be afraid, for the Lord is with you.
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. ***Alleluia! Alleluia!***

POSTLUDE: *Unity and Brotherhood*

THOMAS CHESTERTON

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sundays, 9:45am Bible Study: *The Chosen* – Evie C. Marshall Room

We will be discussing what being chosen by Jesus has beautiful and far-reaching implications – although it says even more about the Chooser than the choosees. We are loved because He's love. We are saved because He's merciful. We belong to the family of God because Jesus invites us, making the Bible and all its promises as true for us today as it was for God's chosen nation. Come join us and find out what does it actually mean to be Chosen.

Sunday, February 2nd 11am – Scout Sunday – Sanctuary

Our annual Scout Sunday service. Our Scouts from the Pack 9 and Troop 9 will lead us in worship on this Sunday closest to the anniversary of BSA.

Tuesday, February 4th The Women of Bethany Church Gathering

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, February 4th at 10:30am in the Evie C. Marshall classroom.

Tuesday, February 4th Alamance Co. Mobile Library

The Alamance County Public Libraries mobile library will be in the church parking lot 10:30 – 11:30. Please stop by and “check-out” this wonderful service the library has to share

S.A.F.E. (Southern Alamance Family Empowerment)

How we can help S.A.F.E. for the month of **February**? They are asking for **Canned and Dried Beans**. S.A.F.E. will be closed the 1st and 5th Saturday of the Month. Consider donating your plastic and paper bags.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, February 2nd – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, Scout Sunday, Communion, & Pennies for Hunger

9:45 – Bible Study – The Chosen - Evie C. Marshall classroom

11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Wednesday, February 5th

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, February 9th – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany,

9:45 – Bible Study – The Chosen - Evie C. Marshall classroom

11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



Session

Moderator: Rick Purcell, CRE

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2025:

Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Tina Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Class of 2026:

Chip Allen

Jean Payne

Ben Russell

Class of 2027:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Brandon Troxler

1500 S. Main Street
Graham, NC 27253

www.bethanypreschurch.org

336.227.4041

Staff

Pastor/CRE: Rick Purcell – pastor4bethany@gmail.com

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – bethanypresmusic@gmail.com

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

Scan this QR code for fast, safe, and reliable online giving:



Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS BULLETIN IN THE BASKETS PROVIDED AT THE DOORS.