



## Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

[www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org)

[www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian)

February 4, 2018 – 11:00 am

*Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*



*“Don’t you know? Haven’t you heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He doesn’t grow tired or weary. His understanding is beyond human reach, giving power to the tired and reviving the exhausted. Youths will become tired and weary, young men will certainly stumble; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength; they will fly up on wings like eagles; they will run and not be tired; they will walk and not be weary.”*  
Isaiah 40:21-31 (CEB)

## GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*The 2018 Winter Olympics open this coming Friday, February 9, and conclude on Sunday, February 25. Almost 100 nations will participate, competing in 102 events. These events do not include those mentioned by the prophet Isaiah: flying and running. Isaiah also says that success in these ventures is dependent upon one thing: waiting.*

### TRINITY CHIMES

**PRELUDE:** *The Lord’s My Shepherd*

J. BAIN / ARR. P. HARRIS

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### AN OFFERING OF PEACE

May the Love of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*(Please take a moment to share the peace of Christ with your neighbor.)*

\* **GATHERING SONG:** *Jesus, We Are Here*

*Jesus, we are here; Jesus, we are here; Jesus, we are here; we are here for you.*

*Savior . . . Teacher . . . Spirit . . .*

JESUS, TAWA PANO

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to worship God, whose creative imagination never fails:

***For the sake of God, we will search for the outcasts.***

We gather to praise our God, whose steadfast love never weakens:

***For the sake of Jesus, we will lift up all who have fallen.***

We gather to offer our best to God, who walks with us through eternity:

***For the sake of the Holy Spirit, we will walk with the weary.***

\* OPENING HYMN: *God is Calling Through the Whisper* (see page 4)

W ZLOBIE LEZY

# OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

## AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

We walk through life, confident, strong, boasting of all our achievements. But God sees the hurts we have inflicted on others, the weariness in our bones from chasing after bad choices, and all the foolishness we trip over in the busyness of life. Let us come to God, for the One who listens to our faltering words is the One who gives us the Word filled with grace and mercy. Join me as we pray together, saying,

***We cannot hide from you, Everlasting God, even if we were to go from one edge of creation to the next. You speak to us of compassion, but the ways in which we treat others show we have not been listening. You explain your hopes to us, and we act as if we don't have a clue as to what is going on. We run as fast, and as far, from you as we can, and wonder why we have no energy to follow Jesus.***

Yet you search for us in all the deserted places we flee to, so you can take us by the hand to show us the way to life with you. You heal our broken hearts so we can offer them to others. You fill us with your strength so we can bind ourselves to Jesus, our Savior, following him to serve all of your children.

## AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

## AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Have you not been listening? God never tires out, nor is there an expiration date on God's forgiveness. God is ever with us, healing us with mercy, and strengthening us for service.

***If God numbers the stars, surely our names are known by the One who loves us and offers us grace. This is indeed good news for all! Thanks be to God. Amen.***

\* RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #485: *To God Be the Glory*

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

*To God be the glory; great things he has done!*

*So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,*

*who yielded his life an atonement for sin,*

*and opened the life-gate that all may go in.*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!*

*O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,*

*and give him the glory: great things he has done!*

## SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

As the people of God gathered in this place, who are we?

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

With the whole church, let us confess our faith. 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

**OFFERTORY:** *Praise to the Lord Our God*

L. SMITH

**\* A DOXOLOGY:**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

**\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**\* HYMN OF THE DAY #387:** *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

BRADBURY

#### 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

#### MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG (@ HEART) / MOMENT FOR MISSION

**\* PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:** *Open Our Eyes, Lord*

ROBERT CULL

*Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus,*

*To reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.*

*Open our ears, Lord; and help us to listen.*

*Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus.*

#### THE WORD IN MUSIC

#### THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *The Isaiah Olympic Biathlon*

Text: Isaiah 40:21-31

REV. JOHNSON

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 880

## LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

**\* CLOSING HYMN #262:** *God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand*

NATIONAL HYMN

*As is our custom on the first Sunday of the month, we will receive our Pennies for Hunger Offering, today, joining thousands of Christians throughout our nation in collecting for the Souper Bowl of Caring Offering. You are invited to come forward during the final hymn and place your offerings in the soup pot on the table.*

**\* CHARGE AND BENECTION**

**\* POSTLUDE:** *Joyous Postlude*

G. DAVIDSON

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

# 410 God Is Calling through the Whisper

1 God is call-ing through the whis-per of the Spir - it's deep-est sighs,  
 2 God is call-ing through the voic-es of our neigh-bors' ur-gent prayers,  
 3 God is call-ing through the mu-sic of sub-lime and hu-man arts,

through the thrill of sud-den beau-ties that can catch us by sur-prise.  
 through their long-ing for re-demp-tion and for res-cue from de-spair.  
 through the hymns of earth and an-gels, and the car-ols of our hearts.

Flash of light-ning, crash of thun-der; hush of still-ness, rush of won-der:  
 Place of hurt or face of need-ing; stri-dent cry or si-lent plead-ing;  
 Lift of joy and gift of sing-ing; days and nights our prais-es bring-ing:

God is call - ing—can you hear? God is call - ing—can you hear?  
 God is call - ing—can you hear? God is call - ing—can you hear?  
 God is call - ing—and we hear! God is call - ing—and we hear!



# ***Our Faith Community @ Work***

**WORSHIP Ministry:** (Lead Elders: Nancy Purcell and A. J. Campbell)

**WELCOME** to this service of worship at Bethany Presbyterian Church. 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](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org); on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](http://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian); or on Twitter by following [@bpresbyterian](https://twitter.com/bpresbyterian).

**Operating our audio and video systems** this morning is **Rick Purcell**. Anyone wishing to join this team of volunteers please contact the church office at any time.

**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](http://www.buzzsprout.com/9198).

Resources used in this morning's worship:

- *Glory to God* Presbyterian Hymnal
- *The Text This Week* website ([www.textweek.com](http://www.textweek.com))
- *Homiletics Online* website ([www.homileticonline.com](http://www.homileticonline.com))

Today is Super Bowl Sunday, and once again, we will participate in the **Souper Bowl of Caring Offering**. As this is also the first Sunday of the month, we will combine our **Pennies for Hunger Offering** and the Souper Bowl Offering. You are invited to come forward during the final hymn and place your offerings in the big soup pot on the table.

Do you have a smartphone? Are you on Facebook? If so, take a moment to **"check in" on Facebook**, letting your friends know that you are here at Bethany Presbyterian Church! It may seem like a small thing, but in reality, it is a wonderful message of evangelism and witness, as you let the cyber-world know what is important to you.

**To the parents of young children:** Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel that you must suppress those wiggles in God's house. **Please note that a professionally staffed nursery is available during the worship hour.** Here are some hints to make worship with your children more rewarding:

- Consider sitting towards the front where it is easier for little ones to engage. On the second pew nearest the choir loft, there are activities for children of all ages to keep busy with during the service.
- Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, musicians, and leaders.
- Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behavior by mimicking you.
- If you have to leave the sanctuary with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me!"
- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.
- **To adult worshippers:** The presence of children is a gift to the church and they are a reminder that our church is growing! Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

Please drop by the nursery to say hello to our new nursery worker **Caroline Wright**. Caroline is scheduled to be with us through the end of May.

**SERVE Ministry:** (Lead Elder: Jean Payne and Sandy Cook)

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

Bill Faucette  
Faye Campbell

Diane Miller  
Jack Cook

John & Ann Sutton  
Peter Slater

Frances Nolan  
Layla Benoklen  
Ida Whitney  
Rachel Poteat  
Jeremy Harden  
Anne McDaniels  
Mike Sutton  
Steward Dillard  
Ben Johnson  
Celeste Bayliff Agner

Polly & Dick Wilson  
Teresa Wilborn  
Tiffany Tauchren  
Jean Berry  
Christy Lutterloh  
Eleanor Thompson  
Nancy Sutton  
Norma Proctor  
Levi Byrd  
Ruth Younts

Joey Leake  
Shannon Russell  
Mary Moore  
Barbara Cousins  
Pat Kennedy  
Donna Mitchell-Ayers  
Pete Campbell  
Carolyn Thompson  
Shelvia Russell  
Ruby Martin

**TEACH Ministry:** (Lead Elders: Brandon Troxler and Karen Maxwell)

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.

**Young at Heart Class** (Young at Heart Classroom – across from pastor's office)

Using the *Uniform Series*, this class engages in lively discussions pertaining to the biblically based curriculum. The class is taught by a very capable team of teachers.

**Seeker's Class** (Church Office)

The Seeker's Class is currently using the Wired Word curriculum, looking at current events as they relate to our faith.

**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.

**SUPPORT Ministry:** (Lead Elders: Ron Osborne, Chip Allen, and Glenn Patterson)

Elders of the Month for February are **Jean Payne** and **Chip Allen**.

## This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship / Souper Bowl of Caring/Pennies for Hunger Offering

Monday, the 5<sup>th</sup>:

- 7:00 – Circle #4

Wednesday, the 7<sup>th</sup>:

- 7:00 - Choir Practice

Sunday, the 11<sup>th</sup>:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

### Session

**Moderator:** Rev. John W. Johnson

**Clerk:** Rick Purcell

**Treasurer:** Ron Osborne

### Class of 2018:

Glenn Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Brandon Troxler

### Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell

Ron Osborne

Jean Payne

### Class of 2020:

Chip Allen

Sandy Cook

Karen Maxwell

# bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



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### Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – [pastor@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@bethanypreschurch.org)  
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Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – [office@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:office@bethanypreschurch.org)  
Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – [finance@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:finance@bethanypreschurch.org)

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*Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation*

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