



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

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

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February 4, 2024 – 11:00 am

*Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*



"Dusty Sandal," Michael Coghlan

On the Sabbath, he began to teach in the synagogue. Many who heard him were surprised.

“Where did this man get all this? What’s this wisdom he’s been given?

What about the powerful acts accomplished through him? Mark 6:2 (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. Know that you are loved and we are so glad you are here! Parts of today’s liturgy are from the Iona Community, Iona Abbey Worship Book (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 201y); and LiturgyLink, <https://www.liturgylink.net>.*

### TRINITY CHIMES

**PRELUDE:** *Tranquil Blessing*

MERCY BARTLETT

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*OPENING HYMN #293:** *This Is My Father's World*

MALTBIE D. BABCOCK

This is my Father's world,  
And to my listening ears  
All nature sings, and round me rings  
The music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world:  
I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;  
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world.  
Oh, let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world:  
The battle is not done:  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,  
And earth and heaven be one.

**\*OPENING SENTENCES**

With nature in its power and beauty,  
with rain and wind and sunshine,  
with the ancient rocks and the budding flower,  
***we gather in praise of God.***

With believers and seekers the whole world wide,  
with people in every land,  
and speakers of every language,  
***we gather in praise of God.***

With the angels and saints in heaven,  
with all those who built community here  
and with all who have worshiped in this place,  
***we gather in praise of God.***

With Jesus who promised his presence  
and the Spirit who showers her blessings,  
***we gather in praise of God.***

Here let heaven and earth embrace;  
***Here may God's people find home.***

**\*GATHERING PRAYER**

Generous God,  
this day and all its possibilities  
are gifts to us.  
make us ready to receive your grace  
this morning and every morning.  
***Amen.***

# OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

## A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Listen for God's word  
coming to us in Scripture.

*Our hearts and minds are open.*

God be in our listening,  
God be in our understanding. *Amen.*

## ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

### PSALM 122

PEW BIBLE, 766

### MARK 6:1-29

PEW BIBLE, 1222

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

## AN OFFERING OF OUR PLEDGES

### OFFERTORY

**\*DOXOLOGY #592:** *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

THOMAS KEN

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

### \*BLESSING OUR GIFTS

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY #508:** *For the Bread Which You Have Broken*

LOUIS FITZGERALD BENSON

For the bread which You have broken,  
For the wine which You have poured,  
For the words which You have spoken,  
Now we give You thanks, O Lord.

By this promise that You love us,  
By Your gift of peace restored,  
By Your call to heaven above us,  
Hallow all our lives, O Lord.

With the saints who now adore You  
Seated at the heavenly board,  
May the Church still waiting for You  
Keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.

In Your service, Lord, defend us;  
In our hearts keep watch and ward;  
In the world to which You send us  
Let Your kingdom come, O Lord.

## TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

Trusting in God's grace, let us tell the truth about ourselves.

Eternal God, Maker of the skies above,  
lowly Christ, Lover of the earth and its people,  
unfettered Spirit, Giver of gracious gifts,  
***you are present among us.***

O hidden mystery, sun behind all suns,  
soul within all souls,  
in all we touch, in all we meet,  
***you are present among us.***

As bearers of your image,  
we come to be reshaped,  
***dependent on your mercy,  
we ask to be made new.***

For the right roads we avoided travelling,  
and the kindly words we refused to share;  
for the false gods who received our worship  
and the true selves we have starved of love...  
God, by your grace, ***forgive us.***

For the hidden hurts we have held to tightly,  
and the promises which we never kept;  
for the careless use of our time and money  
and the excuses we should never have made,  
God, by your grace, ***forgive us.***

*Pause*

For all we should be  
and all we can amend,  
God, in your love, ***renew us.***

For all you have in store for us,  
and all you may demand of us,  
God, in your love, ***prepare us.***

For the life of the world  
and the love of its people,  
God, in your love, ***commit us.***

***God have mercy on us  
Christ have mercy on us  
God have mercy on us.***

## AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Hear and believe these words of Jesus:

Your sins are forgiven.  
Go in peace.  
Come and follow me.  
*Pause*

Glory to the Creator who gives us life,  
*Glory to Jesus whose love remakes us,*  
Glory to the Spirit, companion on our journey.  
*Glory be to God. Amen.*

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE: *This Little Light of Mine*

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.

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.

Let it shine. Let it shine. Let it shine.

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Blessed Assurance*

RUTH ELAINE SCHRAM

THE WORD PROCLAIMED  
"Off with his Head"

REV. JON PHILLIPS

## SACRAMENT OF 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

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.  
*And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts.  
*We lift them to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to God our Maker  
*It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

Praise is yours, holy God...  
... singing the song of your eternal greatness.

*Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

Because you, gracious God, have been faithful to us,  
we will be faithful to Jesus.

He promised to be with those who met in his name:  
*this we believe.*

He promised to hear the prayers of faithful people:  
*this we believe.*

He said in the communion of bread and wine  
he would be present to us  
as we remembered him:  
*this we celebrate.*

For great is the mystery of faith:  
*Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.*

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
*Thanks be to God.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Give thanks for God's goodness:  
*God's love shall last for ever.*

## \*CLOSING HYMN #368: *I've Got Peace Like a River*

I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in-a my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain in-a my soul.

I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean in-a my soul.

## \*SENDING

May the everlasting God shield you wherever you go.

And the blessing of God be upon you  
*the blessing of the Giver of life.*

The blessing of God be upon you  
*the blessing of the Christ of love*

The blessing of God be upon you  
*the blessing of the Spirit of peace.*

The blessing of the Trinity be upon you  
now and evermore. *Amen.*

## POSTLUDE: *Go Forth in Triumph*

FRANKLIN RITTER

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*\* Please stand in body or spirit.*



# Our Faith Community @ Work

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### **Sundays, 9:45am Bible 101 Part 2: The New Testament – Evie C. Marshall Room**

We're back this Sunday! With a brand New Testament! Join Jon and friends as we continue our Bible 101 survey of the Biblical text, focusing on how it is interpreted, its context, and its content.

### **Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> 11am – Scout Sunday – Sanctuary**

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

### **Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> 11am-1pm, 4-6pm – Drive Thru Ashes – Parking Lot**

All are welcome to participate in this ancient practice of marking the sign of the cross with the ashes of burnt palm leaves from previous Palm Sunday celebrations as we enter into the season of Lent – the time of solemn prayer and preparation in the 40 days before Easter.

### **All Day Throughout Lent – Stations of the Cross – Recreation Area**

The Stations of the Cross have been a part of the Lenten journey of Christians to express their faith in a multisensory way for centuries. You are invited to participate in this ancient tradition of remembering Christ's death by walking an ecumenical version in our Recreation Area this Lenten season.

### **Thursdays Throughout Lent 11:30am-1pm – Drive Thru Prayer – Parking Lot**

Do you need prayer? You are invited to stop on by our parking lot on Thursdays from 11:30-1 for prayer with Jon or an elder throughout the Lenten season.

### **Sundays February 18 – March 17<sup>th</sup> 11am – Lenten Worship - Sanctuary**

The season of Lent. Our Lenten Sunday worship will include extended periods of silent prayer.

### **Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> 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

### **Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> Men of the Church Brunswick Stew**

The Men of the Church are making their Brunswick Stew. Advanced orders are preferred and to place your order, see the sign-up in the Welcome Center or call the church office. It is \$10 a quart and pick-up is after 2pm on Saturday.

### **Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> 11am - Palm Sunday Service - Sanctuary**

### **Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> 6pm – Maundy Thursday Dinner Church – Fellowship Hall**

Come and join us for Dinner Church, a meal and liturgy around the table as we commemorate the Passover meal that Jesus celebrated with his disciples. Come as you are and invite a friend – all are welcome!

### **Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm - Good Friday Seven Last Words - Sanctuary**

A service of prayer and reflection on the Seven Last Words. Please note that there will be extended periods of silence and a darkened sanctuary during this service.

### **Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> 11am Easter Sunday - Sanctuary**

Our Easter celebration. Celebrate Jesus' resurrection with us!

## This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany and Communion  
9:45 – Adult Sunday School - Bible 101 – New Testament Evie C. Marshall classroom  
11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany  
9:45 – Adult Sunday School - Bible 101 – New Testament Evie C. Marshall classroom  
11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

# bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



### Session

**Moderator:** Rev. Jon Phillips

**Clerk:** Randy Cousins

**Treasurer:** Glenn Patterson

### Class of 2023:

Chip Allen  
Randy Cousins  
Shelby Smith

### Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell  
Kim Snyder  
Tracey Troxler

### Class of 2025:

Donna Mitchell-Ayers  
Tina Patterson  
Nancy Purcell

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### Staff

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