



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

February 7, 2021 – 11:00 am

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany



*“When the apostles returned, they described for Jesus what they had done. Taking them with him, Jesus withdrew privately to a city called Bethsaida.”
Luke 9:10 (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: *I Need Thee Every Hour*

DAVID HEGARTY / TUNE BY R. LOWRY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* 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 #310: *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*

ST. AGNES

Jesus, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills my breast.

But sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest.

*Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame, nor can the mind recall
a sweeter sound than thy blest name, O Savior of us all.*

*O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek,
to those who fall, how kind thou art! How good to those who seek!*

But what to those who find? Ah, this nor tongue nor pen can show.

The love of Jesus, what it is none but his loved ones know.

Jesus, our only joy be thou, as thou our prize wilt be.

Jesus, be thou our glory now, and through eternity.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

LUKE 4:31-44

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God!

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

You lift up those we step over in our race to success; you soak our aching feet in the waters of life; you massage hearts bruised by others. We praise you, Rebuilder of crumbling souls.

You pick those not chosen on the playgrounds of life; you cover open sores with your grace; you wander our streets, inviting those who huddle in doorways to feast at your Table. We follow you, Bread of Heaven.

You gather those who are cast aside by a throwaway society, and call them by name; you melt hearts hardened by cynicism with the warmth of your hope; you energize us so we can sprint into the kingdom. We welcome you, Delightful Spirit.

God in Community, Holy in One, we come to you as your people.

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.

We cannot hide from you, 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 is 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:** *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**

FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

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.

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. 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 #101: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

HAMBURG

*When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God;
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.
See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?
Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.*

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: *O Divine Redeemer*

CHARLES GOUNOD / ARR. R. THYGERSON

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *The Gospel According to Hamilton: Take a Break*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

*** CLOSING HYMN:** *Great God of Every Blessing*

AURELIA

*Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,
you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.
Your Word is our salvation, the source of endless grace,
in death and life extending your covenant embrace.
In Christ we are one body; each member has a part:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.
Your Spirit is our teacher, the light that guides our search,
transforming broken people into the holy church.
For feeding us with mercy, for wisdom you impart:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.*

*** SENDING**

God sends us forth into the world,
so we will go to walk miles in the shoes of others.
Jesus calls us to serve everyone we meet,
so we will become all things to all people.
The Holy Spirit encourages us to let go of our gospel-given rights,
so we may breathe new life into the faint.

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*** POSTLUDE:** *Rejoice With a Song*

EDWARD BROUGHTON



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:

- *Presbyterian Outlook* liturgical resources
- *Glory to God* Presbyterian Hymnal
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.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 February are **Nancy Purcell** and **Shelby Smith**.

The Session is reminded of their monthly stated meeting **this Tuesday, February 9th at 7:00 pm**. The meeting will be both in person and via Zoom.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Monday, the 8th:

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

Tuesday, the 9th:

- 9:00 - Salem Presbytery Meets (via Zoom) 7:00 - Session Meeting

Sunday, the 14th:

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

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
Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – music@bethanypreschurch.org
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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