



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

February 8, 2026 – 11:00 am

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Scout Sunday



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

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: *Be Thou My Vision*

DAVID ALLEN

WELCOME

***OPENING HYMN #253:** *I'll Praise My Maker*

ISAAC WATTS

I'll praise my Maker while I've breath;
And when my voice is lost in death,
Praise shall employ my nobler powers.
My days of praise shall ne'er be past
While life, and thought, and being last,
Or immortality endures.

How happy they whose hopes rely
On Israel's God who made the sky,

And earth and seas with all their train;
Whose truth for ever stands secure,
Who saves the oppressed and feeds the poor,
And none shall find God's promise vain.
The Lord pours eyesight on the blind;
The Lord supports the fainting mind
And send the laboring conscience peace.
God helps the stranger in distress,
The widowed and the parentless,
And grants the prisoner sweet release.

I'll praise my Maker while I've breath;
And when my voice is lost in death,
Praise shall employ my nobler powers.
My days of praise shall ne'er be past
While life and thought and being last,
Or immortality endures.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

(ADAPTED FROM PSALM 112)

People of God, praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the Lord, those who greatly delight in his commandments.

Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever.

We who gather are broken yet holy; sinners at heart, yet fully re-deemed. We are God's very own, called together here this day.

Let us sing. Let us pray. Let us join together in worship. Praise the Lord!

GATHERING PRAYER

(ISAIAH 58, 1 CORINTHIANS 2,)

Amazing God, you have gathered us from many places to come together and praise you this day.

For this we are grateful!

As we worship today, may our minds be opened to learn your wisdom.

May our eyes be opened to places that need healing.

May our hands be opened to do your good work.

May our hearts be opened to your Holy Spirit, who gifts us and guides us.

In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(FROM THE CONFESSION OF 1967)

We believe: The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord. Amen.

*HYMN OF THE DAY #310: *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*

BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX

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 will be;
Jesus, be Thou our glory now,
And through eternity.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

Gracious God, we confess that it is harder to do than we expected this life of faith. You call us to be salt of the earth and to live lives of justice and righteousness and love. But our lives become busy. Following what others do is just easier. And sometimes the cost for doing what is right seems too high. One day, perhaps, we will commit more fully, but the status quo works better for us right now. Forgive us, we pray. Startle our senses and disrupt our routines. Renew in us the passion for doing what is right in your eyes, and inspire us to be sources of your light in the world. May we, like the prophets and the saints, act by faith no matter how high the cost.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

(ISAIAH 58:6-9)

...Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the home less poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

...Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, 'Here I am.'"

...Through Christ, our sins are forgiven, and we know new life. Thanks be to God! Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, the words we read are ancient and true. On this day, may we hear them anew. Grant us hearts to discern your Spirit within them, and grant us courage to follow them in our lives this day. Amen.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 112:1-9

PEW BIBLE, 755

MATTHEW 5:13-20

PEW BIBLE, 1173

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

KATHLEEN THOMERSON

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *“Don’t Stay Under the Basket”*

RICK PURCELL, CRE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.*

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.

AN OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY: *For the Fruit of All Creation*

LUTHER EMERSON

***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.

***BLESSING OUR GIFTS**

***CLOSING HYMN #525:** *Here I Am, Lord*

DANIEL L. SCHUTTE

I, the Lord of the sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.
I who have made the stars of the night,
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I the Lord of the snow and rain,
I have born my people' pain
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their heart's of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send? **Refrain**

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send? **Refrain**

***SENDING**

Go, dear friends, to love and serve the Lord. Go shine light into darkness.
Go be salt of the earth. Go enjoy the wonders of our world, which God has made. Go stand beside those
on the margins. Go form faith. Go have your faith formed. And go to share God's love, knowing that you are
uniquely beloved. Amen.

POSTLUDE: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

WILLIAM BENNETT

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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

Wednesdays, 10:00am Bethany Exercise Class - Evie C. Marshall Room

Exercise classes will start back after the first of the year on Wednesdays at 10:00am in the Evie C. Marshall classroom. Come join us for fun and fellowship.

Sunday, February 8th 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.

Saturday, February 21st 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.

Tuesday, March 3rd 10:30am The Women of Bethany Church Gathering

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, February 3rd at 10:30am. in the Evie C. Marshall classroom.

Tuesday, March 3rd Alamance Co. Mobile Library

The Alamance County Public Libraries mobile library will be at Bethany on the first Tuesday of each month. The 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 can we help S.A.F.E. for during the **Winter months**? They are asking for **Canned Meats: Chicken, and Tuna, 1 lb. bags of Rice, Pasta, Spaghetti sauce, Spaghetti noodles and soup.** S.A.F.E. will be closed the 1st and 5th Saturday of the Month. Consider donating your paper bags.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, February 8th - Fifth Sunday after Epiphany – Scout Sunday

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

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

Tuesday, February 10th 7:00pm Session Meeting

Wednesday, February 11th

10:00 – Exercise class

7:00 – Choir Practice

Sunday, February 15th - Transfiguration Sunday

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

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

Session

Moderator: Rick Purcell, CRE

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2026:

Chip Allen

Jean Payne

Ben Russell

Class of 2027:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Brandon Troxler

Class of 2028:

Helen Brown

Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Nancy Purcell

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worship serve teach support



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