



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

February 12, 2023 – 11:00 am

Sixth Sunday of Epiphany



"Wild Mustard in Bloom," carlfbagge

³¹ He told another parable to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and planted in his field. ³² It's the smallest of all seeds. But when it's grown, it's the largest of all vegetable plants. It becomes a tree so that the birds in the sky come and nest in its branches."

Matthew 13:31-32 (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 Ruth Burgess, Bare Feet and Buttercups: Resources for Ordinary Time (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2008).

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *God's Care*

BEN LOGAN

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN #551:** *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

HENRY ALFORD

Come, ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest home:
All is safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide
For our wants to be supplied;

Come to God's own temple, come,
Raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field,
Fruit unto God's praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown,
Unto joy or sorrow grown;
First the blade, and then the ear,
Then the full corn shall appear:
Lord of harvest, grant that we
Wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come,
And shall take the harvest home;
From each field shall in that day
All offenses purge away;
Give the angels charge at last
In the fire the tares to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store
In God's garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come
To Thy final harvest home;
Gather Thou Thy people in,
Free from sorrow, free from sin;
There forever purified,
In Thy presence to abide:
Come, with all Thine angels come,
Raise the glorious harvest home.

***OPENING SENTENCES**

The Kingdom of heaven slips between the cracks
in the meaning of words.
The languages of this world cannot contain it.

In the depths of the ocean of our desperation it lies,
a pearl of enormous wealth.
It fills the cavern of our need.

It soothes the pain that fills the corners of a prison cell.
It pours into the cup of suffering passes around in an upstairs room.

It is the immensity of small acts of compassion.
It is the sea of living water
contained in a single tear of our contrition.

It is the split second between the welling up of joy
and the eruption of laughter.
It is dancing to our own beat.

It is the wide eyes of a child.
It is the filling of our lamps of expectation
for the bridegroom at the end of time.

It is the seed of our hope for life.
It is here.
It is now.
Let us worship our God.

"THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN," ALIZON SHARUN

*GATHERING PRAYER

BASED ON THE LITURGY OF ST. MARK, 2ND CENTURY

Almighty God, bless your people.
Give us your peace, your help, and your love,
for we are the sheep of your pasture.
Let us be united in your peace –
one in the Body, one in the Spirit,
and one in the hope of our calling,
all through the gift of your endless grace. *Amen.*

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit,
that in your light we may see light,
in your truth find freedom,
and in your will discover your peace.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 84:1-7

PEW BIBLE, 731

MATTHEW 13:24-43

PEW BIBLE, 1185-1186

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF OUR PLEDGES

***DOXOLOGY #593:** *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

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. Amen.

*BLESSING OUR GIFTS

***HYMN OF THE DAY #441:** *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*

TIMOTHY DWIGHT

I love Thy kingdom, Lord,
The house of Thine abode,
The church our blessed Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

I love Thy church, O God;
Her walls before Thee stand,
Dear as the apple of Thine eye,
And graven on Thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall,
For her my prayers ascend;
To her my cares and toils be given,
Till toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy
I prize her heavenly ways,
Her sweet communion, solemn vows,
Her hymns of love and praise.

Sure as Thy truth shall last,
To Zion shall be given
The brightest glories earth can yield
And brighter bliss of Heaven.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"ON OUR DAILY JOURNEY," RUTH BOWEN

God of our past,
reconcile our brokenness.

God of our future,
renew our faith.

God of the present moment,
reach out and touch us,
and through us,
the lies of all we meet
on our daily journey.

May we be made whole
through the holiness
of God the Father,
the humanity
of Christ the Son,
and the healing power
of the Holy Spirit.

A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

God takes that which is tiny and transforms it into that which is grand.
May the seeds in your life find nourishing soil,
abundant sun, and life-giving waters.

Know that you are enough, you are loved, and you are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

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

NOLAN WILLIAMS, JR.

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!

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine!
Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine!
Ev'rywhere 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: *Be Strong in the Lord*

TOM FETKE

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Bread and Mustard?"*

REV. PHILLIPS

PASTORAL PRAYER

"COME, LORD JESUS," JOHN DAVIES

...Come, Lord Jesus.
Come, Lord Jesus...

...Come, Lord Jesus, this morning:
to those who are sick and sad - ***come***
to those who are healthy and glad - ***come***
to those taking great decisions - ***come***
to those giving birth - ***come***
to those making music - ***come***
to those making war - ***come***
to those still in bed - ***come***
to those still at work - ***come...***

THE LORD'S PRAYER

***...Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.***

***CLOSING HYMN #446:** *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

JOHN NEWTON

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
God, whose word cannot be broken,
Formed thee for a blest abode.
On the rock of ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters
And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the Giver,
Never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hovering,
See the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a covering,
Showing that the Lord is near.
Thus deriving from their banner
Light by night and shade by day,
Safe they feed upon the manna
Which God gives them when they pray.

***SENDING**

God of weeds and wheat,
send us out into your world,
that our lives may, in all those little parts of our week,
reflect that great thing which you are doing in our midst.
Amen.

POSTLUDE: *Praise to the Lord Our God*

LANI SMITH

* *Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

February 22nd – Ash Wednesday – Drive Thru Ashes

Once again we will offer Drive Thru Ashes in the parking lot for our church and the wider community during midday from 11:00am – 1:00pm and again during the evening commute from 4:00pm – 6:00pm.

February 26th – March 26th

The Season of Lent. Our Lenten Sunday worship will include periods of silent prayer and mediation on the Lord's Prayer as well as opportunities to pray for one another.

February 28th – 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.

Invitation to Snow Ski

You are invited to Snow Ski with the Scouts of Troop 9. Lessons provided, Learn to Ski, and have a Great Time. Contact Jeff Benes for more details and to sign up.

Jeff Benes
Committee Chair Cub Pack 9 & Troops 9
(336) 675-9086 cell
benes.nc@att.net

Scouts Looking for Storage Space

Pack and Troop 9 Scouts are looking for a Donor to provide a 1,000 Sq foot storage type building, or warehouse, to store the following Scout Equipment:

2 camping trailers, 1 sailboat (Sailing Merit Badge), 1 demo car (Automotive Merit Badge).
Space needed for security and protection from the weather.

Feel free to contact:

Jeff Benes - Committee Chair Cub Pack 9 & Troops 9
(336) 675-9086 cell
benes.nc@att.net

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

Sunday, February 12th - 6th Sunday after Epiphany

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

Wednesday, February 15th

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, February 19th - Transfiguration Sunday

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

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Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

1500 S. Main Street

Graham, NC 27215

www.bethanypreschurch.org

336.227.4041

Class of 2023:

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Randy Cousins

Shelby Smith

Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Tracey Troxler

Class of 2025:

Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Tina Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Staff

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Jon Phillips – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org

Chaplain: Rick Purcell – chaplain@bethanypreschurch.org

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

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – admin@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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