



Bethany Presbyterian Church

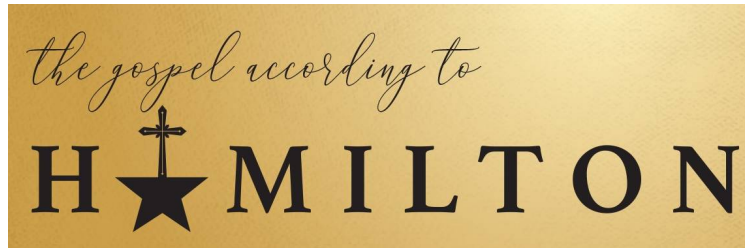
Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

February 14, 2021 – 11:00 am

Transfiguration of the Lord



“The women were frightened and bowed their faces toward the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He isn’t here, but has been raised. Remember what he told you while he was still in Galilee, that the Human One must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and on the third day rise again.’ Then they remembered his words.”
Luke 24:5-8 (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: *We Pray Now to the Holy Spirit*

DIETRICH BUXTEHUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP

God speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Our God comes and does not keep silence.

God calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that God may bring justice to God’s people.

The heavens declare God’s right and just relations for all of the people of the earth.

* OPENING HYMN #142: *All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name*

CORONATION

*All hail the power of Jesus’ name! Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!*

*Ye chosen seed of Israel’s race, ye ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!*

*Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!*

*O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!
We’ll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all!
We’ll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all!*

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

LUKE 24:1-12

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God!

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Glory of all creation: as the sun nudges us out of bed each morning, so you gently lift the veil of doubts and fears from our hearts that we might see your joy. At the setting of the sun, you do not leave us alone, but you sit with us through the night, sharing stories of hope. And we do not lose heart.

Joyous Face of God: on the peaks of promise, we discover your grace, sparkling with gentle delight as it comes to rest within our weary lives. In the valleys of despair, as we trudge long, our burdens dragging behind us, we turn to discover you putting them on your shoulders, the gentleness of your compassion lighting the way to the kingdom. And we do not lose heart.

Listening Spirit: in the hard times which life may offer, you are there with us, hearing not only our struggles, but the hopes singing silently in our souls. In the barren seasons through which we may walk, we find you ahead of us, planting the seeds of joy which will once more blossom in the springtime of God's love. And we do not lose heart.

God in Community, Holy in One, we lift our hearts, our hopes, our voices as we pray.

We can become so burned out by our hectic days that we lose sight of the One who gives us life. We can become so impatient waiting for God to astound us with wonders, when we have the simple pleasure of each day. In these quiet moments, away from all those things which distract us, let us bring our brokenness to the One who listens to our hearts, and heals our souls.

The radiance of your grace is poured out in every moment, Shaper of mountaintops, but we dull its luster by living in the shadows. We indulge in fantasy games and watch shows which claim to be 'real,' but we have trouble simply sitting in your presence, in your healing silence. We can become so infatuated with your love for us, we overlook those who hunger for acceptance and hope.

Revealer of mystery, forgive us. In silence, may we hear your whispers of grace. In mercy, may we feel your forgiveness lifting the burden of guilt from us. In trust, may we go forth to serve your world, filling it with the light and love of the One who is the Light of the world, Jesus Christ.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

The promise is true—God's Light has come into the world, and into our lives. We are graced with glimpses of God's glory, even as we are filled with mercy and forgiveness.

Here we find the peace and quiet we need; here we are set free from all that keeps us from serving; here we are given mercy and hope. Here we give thanks to our 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 THE BELHAR CONFESSION

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.

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family. We believe:

- ***that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another;***

- *that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain;*
- *that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted;*
- *that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways;*
 - *in that we love one another;*
 - *that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another;*
 - *that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another;*
 - *that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind.*

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: *Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining*

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

*Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us; set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me; shine on me.*

Refrain

*Shine, Jesus, shine; fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.*

*Lord, I come to your awesome presence, from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness. Search me; try me; consume all my darkness.
Shine on me; shine on me. (Refrain)*

*As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness;
ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me; shine on me. (Refrain)*

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 God Beyond all Praising*

GUSTAV HOLST

MICHAEL BAYLESS, ORGAN

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *The Gospel According to Hamilton: Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Tells Your Story?*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* **CLOSING HYMN #485:** *To God Be the Glory*

CROSBY/DOANE / 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.*

Refrain:

*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!
Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. (Refrain)*

* **SENDING**

God sends us from these sacred spaces.

We will go to share the good news of grace, to offer healing to the broken.

Jesus would not have us stay here forever.

We will go to find our sisters and brothers in the valleys of injustice and the neighborhoods of addiction.

The Spirit fills us with the gifts we need as we leave.

We will go to help rebuild the lives of those around us, to share feasts of hope and peace with everyone.

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *Westminster Abbey Hymn*

HENRY PURCELL



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](https://twitter.com/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)

We welcome to the organ this morning **Michael Bayless**, who is substituting for Christopher Bagley.

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?***

Join us on **Ash Wednesday, this Wednesday, February 17th** beginning at **5:00** for a **Drive-Through Imposition of Ashes**. Then join us online at **7:00** for our annual **Ash Wednesday Service** as we begin our journey through Lent.

Next Sunday, February 21st begins our Lenten Season. We are looking forward to our Lenten Sermon series focusing on some of the “I Am” statements from Jesus. Here are the themes for this series:

- February 21st - *I Am the Bread of Life*
- February 28th - *I Am the Light of the World*
- March 7th - *I Am the Door*
- March 14th - *I Am the Good Shepherd*
- March 21st - *I Am the Resurrection and the Life*

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
Ritchie Fishburne
Janie Holt Clapp

Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Joey Leake
Ida Whitney
Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Christopher Bagley
Randy Thompson
Frederica Beatty

John & Ann Sutton
Ruby Martin
Teresa Wilborn
Tiffany Tauchren
Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Mike Sutton
Pete Campbell
Ben Johnson
Grace Johnson
Frank Wrenn
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**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Monday, the 15th:

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

Wednesday, the 17th:

- 5:00 - Drive-Through Imposition of Ashes
- 7:00 - Ash Wednesday Service (online only)

Sunday, the 21st:

- **First Sunday in Lent**
- 9:45 - Faith Formation (as scheduled)
- 11:00 - Worship (online only) - *"I Am" Lenten Sermon Series - I / Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*

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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