



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypresbyterian.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

February 19, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany



“She brought perfumed oil in a vase made of alabaster. Standing behind him at his feet and crying, she began to wet his feet with her tears. She wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and poured the oil on them.

Luke 7:37-38 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Forgiving God, too often we take your forgiveness for granted. Too often we cling to our sin, believing that it is our right to harbor resentments and hatred. Be merciful to us, and show us the depth of healing that is offered when you forgive, for the sake of the one who recognized total surrender to forgiveness and offered it willingly, Jesus Christ our healer. Amen.

PRELUDE: *Lead Me, Lord*

*Lead me, Lord. Lead Me in Thy righteousness.
Make Thy way plain before my face.
For it is Thou, Lord; Thou Lord only
That makest me dwell in safety.*

S. WESLEY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

AN OFFERING OF PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(Please take a moment to share the peace of Christ with your neighbor.)

* **GATHERING SONG #472:** *O Sing to the Lord*

BRAZILIAN FOLK MELODY

* CALL TO WORSHIP

In the morning, God hears our voices as we lift our prayers and songs.

In the morning, God whispers to us in the gentle breezes stirring the world.

In the morning, we look for God alive and active around us.

In the morning, we find God playing hopscotch with the kids on the corner.

In the morning we come together to worship our God.

In the morning, God gathers us up to lead us down the streets of justice and faithfulness.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

* HYMN OF PRAISE #461: *God Is Here!*

ABBOT'S LEIGH

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

In the morning, you break open your heart to pour your love upon us; you bathe our tired and sore souls with your healing tears; you dry our weeping with the caress of your gentle Spirit.

In the afternoon, even knowing we are sinners, you invite us to lunch, so we can be nourished with your hope and peace. No matter how deep in debt we are to sin, you pay off the entire amount.

In the evening, you kiss us and call us your Beloved, as you tuck us into bed to keep watch over us while we sleep.

In every moment, God in Community, Holy in One, you are present with us.

Too often, we believe our identity is shaped by our job, our status, our good deeds. God would give us a new identity, grounded in Jesus Christ. Let us confess our reluctance to lose who we believe we are, so God can shape us into who we can be, as we pray together saying,

We must admit how much we are like children. We become resentful over the fact that you do not do what we think you should do. We pout when a friend decides to spend more time with someone else. We can turn sullen when our loved ones refuse to let us have our way.

You could bring disaster upon us, Loving God, but you choose to give us what we don't deserve - the grace and mercy of your heart. Pour out your tenderness upon us, so Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, might live in us, and we might offer our lives in service to others.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

God not only listens to the cries on our lips, but also pays attention to the groaning of our hearts. God restores us to wholeness, and invites us to a new way of living.

We are welcomed, we are loved, we are given new life, we are filled with peace. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

* RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE: *Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!*

TRADITIONAL

Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burden down. (Repeat)

I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burden down. (Repeat)

Feel like shouting, "Hallelujah!" Since I laid my burden down. (Repeat)

* SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

As the people of God gathered in this place, who are we?

We are a community of believers called by God to worship, serve, teach, and support.

We believe in God;

Who is older than eternity and younger than our next breath; who is beyond describing yet knows us all by name; who inspires faith yet cannot be contained by religion.

We believe in Jesus Christ, flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone;

He came in the body to give worth to every human life. He touched the untouchable, loved the unlovable, forgave the unforgivable and endured slander, persecution and death in order that through suffering love God's kingdom might come on earth. He rose from the grave as living proof that what is laid down in faith will be raised in glory.

He ascended to heaven that he might be present at all times to all people.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

Who leads us into truth and freedom, who gives good gifts to all God's children, who inspires research, enables prayer, and wills that human economics and politics should prioritize justice, care of the earth and the healing of the nations.

We celebrate the potential of the Church,

The life in our bodies, the yearning in our souls, the promise of good things in store for those who love the Lord.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *There's Something About That Name*

G. & W. GAITHER

*** DOXOLOGY:** *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

HYMN OF THE DAY #280: *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

AMAZING GRACE

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *Thy Word*

AMY GRANT

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid, and I think I've lost my way, still you're there right beside me.

Nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

THE SPOKEN WORD

Lord, silence any voice but your own.

That we may hear you speaking to us on this day.

A Reading from Luke 7:36-50

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1256

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God!

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *The Lord's My Shepherd*

J. IRVINE

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.

He makes me down to lie in pastures green;

he leadeth me the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again,

and me to walk doth make within the paths of righteousness,

e'en for his own Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,

yet will I fear no ill; for thou art with me;

and thy rod and staff me comfort still.

*My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.
Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me;
and in God's house forevermore my dwelling place shall be.*

SERMON: *MUCH LOVE*

REV. JOHNSON

LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

* **CLOSING HYMN #391:** *Take My Life*

HENDON

* **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

* **POSTLUDE:** *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

T. BIRCHWOOD

* *Those who are able may stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WORSHIP Ministry: (Lead Elders: Nancy Purcell and A. J. Campbell)

WELCOME to this service of worship at Bethany Presbyterian Church. 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.bethanypresbyterian.org; on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian; or on Twitter by following @bpresbyterian.

Operating our audio and video systems this morning is **Rick Purcell**. Anyone wishing to join this team of volunteers please contact the church office at any time.

Audio Recordings of each Sunday's sermons are available through a link on our website, or at www.buzzsprout.com/9198.

Resources used in this morning's worship:

- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)
- Narrative Lectionary website (www.workingpreacher.org)

Recently we marked the **Kickoff of our 125th Anniversary Celebration**. Our theme scripture passage for the celebration is Isaiah 40:28-31, **Growing Stronger – Growing Deeper – Reaching Higher**. Mark your calendars for our other celebration events:

- **Sunday, May 28th** – **Rev. Norman Whitney**, preaching / Luncheon following worship
- **Saturday, September 23rd** – Concert by renowned artist, **David LaMotte** (www.davidlamotte.com)
- **Sunday, September 24th** – Culmination of anniversary celebration / **Rev. J. Herbert Nelson**, preaching (Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA) / **David LaMotte** providing music / Anniversary luncheon following worship

Do you have a smartphone? Are you on Facebook? If so, take a moment to **“check in” on Facebook**, letting your friends know that you are here at Bethany Presbyterian Church! It may seem like a small thing, but in reality, it is a wonderful message of evangelism and witness, as you let the cyber-world know what is important to you.

To the parents of young children: Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel that you must suppress those wiggles in God's house. **Please note that a professionally staffed nursery is available during the worship hour.** Here are some hints to make worship with your children more rewarding:

- Consider sitting towards the front where it is easier for little ones to engage. On the second pew nearest the choir loft, there are activities for children of all ages to keep busy with during the service.
- Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, musicians, and leaders.
- Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behavior by mimicking you.
- If you have to leave the sanctuary with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, “Let the children come to me!”
- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.
- **To adult worshippers:** The presence of children is a gift to the church and they are a reminder that our church is growing! Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elders: Jean Payne and Sherrie Moore)

Our ongoing prayer list is below. Please let the church office know if there are any changes.

Bill Faucette
Faye Campbell
Frances Nolan
Joey Leake
Shannon Russell
Mary Moore
Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Harold Baldwin

Diane Miller
Jack Cook
Polly & Dick Wilson
Layla Benoklen
Ida Whitney
Rachel Poteat
Jeremy Harden
Anne McDaniels
Mike Sutton

John & Ann Sutton
Peter Slater
Family of Dr. Bob James
Teresa Wilborn
Tiffany Tauchren
Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton

Duffy Strigo
Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Ron Chilton

Norman Mize
Gail Sloane (friend of Joy Saleeby)

Join us **THIS EVENING at 6:00**, for our very first **T.E.A.M. Dinner and Program**. Remember that **T.E.A.M.** stands for **Together Everyone Achieves More**. These congregational covered-dish dinners are designed to highlight one of our ministry teams and give us an opportunity to gather as a church family around the fellowship table. So, prepare your best church covered-dish, and come join your Bethany family. Nursery will be provided!

Each week **Salem Presbytery** lists churches and other ministries that we are to lift up in prayer that week. A complete list can be viewed online at the presbytery website: www.salempresbytery.org. On the prayer list for this week are: **Sedgefield, Greensboro; Faith Point Fellowship (CM), Greensboro; Second Presbyterian, Lexington; North Wilkesboro**. Please keep these churches and ministries in your prayers this week.

TEACH Ministry: (Lead Elders: Brandon Troxler and Karen Maxwell)

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.

Young at Heart Class (Young at Heart Classroom – across from pastor's office)

Using the *Uniform Series*, this class engages in lively discussions pertaining to the biblically based curriculum. The class is taught by a very capable team of teachers.

Seeker's Class (Church Office)

The Seeker's Class is currently using a study guide that correlates with the preaching text and themes that are used in our worship services.

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.

Mark your calendars for **next Tuesday, February 28th at 5:30 pm** as our youth will serve a delicious **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**. This is the traditional day of "feasting" before the penitence and sacrifice of the season of Lent which begins the next day. Donations for our youth program will be accepted.

SUPPORT Ministry: (Lead Elders: Ron Osborne, Ron Kimrey, and Glenn Patterson)

Elders of the Month for February are **Jean Payne and Glenn Patterson**.

The congregation has been mailed a letter soliciting donations for replacement of our 40-some-year-old boiler! We are hoping that it will make it through the winter, so this work can be completed in the spring. Please see Ron Kimrey if you have any questions. And thanks in advance for your generosity.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship
- 6:00 – T.E.A.M. Covered-Dish Dinner and Program

Wednesday, the 22nd:

- 7:00 – Choir Practice

Thursday, the 23rd:

- Covenant Bible Study: *Living the Covenant – Episode 18*

Sunday, the 26th:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Rick Purcell

Treasurer: Ron Osborne

Class of 2017:

Ron Kimrey

Karen Maxwell

Sherrie Moore

Class of 2018:

Glenn Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Brandon Troxler

Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell

Ron Osborne

Jean Payne

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



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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



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