



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

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February 19, 2023 – 11:00 am

Transfiguration Sunday



Mt. of Transfiguration

⁵ While he was still speaking, look, a bright cloud overshadowed them. A voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son whom I dearly love. I am very pleased with him. Listen to him!" ⁶ Hearing this, the disciples fell on their faces, filled with awe.

Matthew 17:5-6 (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: *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

LANI SMITH-TUNE: ASSAM

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion;
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*OPENING SENTENCES

"OPENING AND CLOSING RESPONSES FOR THE FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION," RUTH BURGESS

Creativity and light
belong to God
let all the earth rejoice

Justice and glory
belong to God
let all the earth rejoice

Wisdom and wonder
belong to God
let all the earth rejoice

Let us worship our God.

*GATHERING PRAYER

"EVER-CHANGING GOD," JAN BERRY

Ever-changing God,
sometimes we plod on,
head down
watching our feet
missing the glimpses of glory.

Ever-changing God,
breaking through into the mundane greyness of our lives
to make all things new,
lift up our eyes to see your glory;
in the taken-for-granted intimacy of human loving,
in the persistent courage of day-to-day struggle,
in the renewal of green growth after winter,
in the new insight that stretches our imagination.

Lift up our eyes
to see the wonder and mystery of your presence
beckoning through the everyday glimpses of grace. *Amen.*

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of shining splendor,
your voice makes the earth tremble in wonder.
Overshadow us with your Spirit
so that we may hear your Word
and live as faithful disciples
and covenant people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.
Amen.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 41:7-10

PEW BIBLE, 696

MATTHEW 16:24-17:8

PEW BIBLE, 1193

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: *I Surrender All*

JUDSON W. VAN DE VENTER

All to Jesus I surrender,
All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live.

Refrain:

I surrender all, I surrender all;
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender,
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
Let me feel Thy Holy Spirit,
Truly know that Thou art mine. **[Refrain]**

All to Jesus I surrender,
Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power,
Let Thy blessing fall on me. **[Refrain]**

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"A PRAYER OF CONFESSION," PAT BENNETT

Father
you are the source of all time.
Yet it neither contains nor constrains you.

We who are time-bound
confess
that often we do not take the time,
or make the time
to enter into your great stillness
and gaze on you.

silence

Forgive us
for all those times
when the restless pursuit of the next thing
has distracted and deflected us
from spending time with you.

silence

Help us to escape the bondage of busyness
and find those moments
of intersection with eternity,
when your time and our time come together
and we can grow in our awareness of you
and your purposes.

We ask this in the name of Christ -
the one who came into the world
to make visible the Time of God.

Amen.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

As we meet God here in this place this morning, may we too be changed.
Know that you are loved, you are forgiven, and you are enough.

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: *Changed*

LINDA LEE JOHNSON-TOM FETKE

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"One foot in front of the other"*

REV. PHILLIPS

PRAYER OF ADORATION

"GOD OF THE ORDINARY," JAN BERRY

God of the ordinary,
we praise you.

You take the drabness of our thoughts,
and brighten them into vivid imagination.
You take our everyday lives,
and transform them into holy, precious moments.
You take our meager offerings
and multiply them into an abundance of delight.

*Extraordinary God,
you light up our thoughts, our lives, our selves
with the wonder of your call. We praise you.*

We offer all our praise and prayer in the name of the One who taught us to pray
in the language most familiar to us, saying:

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 #726 (GLORY TO GOD):** *The Summons (Will You Come and Follow Me)*

GRAHAM MAULE & JOHN L. BELL

Will you come and follow me
If I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
And never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown?
Will you let my name be known?
Will you let my life be grown in you
And you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind
If I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
And never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
Should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you
And you in me?

Will you let the blinded see
If I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
And never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean
And do such as this unseen
And admit to what I mean in you
And you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide
If I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
And never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
To reshape the world around
Through my sight and touch and sound in you
And you in me?

Lord your summons echoes true
When you but call my name
Let me turn and follow you
And never be the same
In Your company I'll go
Where Your love and footsteps show
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you
And you in me

***SENDING**

"OPENING AND CLOSING RESPONSES FOR THE FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION," RUTH BURGESS

When we get it amazingly wrong
God loves us

When we get it superbly right
God loves us

When we have no idea at all what is happening
God loves us

When we walk with God
we do not need to be afraid

POSTLUDE: *The Power and the Glory*

LANI SMITH

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Feb. 22nd Ash Wednesday – Drive Thru Ashes – 11am-1pm; 4pm-6pm in the church parking lot

Once again we will offer Drive Thru Ashes in the parking lot for our church and the wider community during midday and again during the evening commute.

Feb. 26th - March 26th Lenten Worship – 11am in the Sanctuary

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.

April 2nd Psalm Sunday Service – 11am in the Sanctuary

Our Palm Sunday service will include a Cantata sung by our choir and Communion.

April 3rd – April 9th Stations of the Cross – All day – here in the Recreation Area

We are excited to offer our Recreation Area as a space for the community for prayerful reflection during Holy Week. Our 15 stations (including a final station for the Resurrection) will utilize ecumenical meditations and prayers from the Iona Community.

April 6th Maundy Thursday Dinner Church – 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall

Come and join us for Dinner Church, a meal and liturgy around the table as we commemorate the Passover meal that Jesus celebrated with his disciples. Come as you are – all are welcome!

April 7th Good Friday Seven Last Words – 6:30 in the Sanctuary

We will hold a service of prayer and reflection on the Seven Last Words. Please note that there will be extended periods of silence and a darkened sanctuary during this service.

April 9th Easter Sunday – 11am in the Sanctuary

Our Easter celebration. Celebrate Jesus' resurrection with us!

April 9th Community Easter Egg Hunt – 12:30pm here in the Recreation Area

We're bringing back an old favorite of ours – our Easter Egg hunt! Kids of all ages are welcome to participate in this fun family Easter event following our Easter service.

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

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

Sunday, February 19th - Transfiguration Sunday

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

Wednesday, February 22th - Ash Wednesday

11:00am-1:00pm & 4:00pm-6:00pm – Drive-Thru Ashes

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, February 26th - 1st Sunday in Lent

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

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Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

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Class of 2025:

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