



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

February 21, 2021 – 11:00 am

First Sunday in Lent



"Jesus replied, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'"

John 6:35 (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: *I Need Thee Every Hour*

DAVID HEGARTY / TUNE BY R. LOWRY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP

We come, so God might open our eyes,

that we may discover the wonders surrounding us; that we may embrace the joy deep within us.

We gather, so Christ might widen our hearts,

that we may hear the sounds of brokenness around us; that we may sing the melodies of hope.

We are here, so the Spirit might teach us the ways of humility,

that we may walk that street named Enduring Love; that we may wait at the corner called Faithfulness.

* OPENING HYMN #272: *God of the Sparrow*

ROEDER

*God of the sparrow God of the whale God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe How does the creature say Praise*

*God of the earthquake God of the storm God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe How does the creature cry Save*

*God of the rainbow God of the cross God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace How does the creature say Thanks*

*God of the hungry God of the sick God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care How does the creature say Life*

*God of the neighbor God of the foe God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love How does the creature say Peace*

*God of the ages God near at hand God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy How do your children say Home*

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

JOHN 6:35-40

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God!

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

How you love us, God of rainbow promises! Like a mother who teaches her son the steps for his first dance, like the father who goes out with his daughter after work so she can learn how to drive, you love us that much and more.

How you offer yourself to us, Brother of the beloved! You gather us up in your arms, simply to hear our deepest hopes; you reach out your scarred hands to gently wipe our fears away; you stain a cross with your blood, so we might washed clean in the tears pouring down God's face.

How you share yourself with us, journey's Spirit! You bathe our wearied souls in the cooling waters of baptism; you wipe the dust of the wilderness out of our eyes so we can see the kingdom; you teach us those ancient ways which offer new life for each of us.

God in Community, Holy in One, be with us in this Lenten season, even as we pray.

God takes our broken promises and turns them into vows of faithfulness. God takes our biggest failings and shapes lives of service. God listens to our prayers of confession and changes them into songs of mercy.

We admit we are hesitant to walk to Jerusalem and beyond with you, God of Glory. In a world where we worry about tomorrow before enjoying today, we race by your moments of silence, of learning. In that flood of worries, which can overwhelm us, we may miss that assurance that you have not cut us off from your grace. In the deserts of our desires, we may ignore that feast of hope, of joy, of life you offer to us.

Forgive us and have mercy on us. In humility, may we offer our lives to others. In love, may we share your grace with everyone we meet. In hope, may we wait for you all our days, as you come to us in the life and joy of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

In this place we find God's word, God's way, God's love, God's forgiveness. What more do we need to sustain us as we continue as pilgrims along the Way?

In every wilderness, on every road; in every moment, in every life; in every journey, in every heart, we receive the daily bread we need - God's hope, God's mercy, God's joy. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

* **RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE:** *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

PAUL VASILE / GLORY TO GOD

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.*

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

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**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *O Divine Redeemer*

CHARLES GOUNOD / ARR. R. THYGERSON

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *I AM . . . The Bread of Life*

REV. JOHNSON

HYMN OF PREPARATION #93: *Ah, Holy Jesus*

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

*Ah, holy Jesus, how have You offended, that mortal judgment has on You descended?
By foes derided, by Your own rejected, O most afflicted!*

*Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon You? It is my treason, Lord, that has undone You.
'Twas I Lord Jesus, I it was denied You; I crucified You.*

*For me, dear Jesus, was Your incarnation, Your mortal sorrow, and Your life's oblation,
Your death of anguish and Your bitter passion, For my salvation.*

*Therefore, dear Jesus, since I cannot pay You, I do adore You, and will ever praise You,
Think on Your pity and Your love unswerving, Not my deserving.*

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

May the God of Lent be with you.

And also with you.

People of God, open your hearts.

We open them to the One who calls us 'Beloved.'

Beloved of God, give thanks and praise to the One who loves you forever.

We sing our hymns of joy to the One who leads us into the kingdom.

Hearts overflow with you, Covenant Keeper, as we lift our hearts to you . . . So, we lift our voices with those who waited patiently, and with those who trust your covenantal promises, joining the choirs of heaven and earth, who forever sing of your hope and love:

Holy, holy, holy are you, Everlasting God of grace. Every living creature in heaven and earth sing your praises. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who sits as your right hand of mercy. Hosanna in the highest.

Faithful and holy are you, Creator of all, and blessed is Jesus Christ, Steadfast Love and Hope . . . As we begin once more our Lenten journey, as we seek to follow faithfully, remembering the life, the death, the resurrection of Jesus, we tell the story of that mystery we call faith:

Christ died to set us free from sin; Christ was raised to break the power of death; Christ will come again, to bring the kingdom as close to us as God's heart.

Pour out your Spirit of imagination upon this bread, and this cup, gifts of your good and wonderful creation . . . And when we are gathered around the Table with your beloved children of every time and place, our songs will join together as our tears of joy mingle, singing your praises forever and ever to you: we pray as Christ taught us:

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Now go, to be God's blessing to others.

We will not stop measuring out our love by the spoonful, but shower everyone with it.

Now go, to share the story of Jesus' love and hope for all.

We will go to speak of the One who, with grace and wonder, shows everyone who they are and who they might be.

Now go, to pour out the Spirit's compassion in every corner of your life.

We will go to care for everyone, even those we do not know.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* **CLOSING HYMN #363:** *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me*

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

*I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*

*In my trials, Lord, walk with me; in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*

*When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me; when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*

* **SENDING**

Let us go now, as God's people.

May God open our eyes to the wonders of creation and the joy we can offer to those we meet.

Let us go now, as followers of Jesus.

May he open our ears to the cries of the broken, to the words of hope which others offer to us.

Let us go now, as those filled with the Spirit.

May we follow the Spirit down Enduring Love Street; may we embrace our sisters and brothers at Faithfulness Corner.

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *Rejoice With a Song*

EDWARD BROUGHTON



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.

“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:

- *Glory to God* Presbyterian Hymnal
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)

This morning 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**.

We need your help on **Saturday, March 20th and March 27th** at 8:00 am as we gather to clean the yards and flower beds of the church and manse. We will be weeding and adding mulch to tidy up these areas for spring. Please contact the church office and let us know if you can come and help.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- **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

Monday, the 22nd:

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

Sunday, the 28th:

- **Second Sunday in Lent**
- 9:45 - Faith Formation (as scheduled)
- 11:00 - Worship (online only) - "I Am" Lenten Sermon Series - II

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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Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

Elder Emeritus: Bobby Peele

Elder Emeritus: Don Boggs

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