



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

[www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org)

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February 22, 2026 – 11:00 am

*First Sunday of Lent*



## 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!*

### TRINITY CHIMES

**PRELUDE:** *Voluntary IX in G minor, Largo*

JOHN STANLEY

### WELCOME

**\*OPENING HYMN #357:** *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

WASHINGTON GLADDEN

O Master, let me walk with Thee  
In lowly paths of service free;  
Tell me Thy secret; help me bear  
The strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move  
By some clear, winning word of love;  
Teach me the wayward feet to stay,  
And guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me Thy patience; still with Thee  
In closer, dearer company,  
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,  
In trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray  
Far down the future's broadening way;  
In peace that only Thou canst give,  
With Thee, O Master, let me live.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING SENTENCES

(INSPIRED BY PSALM 32)

The steadfast love of God surrounds us always — even in the wilderness!  
***Thanks be to God! Let us be glad and worship!***

## GATHERING PRAYER

(PSALM 32, ROMANS 5, MATTHEW 4)

Gracious and Loving God, we seek freedom found in the grace we receive through Christ Jesus.  
We seek to know more fully your great love. Turn us from temptations.  
Inspire us to open ourselves to the way of Christ, that as we examine our lives and live out these days,  
we may become examples of your abundant love for all people.  
May your Divine Spirit tend us as angels attended Jesus in the wilderness, and may we feel revived  
and sustained to follow Jesus. Amen.

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH)

***In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace.  
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"  
With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

### \*HYMN OF THE DAY #388: *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

JOHN ERNEST BODE

O Jesus, I have promised To serve Thee to the end;  
Be Thou forever near me, My Master and my Friend;  
I shall not fear the battle If Thou art by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway If Thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel Thee near me! The world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle, The tempting sounds I hear;  
My foes are ever near me, Around me and within;  
But Jesus, draw Thou nearer, And shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear Thee speaking In accents clear and still,  
Above the storms of passion, The murmurs of self will;  
O speak to reassure me, To hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen, Thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised To all who follow Thee  
That where Thou art in glory There shall Thy servant be;  
And, Jesus, I have promised To serve Thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow, My Master and my friend.

## TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

*Merciful God, you know all about our troubles. Your Son was tested in the wilderness, tempted by the powers and principalities of the age. We confess how easily and often we give in to them. Yet, you continue to forgive us, reminding us there is nothing we can do to lose your love. Holy God, turn us from the evil powers in high places, that we may return to you and the path to which you have called us. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Amen.*

## AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Hear and receive the good news: In Jesus Christ, we have been forgiven! Know this and be at peace. Amen.

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

## A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Still-speaking God, guide us by your Word and Spirit that we might hear, and by hearing, grow in faith and love. Amen.

## ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

### PSALM 32

PEW BIBLE, 686

### MATTHEW 4:1-11

PEW BIBLE, 1172

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

## THE WORD IN MUSIC: *On Eagle's Wings*

MARK HAYES

## THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"the Temptation of Christ"*

RICK PURCELL, CRE

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### 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.*

## AN OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

### OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY #592: *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

THOMAS KEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise Him, all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

### \*BLESSING OUR GIFTS

**\*CLOSING HYMN #438:** *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

JOHN FAWCETT

Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
Is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne  
We pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
Our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes,  
Our mutual burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows  
The sympathizing tear.

From sorrow, toil, and pain,  
And sin we shall be free;  
And perfect love and friendship reign  
Through all eternity.

**\*SENDING**

Grace abounds! Stand strong and know that God is with you in your weaknesses.  
And remember that love overcomes all things.  
Now to the one who is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,  
be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

**POSTLUDE:** *Voluntary IX in G minor, Allegro*

JOHN STANLEY

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\* *Please stand in body or spirit.*



# Our Faith Community @ Work

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

**Sundays, 9:45am Bible Study – Evie C. Marshall Room**

**Wednesdays, 10:00am Bethany Exercise Class - Evie C. Marshall Room**

Exercise classes will start back after the first of the year on Wednesdays at 10:00am in the Evie C. Marshall classroom. Come join us for fun and fellowship.

**Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 10:30am The Women of Bethany Church Gathering**

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30am. in the Evie C. Marshall classroom.

**Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> Alamance Co. Mobile Library**

The Alamance County Public Libraries mobile library will be at Bethany on the first Tuesday of each month. The 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.

**S.A.F.E. (Southern Alamance Family Empowerment)**

How can we help S.A.F.E. for during the **Winter months**? They are asking for **Canned Meats: Chicken, and Tuna, 1 lb. bags of Rice, Pasta, Spaghetti sauce, Spaghetti noodles and soup.**

S.A.F.E. will be closed the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the Month.

Consider donating your paper bags.

## This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> - First Sunday of Lent

9:45 – Bible Study - Evie C. Marshall classroom

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

Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> 7:00pm Choir Practice

Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>

10:00 – Exercise class

Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> Second Sunday of Lent - Communion & Pennies for Hunger

9:45 – Bible Study - Evie C. Marshall classroom

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

### Session

**Moderator:** Rick Purcell, CRE

**Clerk:** Randy Cousins

**Treasurer:** Glenn Patterson

### Class of 2026:

Chip Allen

Jean Payne

Ben Russell

### Class of 2027:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Brandon Troxler

### Class of 2028:

Helen Brown

Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Nancy Purcell

# bethany presbyterian

worship serve teach support



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### Staff

**Pastor/CRE:** Rick Purcell – [pastor4bethany@gmail.com](mailto:pastor4bethany@gmail.com)

**Director of Music:** – [bethanypresmusic@gmail.com](mailto:bethanypresmusic@gmail.com)

**Office Administrator:** Joy Saleeby – [office@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:office@bethanypreschurch.org)

**Bookkeeper:** Pam Hurt – [finance@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:finance@bethanypreschurch.org)

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