



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

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

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February 23, 2025 – 11:00 am

*Seventh Sunday after Epiphany*



“Love Your Enemies”

## 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:** *Prelude on “Dundee”*

GORDON YOUNG (TUNE: DUNDEE)

### WELCOME

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #469:** *Morning Has Broken*

ELEANOR FARJEON

Morning has broken like the first morning,  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.

Praise for the singing!  
Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing  
fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness  
of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness  
where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight!  
Mine is the morning born of the one light  
Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation,  
praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OPENING SENTENCES

(FROM PSALM 37:39-40)

***Our salvation is from the Lord;***

God is our refuge in times of trouble.

***The Lord helps us and rescues us;***

God saves us because we take refuge in our Lord.

### OPENING RESPONSE:

*This Little Light of Mine (one verse)*

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.

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY #404:** *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

THOMAS ANDREW DORSEY

Precious Lord, take my hand  
Lead me on, let me stand;  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
Through the storm, through the night  
Lead me on to the light;  
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.  
When my way grows drear, Precious Lord, linger near;  
When my life is almost gone,  
Hear my cry, hear my call,  
Hold my hand lest I fall;  
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.

## TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

We have been called to love our God with all our heart, mind, strength, and soul and to love our neighbor as ourselves, but our lives are constricted and self-consumed. We have failed to love God, our neighbor, and ourselves as we should. Let us make the good confession before God and others.

*Merciful God, you have commanded us to love you above all and to have no other gods. You have called us to love others as you love them.*

*But we are personally and socially deformed by the love of other “gods” — the false gods of prosperity and materialism, racial and ethnic privileging, gender exclusivity, and nationalistic imperialism.*

*Forgive us our sins and transform us by your Spirit so that we might learn to love as you love and live as people baptized as your own children. Amen.*

## AN OFFERING OF GOD’S GRACE

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel — God’s radical forgiving, transforming and justice-seeking love will not let us go and is ever bringing resurrection and new life. Let us remember our baptisms and trust in God’s mercy to restore our right standing as God’s own. Thanks be to God!

## RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

### A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that the Scripture we are about to hear will become God’s Word for us in this day and age. Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church.

### ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

**PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40**

PEW BIBLE, 691,692

**LUKE 6:27-38**

PEW BIBLE, 1253

The Word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

### THE WORD IN MUSIC:

### THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *“Love Your Enemies”*

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 #593**

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.

**\*BLESSING OUR GIFTS**

**\*CLOSING HYMN : *I Will Trust in the Lord***

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

I will trust in the Lord,  
I will trust in the Lord,  
I will trust in the Lord till I die.  
I will trust in the Lord,  
I will trust in the Lord,  
I will trust in the Lord till I die.

I'm going to watch, fight, and pray,  
I'm going to watch, fight, and pray,  
I'm going to watch, fight, and pray till I die.  
I'm going to watch, fight, and pray,  
I'm going to watch, fight, and pray,  
I'm going to watch, fight, and pray till I die.

I'm going to treat ev'rybody right,  
I'm going to treat ev'rybody right,  
I'm going to treat ev'rybody right till I die.  
I'm going to treat ev'rybody right,  
I'm going to treat ev'rybody right,  
I'm going to treat ev'rybody right till I die.

I'm going to stay on my bended knees,  
I'm going to stay on my bended knees,  
I'm going to stay on my bended knees till I die.  
I'm going to stay on my bended knees,  
I'm going to stay on my bended knees,  
I'm going to stay on my bended knees till I die.

**\*SENDING**

(BASED ON 1 CORINTHIANS 15:48-49)

As those who are of dust and of heaven, bear the image of God into the world,  
lift up the brokenhearted and stand with the oppressed.  
Love God with all your heart, and love your neighbor as you love yourself. Amen.

**POSTLUDE: *Majestic Postlude***

MARK L. WILLIAMS

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*\* Please stand in body or spirit.*



# Our Faith Community @ Work

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

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

We will be discussing what being chosen by Jesus has beautiful and far-reaching implications – although it says even more about the Chooser than the choosees. We are loved because He's love. We are saved because He's merciful. We belong to the family of God because Jesus invites us, making the Bible and all its promises as true for us today as it was for God's chosen nation. Come join us and find out what does it actually mean to be Chosen.

### **Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> 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

### **Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> The Women of Bethany Church Gathering**

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am in the Evie C. Marshall classroom.

### **Ash Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> 11am-1pm, 4-6pm – Drive Thru Ashes – Parking Lot**

All are welcome to participate in this ancient practice of marking the sign of the cross with the ashes of burnt palm leaves from previous Palm Sunday celebrations as we enter into the season of Lent – the time of solemn prayer and preparation in the 40 days before Easter.

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

How we can help S.A.F.E. for the month of **February**? They are asking for **Canned and Dried Beans**. S.A.F.E. will be closed the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the Month. Consider donating your plastic and paper bags.

## **This Week's Calendar:**

Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> – Seventh Sunday after Epiphany,  
9:45 – Bible Study – The Chosen - Evie C. Marshall classroom  
11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Transfiguration Sunday, Communion & Pennies for Hunger  
9:45 – Bible Study – The Chosen - Evie C. Marshall classroom  
11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

**bethany presbyterian**  
love learn serve



### **Session**

**Moderator:** Rick Purcell, CRE

**Clerk:** Randy Cousins

**Treasurer:** Glenn Patterson

### **Class of 2025:**

Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Tina Patterson

Nancy Purcell

### **Class of 2026:**

Chip Allen

Jean Payne

Ben Russell

### **Class of 2027:**

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Brandon Troxler

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### **Staff**

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

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

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

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

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