



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

February 25, 2018 – 11:00 am

Second Sunday in Lent



“When Abram was 99 years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, ‘I am El Shaddai. Walk with me and be trustworthy. I will make a covenant between us and I will give you many, many descendants.’”
Genesis 17:1-2 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Many people today are ancestor-curious. They want to know who they are, where their ancestors came from and whether they have any fascinating or mysterious relatives. So, where there’s demand, supply rises to meet it and thus the explosion in DNA services that we can use to discover the truth -- sometimes, the uncomfortable truth -- about our ancestors. A quick test of our spiritual DNA takes us back to the beginning of our covenantal relationship with God.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Cross of Sorrow*

F. MENDELSSOHN (TO/J88)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

AN OFFERING OF PEACE

May the Love of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

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

* **GATHERING SONG:** *Open the Eyes of My Heart*

TERRA BEATA

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart; I want to see you; I want to see you; (Repeat)

To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory.

Pour out your power and love as we sing “Holy, holy, holy.”

Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy, I want to see you.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart; I want to see you; I want to see you.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Lent calls us to journey, this and every day, following Jesus wherever he leads us.

Lent calls us to journey: to the place where God covenants with us, to receive the new names we are given.

Lent calls us to worship together, to tell future generations the good news.

Lent calls us to practice justice, to bring God's hope to all people.

Lent calls us to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life.

Lent calls each of us to take up our cross, to trust the One who bears it with us.

Lent calls us to journey with God.

Let us worship God, who walks with us, this and every day.

* OPENING HYMN #488: *The God of Abraham Praise*

LEONI

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 16

AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

Given a test on our faith, would we have a passing grade? Looking at our lives of discipleship, would we be considered good models for others? When we fail to trust God, we discover that we do indeed lead barren lives. Let us be honest as we stand before our God and bring our confessions for forgiveness and hope.

God of Sarah and Abraham, in this holy place, we know how weak our discipleship is. We can spend hours at the computer, but only give you fleeting moments of our time. We can talk endlessly on our cell phones, but fall silent when it comes to sharing our fears, our worries, our hopes with you. We seek quick fixes for our problems, rather than seeking your vision and future for our lives.

God of Peter, Paul, and the psalmist, forgive us: for our lack of trust; for our faithless living; for our closing our ears to the call of Jesus. Forgive us, so we may lay aside all that keeps us from you, so we may take up the life you offer to us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

This is the good news: God does not go back on the promises made so long ago. God does not reject us, God redeems us. God does not withhold love, God pours it into our barren lives.

Forgiven of our sins, filled with hope, living in relationship with God and one another - we are a new people. Thanks be to God. Amen.

* RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #404: *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

PRECIOUS LORD

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help 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.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

INTRODUCTION AND SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

QUESTION OF COMMITMENT

QUESTION TO THE CONGREGATION

Do we, those gathered as Bethany Presbyterian Church, promise to embrace Sandy and Ben as fellow travelers, to welcome them into this family of faith with open arms, and to pray for them in this new endeavor?

We do.

PRAYER

WELCOME

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG (@ HEART) / MOMENT FOR MISSION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *Lord, We Hear Your Word with Gladness*

*Lord, we hear your word with gladness: you have spoken – we rejoice:
Words of love and life and freedom – help us make their truth our choice!
Now in holy celebration for your Word we worship you;
Spoken, written, known in Jesus, ours today to prove anew.*

HOLY MANNA

THE WORD IN MUSIC:

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: **23andAbraham**

Text: Mark 1:9-15

REV. JOHNSON

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 16

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* **HYMN OF RESPONSE:** *We Are One in the Spirit* (see page 5)

FINLANDIA

* **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.

With the whole church, let us confess our faith. Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *New Life in Christ*

W. STOCKTON

* **THE DOXOLOGY:**

*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.*

OLD HUNDREDTH

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

* **CLOSING HYMN #421:** *The Church of Christ in Every Age*

WAREHAM

* **LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY: LETTING GO OF CERTAINTY**

We want control and certainty in our life. We want to know that we are on the right paths, that we have the right answers, and that our waiting will bear fruit. We want to trust in our certainty.

Lent is an invitation to acknowledge our illusions of certainty and to open ourselves to God's impossible grace, mercy, and love.

As we extinguish this light, we let go of our certainty: the need for answers, for faith without doubt, and the desire to be self-reliant.

[A candle is extinguished.]

Gracious God, forgive us for pretending that we have life figured out, that we don't need you, and that we could ever possess ultimate knowledge. Open our hearts to your gift of grace which enables us, in faith, to trust. Amen.

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

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

E. BROUGHTON

* *Please stand in body or spirit.*

We Are One in the Spirit 300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Capo 1: (Em) (Bm) (Em)
 Fm Cm Fm

1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

(Am) (Em)
 B^bm Fm

we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
 we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
 we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

(Am) (Em)
 B^bm Fm

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
 and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain (C) (Em)
 D^b Fm

And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our

(Am) (Em) (Am) (Bm) (Em) (Am/E) (Em)
 B^bm Fm B^bm Cm Fm B^bm/F Fm

love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.



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.bethanypreschurch.org; on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian; or on Twitter by following [@bpresbyterian](https://twitter.com/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, on our Facebook page, or at www.buzzsprout.com/9198.

Resources used in this morning's worship:

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

Today is the **Second Sunday in Lent** and marks the continuation of our journey to the cross. We are also continuing our **Lenten Discipline Challenge**. The challenge is to place one thing from your closet or your home that you aren't using anymore in the trash bag each day, filling it up with 40 items by the end of Lent. You are then asked to donate these items to one of our local agencies. If you did not receive a bag and instructions last week, they are available in the narthex or from an usher.

We rejoice that our worship today includes the **Welcome of New Members**. Please extend a warm welcome to **Sandy and Ben Russell**, who come by Transfer of Letter from First Presbyterian of Burlington.

John will be leaving this afternoon to attend the **NEXT Church Conference** in Baltimore. The theme of the conference is *"The Desert in Bloom: Living, Dying, and Rising in a Wilderness Church."* John will return on Wednesday in time for the Lenten Study Series, and will be back in the office on Thursday.

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 Elder: Jean Payne and Sandy Cook)

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

Bill Faucette	Diane Miller	John & Ann Sutton
Faye Campbell	Jack Cook	Peter Slater
Frances Nolan	Polly & Dick Wilson	Joey Leake
Layla Benoklen	Teresa Wilborn	Shannon Russell
Ida Whitney	Tiffany Tauchren	Mary Moore
Rachel Poteat	Jean Berry	Barbara Cousins
Jeremy Harden	Christy Lutterloh	Pat Kennedy
Anne McDaniels	Eleanor Thompson	Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Mike Sutton	Nancy Sutton	Pete Campbell
Steward Dillard	Norma Proctor	Carolyn Thompson
Ben Johnson	Levi Byrd	Shelvia Russell
Celeste Bayliff Agner	Ruth Younts	Ruby Martin

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

The **Lenten Study Series “24 Hours That Changed the World”** continues each Wednesday during Lent, meeting at 6:00. New participants are always welcome.

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.

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.

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

Elders of the Month for February are **Jean Payne** and **Chip Allen**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Monday-Wednesday:

- John away – NEXT Church Conference

Wednesday, the 28th:

- 6:00 – “24 Hours That Changed the World” Lenten Study Series
- 7:00 – Choir Practice

Sunday, the 4th:

- Third Sunday in Lent
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship / Pennies for Hunger Offering

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Rick Purcell

Treasurer: Ron Osborne

Class of 2018:

Glenn Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Brandon Troxler

Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell

Ron Osborne

Jean Payne

Class of 2020:

Chip Allen

Sandy Cook

Karen Maxwell

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



1500 S. Main Street
Graham, NC 27215
www.bethanypreschurch.org
336.227.4041

Staff

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

Scan this QR code for fast, safe, and reliable online giving:



Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS BULLETIN IN THE BASKETS PROVIDED AT THE DOORS.