



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

February 26, 2023 – 11:00 am

First Sunday of Lent



"Graffiti with the words 'sorry friend' on a metal door in Jerusalem," Korenn

Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?" Jesus said, "Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times."
Matthew 18:21-22 (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 and Chris Polhill, *Eggs and Ashes: Practical and Liturgical Resources for Lent and Holy Week* (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2004); and Sally Foster-Fulton, *Dancing in the Desert: Prayers and reflections for Lent* (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2016).*

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *The Lord's My Shepherd*

PATRICIA LOU HARRIS-BASED ON BROTHER JAMES' AIR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***OPENING HYMN #84:** *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

JOHN BOWRING

In the cross of Christ I glory,
Towering o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me:
Lo! it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

***OPENING SENTENCES**

God's promise is for all generations;
God's covenant is with every living thing.

Let us worship our God.

***GATHERING PRAYER**

"DOORWAY TO THE DESERT," SALLY FOSTER-FULTON

Your breath moved over the waters of chaos:
blew life into stillness at the birth of the world.
Your heartbeat sings through the waters of each birth
and the wildness of the cosmos
and the wonder of insight.

Our feet stand at the doorway to the desert...
we hold our breath,
our hearts skip a beat
and we take a first faltering step
into insight.

As Lent begins,
our hope is that we are able to wait with you in this time,
before you walk into the wilderness
and the work you came for begins.

Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Merciful God, your word is our way of truth and life. Create in us hearts that are clean and put your Holy Spirit within us, so that we may receive your grace and declare your praise forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 32:1-2

PEW BIBLE, 686

MATTHEW 18:15-35

PEW BIBLE, 1195-1196

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF OUR PLEDGES

***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. Amen.

***BLESSING OUR GIFTS**

***HYMN OF THE DAY #440 (GLORY TO GOD):** *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

CHARLES WESLEY

Jesus, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
till the storm of life is past.
Safe into the haven guide.
O receive my soul at last!

Other refuge have I none;
hangs my helpless soul on thee.
Leave, ah! leave me not alone;
still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed;
all my help from thee I bring.
Cover my defenseless head
with the shadow of thy wing.

Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin.
Let the healing streams abound;
make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art;
freely let me take of thee.
Spring thou up within my heart.
Rise to all eternity.

CONFESSIONAL LITANY AND PRAYER

Throughout Lent we will be praying through the Lord's Prayer. In your bulletin you received a prayer cloth. We will begin this time of prayer by the choir singing the Lord's Prayer, reciting a brief litany, and then praying and meditating on the specific phrase from the Lord's Prayer of the day. When we are done, you will be invited to bring the prayer cloth and lay it before the three crosses and pick up a rock from the table while we chant The Lord's Prayer.

Let us come together to tell the truth about ourselves,
singing together the prayer our Lord taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER (CHOIR)

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.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy kingdom come.

PRAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER

We will now enter into a time of silent prayer. You are invited to pray and meditate on the phrase "thy kingdom come" while holding your prayer cloth.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE: The Lord's Prayer

As our time of silent prayer is concluded, you are invited to come forward and leave your cloth at the foot of the cross, symbolizing bringing your Lenten prayer before Christ while we sing together. Once you place your cloth, please pick up a rock with the name of a member of the church on it. We will pray for one another after the sermon.

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 sins, as we forgive them that sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Jesus, Son of God, Son of Man*

PAUL WILLIAMS, BARRY BRAMAN

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Wait...how many?"*

REV. PHILLIPS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

You are once again invited to enter into a time of silent prayer. This time we will be praying for the person on the name of the rock you picked up from the table.

LITANY FOR LENT

"LEAD US ON OUR JOURNEY," RUTH HARVEY

God, our God,
you have called us to be a people
on the move;
travelling light,
dying to live,
ready to lose ourselves for the sake of the world.

***You have called us to be a people
with a purpose;
travelling without a map,
travelling to where we are lead,
sustained by your Spirit,
committed to the gospel for the hope of the world.***

You have called us, your people,
to be the church.
But we are a church with problems:
too strong for the weak,
too staid for the young,
too respectable for the poor,
too divided for mission,
too obsessed with our own lives to think of the lives of others,
too unsure of our message to speak to the world.

***Move us on our journey
from where we are to where you want us to go.
Open our eyes on the way
to the people of different cultures, continents and countries,
who can bring difference to our lives.***

Take us on our journey
from where we are to what you want us to be;
so that we become a community
where all are welcomed and no one is excluded,
all are valued and no one is made to feel inadequate,
all are forgiven and no one is ashamed to belong,
all are encouraged and no one is too hurt to come among us.

***Lead us on our journey
from who we are to who you want us to be;
so that patience is built into us,
kindness is assumed in us,
gentleness is part of us,
compassion flows from us,
truth is second nature to us,
and the commitment of love is part of us.***

Let us go gladly on the journey towards Easter –
the journey towards death and resurrection.
Let us journey in the peace and power of the Spirit.

***CLOSING HYMN #387:** *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

WILLIAM BATCHELDER BRADBURY

Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

Thou hast promised to receive us,
Poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,
Grace to cleanse, and power to free:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee.

Early let us seek Thy favor;
Early let us do Thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior,
Eith Thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still.

***SENDING**

"OPENING AND CLOSING RESPONSES FOR LENT," RUTH BURGESS

Mysterious God
Maker and encourager
Surprise us with angels
Revealing God
Questioner and caller
Surprise us with stories
Breathing God
Dancer and delighter
Surprise us with joy

CHORAL BLESSING: *My Peace*

POSTLUDE: *The Power and the Glory*

LANI SMITH

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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 1st Community Easter Egg Hunt – 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

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!

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 26th - 1st Sunday in Lent

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

Wednesday, March 1st

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, March 5th - 2nd Sunday in Lent & Communion

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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