



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina  
[www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org)  
[www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](http://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian)

February 28, 2021 – 11:00 am  
Second Sunday in Lent



*"Jesus spoke to the people again, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me won't walk in darkness but will have the light of life.'"*  
John 8:12 (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:** *Savior, When in Dust to Thee*

J. WAYNE KERR

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \* 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

*The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,  
the Ancient of Eternal Days, the God of love!*

*The Lord, the great I am, by earth and heaven confessed,  
we bow before your holy name, forever blest.*

*Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will.  
In prophet's word you spoke of old and you speak still.  
Established is your law, and changeless it shall stand,  
deep writ upon the human heart by your strong hand.*

*Your goodly land we seek, with peace and plenty blest,  
a land of sacred liberty and Sabbath rest.  
There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound,  
and trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.  
You have eternal life implanted in the soul;  
your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.  
We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name:  
the first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!*

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

### A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

##### **JOHN 8:12-20**

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

***Thanks be to God!***

#### AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Lord of presence and power, be with us on this second step of our Lenten journey to the Cross. Help us to make a commitment of our lives, our spirits, our hearts to ministry in your name.

***Guiding Lord, even though we hesitated on our Lenten journey; we vowed to come with you through all the trials and fears toward the Cross. Today we face the challenge which true commitment brings. Are we willing to offer our whole selves to you in service?***

We would like to think that we can do that, but we are aware of how many times we have turned away from service and instead focused on our own desires.

***Remind us again of the commitment you would have us give if we are to become disciples. Forgive our stubbornness and fears. Lead us forward, gracious Lord, up these steps toward the Cross.***

#### AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

#### AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

The journey of discipleship is never easy; but we can be assured that we will not be on this journey alone. We place your trust in Jesus.

***For it is in Jesus Christ that we are forgiven. Amen.***

#### \* RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE: *Hear the Good News of Salvation*

NETTLETON

*Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.  
Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.  
Jesus Christ, how much I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin!  
How I love you! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.*

#### \* SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

FROM THE CONFESSION OF 1967

As the people of God gathered in these places, who are we?

***We are a community of believers, called by God to WORSHIP, SERVE, TEACH, and SUPPORT.***

With the whole church, let us say what we believe.

***The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.***

#### 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**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Standing on the Promises*

PROMISES

*Standing on the promises of Christ my king, through eternal ages let his praises ring;  
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing, standing on the promises of God.*

*Refrain:*

*Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.*

*Standing on the promises that cannot fail, when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,  
by the living Word of God I shall prevail, standing on the promises of God. (Refrain)*

*Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord, bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,  
overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword, standing on the promises of God. (Refrain)*

*Standing on the promises I cannot fall, listening every moment to the Spirit's call,  
resting in my Savior as my all in all, standing on the promises of God. (Refrain)*

**AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*This morning's Lord's Prayer will be a video that was part of a worship service at the recent virtual Annual Event of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE).*

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

**THE WORD IN MUSIC:** *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

RICHARD REDHEAD

**THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

Sermon: *I AM . . . The Light of the World*

REV. JOHNSON

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

**CLOSING HYMN:** *Be Still My Soul*

FINLANDIA

*Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side. Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.  
Leave to thy God to order and provide, who through all changes faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.  
Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake to guide the future surely as the past.  
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake; all now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.  
Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on when we shall be forever with the Lord;  
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone, sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.*

**\* SENDING**

Go now with God, on your journey through Lent.  
***We will discover the new name given to each one we meet.***  
Go now with Jesus, walking wherever he leads.  
***We will put all our fears, as well as our longings, behind us.***  
Go now with the Spirit, who is always full of surprises.  
***We will share the good news called Jesus with everyone.***

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\* POSTLUDE:** *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

WILLIAM HENRY MONK



# 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](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org); on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](http://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian); or on Twitter by following [@bpresbyterian](https://twitter.com/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](http://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
- *Presbyterian Outlook* Liturgical Resources
- *Ministry Matters* website ([www.ministrymatters.com](http://www.ministrymatters.com))
- *The Text This Week* website ([www.textweek.com](http://www.textweek.com))

This morning we continue our **Lenten Season Series**. We are looking forward to this series focusing on some of the “I Am” statements from Jesus. Here are the themes for this series:

- February 21<sup>st</sup> - *I Am the Bread of Life*
- **February 28<sup>th</sup> - *I Am the Light of the World***
- March 7<sup>th</sup> - *I Am the Door*
- March 14<sup>th</sup> - *I Am the Good Shepherd*
- March 21<sup>st</sup> - *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	Diane Miller	John & Ann Sutton
Jack Cook	Peter Slater	Ruby Martin
Joan Richardson	Joey Leake	Teresa Wilborn
Shannon Russell	Ida Whitney	Tiffany Tauchren
Katherine Turner	Jean Berry	Barbara Cousins
Jeremy Harden	Christy Lutterloh	Pat Kennedy
Anne McDaniels	Eleanor Thompson	Mike Sutton
Alex Thomas	Nancy Sutton	Pete Campbell
Stewart Dillard	Norma Proctor	Ben Johnson
Shelvia Russell	Christopher Bagley	Grace Johnson
Carol Brooks	Randy Thompson	Frank Wrenn
Ritchie Fishburne	Frederica Beatty	Sylvia Donley
Janie Holt Clapp	Penny Rice (sister of Carolyn Thompson)	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.

**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 20<sup>th</sup> and March 27<sup>th</sup>** 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:

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

Sunday, the 7<sup>th</sup>:

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

### 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

# bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



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### Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – [pastor@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@bethanypreschurch.org)  
Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – [music@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:music@bethanypreschurch.org)  
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Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – [finance@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:finance@bethanypreschurch.org)

Elder Emeritus: Bobby Peele

Elder Emeritus: Don Boggs

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*Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation*

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