



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

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

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March 1, 2026 – 11:00 am

*Second Sunday of Lent*

Communion



A Pharisee

## 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 VII - Adagio*

JOHN STANLEY

### WELCOME

**\*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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING SENTENCES

(PSALM 121:1-2)

I lift up my eyes to the hills--  
***from where will my help come?***  
My help comes from the Lord,  
***who made heaven and earth.***

## GATHERING PRAYER

(JOHN 3)

Lord of light and love, your Spirit enlivens our spirits, even as your kingdom draws us to you.  
May we be born from above, that our souls might ascend to your realm and taste the joy of eternal life  
in your name.  
For you sent your Son into our world, not to condemn the world, but that all who enter into his light we  
might have life, and have it abundantly. Amen.

# OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

## \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(APOSTLES' CREED)

***I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.***

## \*HYMN OF THE DAY #339: *Be Thou My Vision*

MARY E. BYRNE

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art--  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

## TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

*Gracious God, as we wander through the wilderness this Lent, we are aware of our need for your presence, your love, your guidance on life's journey. Forgive us for turning away from you. Forgive our doubt and uncertainty that led us to place our faith in worldly comforts that don't run deep enough and don't last. We come to your well this Lent desperate and thirsty for Christ's living water. Quench our thirst, we pray. Grant us your forgiveness and your grace. Amen.*

## AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

(FROM JOHN 3:17)

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." Know that you are forgiven in Jesus Christ, and be at peace. Amen.

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

(BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP)

Loving God, fountain of every blessing, open us to your life-giving Word, and fill us with your Holy Spirit so that living water may flow through our hearts — a spring of hope for a thirsty world. Amen

### ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

#### PSALM 121

PEW BIBLE, 766

#### JOHN 3:1-17

PEW BIBLE, 1292

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

### THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Remember Me*

AARON ADAMS

### THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"How Are These Things Possible?"*

RICK PURCELL, CRE

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

*We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper today by inviting everyone who wants to participate up front to receive the bread and cup (we use gluten free bread and grape juice). If you are more comfortable remaining seated but would like to participate, raise your hand and we will come to your seat to serve you. We believe that Jesus invites everyone forward to his table to "taste and see," and so we proclaim that all are welcome to participate.*

### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

#### 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.*

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

The gifts of God for the people of God.

*Thanks be to God.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**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. Amen.

**\*BLESSING OUR GIFTS**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #383:** *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

RAY PALMER

My faith looks up to Thee,  
Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine:  
Now hear me while I pray,  
Take all my guilt away,  
O let me from this day  
Be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart  
Strength to my fainting heart,  
My zeal inspire;  
As Thou hast died for me,  
O may my love to Thee  
Pure warm, and changeless be,  
A living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread,  
And griefs around me spread,  
Be Thou my guide;  
Bid darkness turn to day,  
Wipe sorrow's tears away,  
Nor let me ever stray  
From Thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream,  
When death's cold sullen stream  
Shall o'er me roll.  
Blest Savior, then, in love,  
Fear and distrust remove;  
O bear me safe above,  
A ransomed soul!

**\*SENDING**

(FROM THE "INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT," BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP)

Beloved people of God, I invite you, in the name of Christ, to continue to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by meditating on God's word.  
May the grace, hope, peace and love of God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with us all, now and forever. Amen.

**POSTLUDE:** *Voluntary VII - Allegro*

JOHN STANLEY

*\* 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 **Soup, Canned Meats: Chicken, and Tuna, 1 lb. bags of Rice, Pasta, Spaghetti sauce, Spaghetti noodles.**

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, 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).

Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> 7:00pm Choir Practice

Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>

10:00 – Exercise class

Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> - Third Sunday of Lent

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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