



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina
www.bethanypreschurch.org
www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

March 2, 2025 – 11:00 am
Transfiguration Sunday & Communion



Transfiguration

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: *Footsteps of Jesus*

LANI SMITH

WELCOME

***PROCESSIONAL #193 (GLORY TO GOD):** *Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain*

JAROSLAV J. VAJDA

Jesus, take us to the mountain
Where, with Peter, James and John,
We are dazzled by Your glory,
Light as blinding as the sun.
There prepare us for the night
By the vision of that sight.

What do you want us to see there
That Your close companions saw?
Your divinity revealed there
Fills us with the self-same awe.
Clothed in flesh like ours You go,
Matched to meet our deadliest foe.

What do You want us to hear there
That Your dear disciples heard?
Once again the voice from heaven
Says of the incarnate Word:
"Listen, listen ev'ryone;
This is My beloved Son!"

Take us to that other mountain
Where we see You glorified.
Where You shouted, "It is finished!"
Where for all the world You died.
Hear the stunned centurion:
"Truly this was God's own Son!"

We who have beheld Your glory,
Risen and ascended Lord,
Cannot help but tell the story,
All that we have seen and heard,
Say with Peter, James, and John:
"You are God's beloved Son!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

(BASED ON PSALM 99)

God reigns, let the people tremble! God reigns, let the earth shake!
For the Lord our God is exalted over all people!
God reigns, let the people tremble! God reigns, let the earth shake!
For the Lord our God loves justice and works for righteousness!
So come and proclaim at the holy mountain of the Lord:
God reigns, let the people tremble! God reigns, let the earth shake!

OPENING RESPONSE #322: *Spirit of the Living God*

Daniel Iverson

Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

*HYMN OF THE DAY #192 GLORY TO GOD: *Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining*

KATHARINE LEE BATES

Lord the light of Your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness shining.
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,
Set us free by the Truth You now bring us.
Shine on me, Shine on me.

Refrain

Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, River, flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth Your Word,
Lord and let there be light.

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence
From the shadows into Your radiance.
By the blood I may enter Your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, Shine on me. **(Refrain)**

As we gaze on Your kindly brightness
So our faces display Your likeness.
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story.
Shine on me, Shine on me. **(Refrain)**

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

On Transfiguration, on the holy mountain of God, we see Jesus as he truly is.
But in confession we let Jesus see us as we truly are.
We name our sins, our faults, and the things we've gotten wrong, and we do so in
faith that Jesus wants to see us as we are. So let's tell the truth together.

Almighty God, you see us as we are and know our inmost thoughts.

*You know the ways we've fallen short. You know the work we've left undone, the mercy we've left ungiven,
the love we've left unshared, the peace we've left unmade.*

*You know the arrogance, pride and violence that we've chosen instead of your path of forgiveness and
reconciliation.*

*You know who we are. Help us to see who we might be. Forgive us, and transform us, that we might become
who you imagine us to become, in your sight, and by your mercy. Amen*

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Friends, the Lord sees you and knows you.
The Lord sees you and loves you.
The Lord sees you and calls you.
Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, in your light may we see light, in your truth may we see truth
and in your Holy Word may we be called into holy work.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

LUKE 9:28-43

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Transformation or Transfiguration?"*

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

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.

*BLESSING OUR GIFTS

*CLOSING HYMN # 263: *Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise*

WALTER C. SMITH

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
Then wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.

Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

***SENDING**

The mountaintop is for a moment. The world waits. The service begins now.
So, go into the world with courage. Love God and love one another with abandon.
Run from this place into the arms of the Savior who waits for you.
And in his arms, and in the grace of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
may you always be upheld and uplifted, now and forever.
Amen.

POSTLUDE: *The Power and the Glory*

LANI SMITH

* *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, March 4th 10:30am The Women of Bethany Church Gathering

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

Ash Wednesday, March 5th 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.

Tuesday, March 18th 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

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

How we can help S.A.F.E. for the month of **March**? They are asking for **Mac and Cheese and Pasta**. S.A.F.E. will be closed the 1st and 5th Saturday of the Month. Consider donating your plastic and paper bags.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, March 2nd – Transfiguration Sunday, Communion & Pennies for Hunger

9:45 – Bible Study – The Chosen - Evie C. Marshall classroom

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

Tuesday, March 4th 10:30 Women of Bethany Church Gathering

Wednesday, March 5th Ash Wednesday

11:00am – 1:00pm & 4:00pm-6:00pm Drive Thru Ashes - Parking Lot

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, March 9th – 1st Sunday in Lent,

9:45 – Bible Study – The Chosen - Evie C. Marshall classroom

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

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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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