



Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

March 3, 2024 – 11:00 am
Third Sunday in Lent



Ian Scott, "Watchtower in a vineyard in Israel"

"Haven't you read this scripture, The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. The Lord has done this, and it's amazing in our eyes?" Mark 12:10-11 (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); Sally Foster-Fulton, Dancing in the Desert: Prayers and Reflections for Lent, (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2016; and LiturgyLink, <https://www.liturgylink.net>.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *All Creatures of Our God and King*

PATRICIA LOU HARRIS/TUNE: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***OPENING HYMN #341:** *Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!*

FANNY JANE CROSBY

Blessed assurance: Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels, descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. **(Refrain)**

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with His goodness, lost in His love. **(Refrain)**

***OPENING SENTENCES**

"OPENING AND CLOSING RESPONSES FOR SUNDAYS IN LENT," RUTH BURGESS

Pilgrim God
Striking water in the desert
Refresh us and quench our thirst

Revealing God
Sitting by the well side
Refresh us and teach us the truth

Dancing God
Moving over the waters
Refresh us and bring us life

***GATHERING PRAYER**

Eternal God,
you reign has broken into our troubled world
through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son.
Help us to hear your word and obey it,
that we may become instruments of your saving love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. ***Amen.***

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

ROM. 10:8; 2 COR. 5:18-19

The Word is near to us,
on our lips and in our hearts.
All of this is from God,
who entrusts us with the message of reconciliation.
Thanks be to God.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 86:8-13

PEW BIBLE, 732

MARK 12:1-17

PEW BIBLE, 1233

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF OUR PLEDGES

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

***HYMN OF THE DAY #85:** *What Wondrous Love is This*

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the heavy cross for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
While millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on.
And through eternity I'll sing on.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"A NEW AND DIFFERENT WAY," ANDY JAMES

Let us come together to tell the truth about ourselves.

God of justice and peace,
you show us a new and different way to live
in the joyful gift of your Law
and in the gracious life of Jesus Christ,
but when your new way tells us, "No,"
we pull back.
We resist your challenge to give up the old ways.
We prefer to keep silent
rather than speak up against our misdeeds out of your love and anger.
Forgive us, loving God.

Guide us into your new way.
Keep challenging us to walk in the way
of your justice, peace, and love for all people
each and every day.

Silent Prayer

KYRIE #572 *Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us*

JOHN MERBECKE

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Listen, the time has come at last.
Look, now is the day of salvation!

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE: *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

JOHN NEWTON

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *This Day*

EDWIN HAWKINS

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Traps and Fields"*

REV. PHILLIPS

SACRAMENT OF 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

ISA. 55:1; PS. 63:4-5

Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
let those who have no money come and eat.
***God will satisfy our souls with a rich feast,
and we will bless the Lord as long as we live.***

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to God our Maker
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy...
... Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with choirs of angels
and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.***

You are holy, O God of majesty...
...For great is the mystery of faith:
***Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.***

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Throughout Lent, we will hold a period of silent prayer and reflection during our Prayers of the People. This time will be opened and closed in song. During the closing song, you are invited to come forward to light a tealight to represent your prayer. Each week you will be invited to pray on a different theme. This week, you are invited to pray for our community.

#471 (Glory to God): *O Lord, Hear My Prayer*

TAIZÉ COMMUNITY

O Lord, hear my prayer.
O Lord, hear my prayer.
When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer.
O Lord, hear my prayer
Come and listen to me.

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.*

*CLOSING 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.

*SENDING

"OPENING AND CLOSING RESPONSES FOR SUNDAYS IN LENT," RUTH BURGESS

We are God's people
Loved and cherished
We go out in joy

We are God's people
Called and challenged
We go out in joy

We are God's people
Refreshed and forgiven
We go out in joy

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

POSTLUDE: *Majestic Postlude*

MARK L. WILLIAMS

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sundays, 9:45am Bible 101 Part 2: The New Testament – Evie C. Marshall Room

We're back this Sunday! With a brand New Testament! Join Jon and friends as we continue our Bible 101 survey of the Biblical text, focusing on how it is interpreted, its context, and its content.

All Day Throughout Lent – Stations of the Cross – Recreation Area

The Stations of the Cross have been a part of the Lenten journey of Christians to express their faith in a multisensory way for centuries. You are invited to participate in this ancient tradition of remembering Christ's death by walking an ecumenical version in our Recreation Area this Lenten season.

Thursdays Throughout Lent 11am-1pm – Drive Thru Prayer – Parking Lot

Do you need prayer? You are invited to stop on by our parking lot on Thursdays from 11-1 for prayer with Jon or an elder throughout the Lenten season.

Sundays February 18 – March 17th 11am – Lenten Worship - Sanctuary

The season of Lent. Our Lenten Sunday worship will include extended periods of silent prayer.

Tuesday, March 5th 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

Sunday, March 17th 11am – Brunch Church – Fellowship Hall

Sunday, March 24th 11am - Palm Sunday Service - Sanctuary

Thursday, March 28th 6pm – Maundy Thursday Dinner Church – 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 and invite a friend – all are welcome!

Friday, March 29th 7:00pm - Good Friday Seven Last Words - Sanctuary

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.

Sunday, March 31st 11am Easter Sunday - Sanctuary

Our Easter celebration. Celebrate Jesus' resurrection with us!

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, March 3rd – 3rd Sunday in Lent – Communion & Congregational Meeting
9:45 – Adult Sunday School - Bible 101 – New Testament Evie C. Marshall classroom

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

Wednesday, March 6th
6:30 – Choir Practice

All Day Throughout Lent
Stations of the Cross – Recreation Area

Thursdays Throughout Lent
11-1– Drive Thru Prayer – Church Parking Lot

Sunday, March 10th – 4th Sunday in Lent
9:45 – Adult Sunday School - Bible 101 – New Testament Evie C. Marshall classroom

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

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love learn serve



Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2023:

Chip Allen
Randy Cousins
Shelby Smith

Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell
Kim Snyder
Tracey Troxler

Class of 2025:

Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Tina Patterson
Nancy Purcell

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