



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypresbyterian.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

March 5, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.

First Sunday in Lent



*“What do you think? Which one of these three was a neighbor to the man who encountered thieves?
Then the legal expert said, ‘The one who demonstrated mercy toward him.’
Jesus told him, ‘Go and do likewise.’”
Luke 10:36-37 (CEB)*

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Compassionate God, how easily you love those who look unlovable to us! How readily you welcome undesirables into your home! How slow we are to follow your example. Turn our hearts toward all who are considered outcast, shunned, and unclean so that we may love our neighbor without pity or apathy, for the sake of the one who became flesh to cleanse the world of sin and death forever, Jesus Christ our redeemer. Amen.

PRELUDE: *A Prelude for Lent*

R. POWELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

AN OFFERING OF PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(Please take a moment to share the peace of Christ with your neighbor.)

* GATHERING SONG: *Praise, I Will Praise You, Lord*

CLAUDE FRAYSEE

Praise, I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart.

O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways, and glorify your name.

Praise, I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart.

In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!

*Love, I will love you, Lord, with all my heart.
O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways, and glorify your name.
Love, I will love you, Lord, with all my heart.
In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!*

*Serve, I will serve you, Lord, with all my heart.
O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways, and glorify your name.
Serve, I will serve you, Lord, with all my heart.
In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!*

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Today the journey begins. Are you ready?

There is so much I still have to do. I am not sure I'll ever be ready.

Let go of those things that chain you to despair.

Lord, help me look and see the ways in which I have abandoned you.

Come, let us worship and feel the power of freedom in God.

Open our hearts today to receive your freeing love, O Lord. Let us worship God!

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

*** HYMN OF PRAISE #345:** *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*

REST

AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

Are we in love with God? Do we show it in our words, your thoughts, your actions? Are we in love with our neighbor? Do they know this by our presence, our grace, our friendship? Or are we so obsessed with ourselves, that we have no time, no room, nor pity for others, or for God? Let us confess the limits we place on our love, so we might be filled with God's limitless mercy.

They may not be beaten down or lying by the road, but there are people we pass by. Some are family and friends we take so much for granted we cannot see how we have stripped them of our love and compassion. Others are neighbors: who have been left half-dead by crushing work; who have fallen into the hands of despair; who have been abandoned by all those who walked on by them.

Many are strangers, people we don't know, but quickly judge: they are weak, or poor, or the enemy or because they remind us of whom we once were, or could become. Rescue us from the power of our sins.

Pour out your justice on us, rather than your judgment, that we would be moved with pity, and spurred to action; that we would hear of the hope that is ours, and share it with our sisters and brothers; that we would shower mercy on all we meet, even as we have received forgiveness for our sins through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Children of the Most High: you are forgiven and brought into the kingdom. Be filled with spiritual wisdom, lead lives worthy of your inheritance, bear fruit in all you say and do and think.

God has rescued us and redeemed us from our sins, setting aside judgment to shower us with mercy. We will go and do likewise. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*** RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE:** *We Are Forgiven*

TRADITIONAL / HAL HOPSON

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We Are Forgiven

We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to
 God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en.
 We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

* SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

EXCERPTED FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

As the people of God gathered in this place, who are we?

We are a community of believers called by God to worship, serve, teach, and support.

To whom do we belong?

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

In whom do we trust?

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

In what do we rejoice?

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *Are Ye Able?*

H. MASON / ARR. L. PUGH

* **DOXOLOGY:** *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNDRETH

*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*

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION #324: *Open My Eyes That I May See*

OPEN MY EYES

*Open my ears, that I may see glimpses of truth Thou has for me;
 And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.
 Silently now I wait for Thee, ready, my God, thy will to see;
 Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

THE SPOKEN WORD

Lord, silence any voice but your own.

That we may hear you speaking to us on this day.

A Reading from Luke 10:25-42

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God!

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1263

THE WORD IN MUSIC: Psalm 150

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord in His holy place.

Praise the Lord in His firmament.

Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord in the firmament of all His power.

Sing ye to Him for His great and mighty wonders.

Hallelujah! O praise Him with trumpet, and praise Him with psaltery and harp.

O praise Him with timbrel and dancing.

O praise Him with stringed instruments.

O praise, O praise the Lord on cymbals sounding strong.

Let everything that hath breath praise Him, praise the Lord.

Praise ye Him. Praise the Lord. Hallelujah!

L. LEWANDOWSKI

SERMON: THE BAD SAMARITAN

REV. JOHNSON

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

HYMN OF PREPARATION #513: Let Us Break Bread Together

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

May the God of justice be with you.

And also with you.

People of God, open your hearts to the One who restores you.

We bring our hearts to God, who has rescued us.

Faithful sisters and brothers, sing songs of praise to God.

Our voices unite in a chorus of thanksgiving.

We would not cease singing our songs of thanksgiving to you . . . Therefore, we lift our songs of joy to you, joining our voices with those in heaven and on earth, who forever praise your name:

Holy, holy, holy are you, Rescuer of the weak and needy. All the hope in creation gives glory to you. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who shows us mercy. Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you, God of Wonder, and blessed is Jesus Christ your Son . . . As we remember his life of great love, we praise you, that as we break the bread of life, and drink from the cup of grace, we know the risen Christ is among us:

Christ was broken, that we might be made whole; Christ was raised, that the gospel might bear fruit; Christ will come, that we might inherit eternal life.

We come to this Table looking for answers to our questions and for healing for our brokenness . . . Then, when all time has come to an end, and there is only life forever with you, we will join hands with all your children, singing our joy and thanks to you, God in Community, Holy in One, praying as Christ taught us:

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Now go, to be God's blessing to others.

We will not stop measuring out our love by the spoonful, but shower everyone with it.

Now go, to tell share the story of Jesus' love and hope for all.

We will go to speak of the One who, with grace and wonder, shows everyone who they are and who they might be.

Now go, to pour out the Spirit's compassion in every corner of your life.

We will go to care for everyone, even those we do not know.

LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

* **CLOSING HYMN #434:** *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

KINGSFOLD

* **LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY: LETTING GO OF FEAR**

In this season of Lent we reflect on the meaning of our lives and on our journey of faith. The candles are burning now, but in the weeks to come the light will slowly fade to darkness. For in retelling the story of Jesus' betrayal, suffering, and death, we find that God brings transformation and new possibility out of darkness.

We walk with Christ to the cross, letting go of all that holds us back from new life.

As we extinguish this light, we let go of our fear – fear of failure, fear of rejection, fear of illness, or death, fear of meaninglessness.

[A candle is extinguished.]

Loving God, as we journey through the holy season of Lent, give us the courage to walk toward you, to step out in faith, and to let go of fear. Open our hearts so that we may love fully and allow ourselves to be fully loved. Amen.

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *Firm in the Faith I Stand*

D. PAXTON

* *Those who are able may stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WORSHIP Ministry: (Lead Elders: Nancy Purcell and A. J. Campbell)

WELCOME to this service of worship at Bethany Presbyterian Church. 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.bethanypresbyterian.org; on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian; or on Twitter by following [@bpresbyterian](https://twitter.com/bpresbyterian).

Operating our audio and video systems this morning is **Rick Purcell**. Anyone wishing to join this team of volunteers please contact the church office at any time.

Audio Recordings of each Sunday's sermons are available through a link on our website, or at www.buzzsprout.com/9198.

Our worship this morning on this First Sunday of Lent includes the **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**. As is our practice here at Bethany, we will receive communion by way of Intinction. At the appropriate time, you may come forward by way of the middle aisle to the servers in the front, tear of a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, and partake. Please return to your seat by way of the side aisles.

Resources used in this morning's worship:

- *Ministry Matters* website (www.ministrymatters.com)
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.org)
- Other Lenten Resources
- Narrative Lectionary website (www.workingpreacher.org)

Recently we marked the **Kickoff of our 125th Anniversary Celebration**. Our theme scripture passage for the celebration is Isaiah 40:28-31, **Growing Stronger – Growing Deeper – Reaching Higher**. Mark your calendars for our other celebration events:

- **Sunday, May 28th** – **Rev. Norman Whitney**, preaching / Luncheon following worship
- **Saturday, September 23rd** – Concert by renowned artist, **David LaMotte** (www.davidlamotte.com)
- **Sunday, September 24th** – Culmination of anniversary celebration / **Rev. J. Herbert Nelson**, preaching (Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA)) / **David LaMotte** providing music / Anniversary luncheon following worship

SET YOUR CLOCKS!! Don't forget that **next Sunday, March 12th** marks the beginning of **Daylight Savings Time!** Be sure to **"spring forward"** and set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night. Otherwise, you'll experience the horror of getting to church an hour late!

Do you have a smartphone? Are you on Facebook? If so, take a moment to **"check in" on Facebook**, letting your friends know that you are here at Bethany Presbyterian Church! It may seem like a small thing, but in reality, it is a wonderful message of evangelism and witness, as you let the cyber-world know what is important to you.

To the parents of young children: Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel that you must suppress those wiggles in God's house. **Please note that a professionally staffed nursery is available during the worship hour.** Here are some hints to make worship with your children more rewarding:

- Consider sitting towards the front where it is easier for little ones to engage. On the second pew nearest the choir loft, there are activities for children of all ages to keep busy with during the service.
- Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, musicians, and leaders.
- Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behavior by mimicking you.
- If you have to leave the sanctuary with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me!"
- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.
- **To adult worshippers:** The presence of children is a gift to the church and they are a reminder that our church is growing! Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elders: Jean Payne and Sherrie Moore)

Our ongoing prayer list is below. Please let the church office know if there are any changes.

Bill Faucette	Diane Miller	John & Ann Sutton
Faye Campbell	Jack Cook	Peter Slater
Frances Nolan	Polly & Dick Wilson	Joey Leake
Layla Benoklen	Teresa Wilborn	Shannon Russell
Ida Whitney	Tiffany Tauchren	Mary Moore
Rachel Poteat	Jean Berry	Barbara Cousins
Jeremy Harden	Christy Lutterloh	Pat Kennedy
Anne McDaniels	Eleanor Thompson	Harold Baldwin
Mike Sutton	Nancy Sutton	Duffy Strigo
Ron Chilton	Norman Mize	Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Gail Sloane (friend of Joy Saleeby)

Each week **Salem Presbytery** lists churches and other ministries that we are to lift up in prayer that week. A complete list can be viewed online at the presbytery website: www.salempresbytery.org. On the prayer list for this week are: **Steve Scott – Moderator of Salem Presbytery, Lloyd Presbyterian – Winston-Salem, Kent Berry – Counselor, Greensboro, First – Burlington, Bethesda – Statesville.** Please keep these churches and ministries in your prayers this week.

TEACH Ministry: (Lead Elders: Brandon Troxler and Karen Maxwell)

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.

Young at Heart Class (Young at Heart Classroom – across from pastor's office)

Using the *Uniform Series*, this class engages in lively discussions pertaining to the biblically based curriculum. The class is taught by a very capable team of teachers.

Seeker's Class (Church Office)

The Seeker's Class is currently using a study guide that correlates with the preaching text and themes that are used in our worship services.

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.

Please disregard the announcement in the February newsletter, regarding the Lenten Lunch series. This series WILL NOT take place this season.

SUPPORT Ministry: (Lead Elders: Ron Osborne, Ron Kimrey, and Glenn Patterson)

Elders of the Month for March are **Karen Maxwell and Brandon Troxler.**

The congregation has been mailed a letter soliciting donations for replacement of our 40-some-year-old boiler! We are hoping that it will make it through the winter, so this work can be completed in the spring. Please see Ron Kimrey if you have any questions. And thanks in advance for your generosity.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Monday, the 6th:

- 6:00 – Bethany NEXT Work Group
- 7:00 – Circle #4

Wednesday, the 8th:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, the 2nd:

- Covenant Bible Study: *Living the Covenant – Episode 20*

Sunday, the 12th:

- SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Rick Purcell

Treasurer: Ron Osborne

Class of 2017:

Ron Kimrey

Karen Maxwell

Sherrie Moore

Class of 2018:

Glenn Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Brandon Troxler

Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell

Ron Osborne

Jean Payne

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love learn serve



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Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org



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