



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

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March 5, 2023 – 11:00 am

Second Sunday of Lent



"Harvest, Piper Brooks Vineyard," Piper Brooks Vineyard

"So those who are last will be first. And those who are first will be last." Matthew 20:16 (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 Wild Goose Resource Group, A Wee Worship Book, Fifth Incarnation (Chicago: GIA Publications, Inc., 2015).

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Cross of Sorrow*

SUSANNA KEENEY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***OPENING HYMN #466:** *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

CHARLES WESLEY

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of God's grace!

Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

Christ breaks the power of reigning sin,
And sets the prisoner free;
Christ's blood can make the sinful clean,
Christ's blood availed for me.

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.

***OPENING SENTENCES**

Jesus calls us to be his disciples.
We take up the cross to follow him.

Let us worship our God.

***GATHERING PRAYER**

"GLAD YOU'RE HERE," SALLY FOSTER-FULTON

All you young folk,
energy pumping through your veins,
excitement and potential exuding from every pore,
managing to sit still, abiding in this sanctuary –
not as easy as it looks –
God is glad you're here.

All you grown folk,
experience trying to help you keep on an even keel,
energy tapped just a bit too often,
abiding in this sanctuary –
settling down in this place –
God is glad you're here.

All you older folk,
energy still yours, though measured,
experience showing you that there's always more to learn,
abiding in this sanctuary –
reflecting in this place on the life behind and before you –
God is glad you're here.

All of us are God's folk and we are welcome here.
Come, says Jesus, sit for a while.
Come, says Jesus, bide your time.
Come, says Jesus, and abide with me.
Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Merciful God, your word is our way of truth and life. Create in us hearts that are clean and put your Holy Spirit within us, so that we may receive your grace and declare your praise forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 16:5-8

PEW BIBLE, 673-674

MATTHEW 20:1-16

PEW BIBLE, 1197-1198

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF OUR PLEDGES

***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:** *Are Ye Able*

EARL MARLATT

"Are ye able," said the Master,
"To be crucified with me?"
"Yea," the sturdy dreamers answered,
"To the death we follow Thee."

Refrain:

Lord, we are able.
Our spirits are Thine.
Remold them, make us,
Like Thee, divine.
Thy guiding radiance
Above us shall be
A beacon to God,
To love, and loyalty.

Are ye able to remember,
When a thief lifts up his eyes,
That his pardoned soul is worthy
Of a place in paradise? **[Refrain]**

Are ye able when the shadows
Close around you with the sod,
To believe that spirit triumphs,
To commend your soul to God? **[Refrain]**

"Are ye able?" Still the Master
Whispers down eternity,
And heroic spirits answer
Now, as then, in Galilee. **[Refrain]**

CONFESSONAL LITANY AND PRAYER

Throughout Lent we will be praying through the Lord's Prayer. In your bulletin you received a prayer cloth. We will begin this time of prayer by the choir singing the Lord's Prayer, reciting a brief litany, and then praying and meditating on the specific phrase from the Lord's Prayer of the day. When we are done, you will be invited to bring the prayer cloth and lay it before the three crosses and pick up a rock from the table while we chant The Lord's Prayer.

Let us come together to tell the truth about ourselves,
singing together the prayer our Lord taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER (CHOIR)

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.

Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

PRAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER

We will now enter into a time of silent prayer. You are invited to pray and meditate on the phrase "thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" while holding your prayer cloth.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE: The Lord's Prayer #571

As our time of silent prayer is concluded, you are invited to come forward and leave your cloth at the foot of the cross, symbolizing bringing your Lenten prayer before Christ while we sing together. Once you place your cloth, please pick up a rock with the name of a member of the church on it. We will pray for one another after the sermon.

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 sins, as we forgive them that sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Jesus Paid it All*

ELVINA M. HALL / JOHN T. GRAPE

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Homily: *"Working with Grapes"*

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 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. You are invited.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Behold the Lamb of God.
He who takes away the sin of the world
forgives, restores and embraces us
in this bread and this cup.

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 right to praise you,
for you are the One from whom we came
and the One to whom we will return...

...we praise you,
singing the hymn of your everlasting glory:

***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.***

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

During this prayer you will once again be invited to enter into a time of silent prayer. This time we will be praying for the person on the name of the rock you picked up from the communion table.

*CLOSING HYMN #370: *Just as I Am, Without One Plea*

CHARLOTTE ELLIOTT

Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

*SENDING

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

From what we know
To what we have yet to discover
God is calling us on

From all that binds us
To the truth which frees us
God is calling us on

From the blessings of today
To the possibilities of tomorrow
God is calling us on

CHORAL BLESSING: *My Peace*

POSTLUDE: *The Royal Banners Forward Go*

JAMES MANSFIELD

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Feb. 26th - March 26th Lenten Worship – 11am in the Sanctuary

The Season of Lent. Our Lenten Sunday worship will include periods of silent prayer and mediation on the Lord's Prayer as well as opportunities to pray for one another.

March 21st – 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.

April 1st Community Easter Egg Hunt – in the Recreation Area

We're bringing back an old favorite of ours – our Easter Egg hunt! Kids of all ages are welcome to participate in this fun family

April 2nd Psalm Sunday Service – 11am in the Sanctuary

Our Palm Sunday service will include a Cantata sung by our choir and Communion.

April 3rd – April 9th Stations of the Cross – All day – here in the Recreation Area

We are excited to offer our Recreation Area as a space for the community for prayerful reflection during Holy Week. Our 15 stations (including a final station for the Resurrection) will utilize ecumenical meditations and prayers from the Iona Community.

April 6th Maundy Thursday Dinner Church – 6:30pm in the 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 – all are welcome!

April 7th Good Friday Seven Last Words – 6:30 in the Sanctuary

We will hold 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.

April 9th Easter Sunday – 11am in the Sanctuary

Our Easter celebration. Celebrate Jesus' resurrection with us!

Invitation to Snow Ski

You are invited to Snow Ski with the Scouts of Troop 9. Lessons provided, Learn to Ski, and have a Great Time. Contact Jeff Benes for more details and to sign up.

Jeff Benes
Committee Chair Cub Pack 9 & Troops 9
(336) 675-9086 cell
benes.nc@att.net

This Week's Calendar:

Today Sunday, March 5th - 2nd Sunday in Lent & Communion

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

Wednesday, March 8th

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, March 12th - 3rd Sunday in Lent

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

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Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

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Class of 2025:

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