



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

March 6, 2022 – 11:00 am

First Sunday in Lent



**'Woman, great is your faith!
Let it be done for you as you wish.'**

Matthew 15.28

"Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11:25-26 (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.

PRELUDE: *There is a Fountain*

GARY DAVIDSON (BASED ON CLEANSING FOUNTAIN)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

BASED ON POEM BY REBECCA JORDAN

Praise the Lord O my soul, and forget not all his benefits (Ps.103:2)

God hears the cries of a woman's heart.

He is her heavenly Father.

God celebrates the joys of a woman's heart.

He is her King of Kings.

God meets the needs of a woman's heart.

He is her Good Shepherd.

God sees the compassion of a woman's heart.

He is her Wonderful Counselor.

God puts the love in a mother's or woman's heart.

He is her awesome Creator.

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake."

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

CONFESSIONAL LITANY

Our time of telling the truth about ourselves in Lent will be spoken with a sung congregational response:

HYMN 544 *"Bless the Lord" (Glory to God)*

Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God's ho-ly name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me in-to life.

O Christ, out of your fullness we have all received grace upon grace.
You are our eternal hope; you are patient and full of mercy;
you are generous to all who call upon you. Save us, Lord.

HYMN 544 *"Bless the Lord" (Glory to God)*

Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God's ho-ly name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me in-to life.

O Christ, fountain of life and holiness,
you have taken away our sins.
On the cross you were wounded for our transgressions
and were bruised for our iniquities. Save us, Lord.

HYMN 544 *"Bless the Lord" (Glory to God)*

Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God's ho-ly name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me in-to life.

O Christ, obedient unto death,
source of all comfort, our life and our resurrection,
our peace and reconciliation: Save us, Lord.

HYMN 544 *"Bless the Lord" (Glory to God)*

Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God's ho-ly name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me in-to life."

O Christ, Savior of all,
hope for all, and joy for all the saints:
Save us, Lord.

HYMN 544 *"Bless the Lord" (Glory to God)*

Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God's ho-ly name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me in-to life.

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.

HYMN 544 *"Bless the Lord" (Glory to God)*

Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God's ho-ly name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me in-to life.

silence

God of love, as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us,
so may we give ourselves to you, living according to your holy will.
Keep our feet firmly in the way where Christ leads us;
make our mouths speak the truth and Christ teaches us;
fill our bodies with the life that is Christ within us.
In his holy name we pray.

HYMN 544 *"Bless the Lord" (Glory to God)*

Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God's ho-ly name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me in-to life.

Amen.

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION AND ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

Our Prayer for Illumination and Scripture Readings during Lent will be spoken with a sung congregational response:

HYMN 842 *"The Lord Is My Light" (Glory to God):*

The Lord is my light,
my light and salvation:
in God I trust;
in God I trust.

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us, by your Word, through these forty days, and minister to us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may be reformed, restored, and renewed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN 842 *"The Lord Is My Light" (Glory to God):*

The Lord is my light,
my light and salvation:
in God I trust;
in God I trust.

JUDGES 5:24-26; ACTS 16:13-14

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 746

HYMN 842 *"The Lord Is My Light" (Glory to God):*

The Lord is my light,
my light and salvation:
in God I trust;
in God I trust.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 842 *"The Lord Is My Light" (Glory to God):*

The Lord is my light,
my light and salvation:
in God I trust;
in God I trust.

HYMN OF THE DAY #838: *Standing on the Promises*

R. KELSO CARTER

Standing on the promises of Christ my king,
through eternal ages let his praises ring;
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
standing on the promises of God.

Refrain:

Standing, standing,
standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,
standing on the promises of God. **[Refrain]**

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
standing on the promises of God. **[Refrain]**

Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
resting in my Savior as my all in all,
standing on the promises of God. **[Refrain]**

TIME OF PRAYER

Our Time of Prayer during Lent begin and end a sung congregational response:

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

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.

Moment of silent prayer and meditation

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

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.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

Piano Solo ROBERT W. THYGERSON / TUNE: ST. CHRISTOPHER (FREDERICK C. MAKER)

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Matthew 15:21-28

Sermon: *"A Woman of Great Faith"*

REV. CHARLIE MURPHY

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

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 AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord be with you. ***And also with you.***

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O God our creator and redeemer...

...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, and blessed is Jesus Christ your Son our Lord...

...Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen. For great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Glorious God, pour your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine...
...Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever. We pray this and all things in the name of the One who taught us to pray in the language most familiar to us, saying:

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

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

CLOSING HYMN #276: *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

THOMAS O. CHISHOLM

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever will be.

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. **(Refrain)**

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **(Refrain)**

CLOSING RESPONSES

May the Lord guide you always, satisfying your hunger and thirst in this dry and weary land. ***Amen.***
We urge you, on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. ***Thanks be to God.***

POSTLUDE: *Rise and Rejoice*

FRANKLIN RITTER

* *Please stand in body or spirit.*

Hymn Story: How Firm a Foundation

The hymn How Firm a Foundation has been popular among Christians for generations and is a personal favorite of mine. While its origin is a bit of a mystery, the hymn itself has been prominent for generations.

It was first published in 1787 in a hymnbook edited by John Rippon titled *A Selection of Hymns from the Best Authors*. Its beautiful lyrics exalting the Word of God has made it one of [America's best-loved hymns](#).

Surprisingly, the name of the author behind this classic hymn is a mystery. In the hymnbook, it was attributed only to "K—." This is thought by many to be a reference to Robert Keene, who was a friend of John Rippon's and was the leader of music at the Carter Lane Baptist Church in London when Rippon was the pastor. Even so, the true identity of the author remains a mystery.

Despite the anonymity of its origins, for over 230 years *How Firm a Foundation* has brought comfort and encouragement to countless believers. It was sung at the death bed of President Andrew Jackson and at the funerals of Robert E. Lee and Theodore Roosevelt.

An interesting account of these lyrics bringing comfort – and unity – in times of uncertainty is found in an anecdote from the Spanish-American war. This conflict came about 30 years after the end of the US Civil War, and tensions between the North and the South were still high.

On Christmas Eve, 1898, it was sung by an entire corps of the United States Army encamped near Havana, Cuba. Lieutenant-Colonel Curtis Guild, Jr. related the inspiring story to *The Sunday-School Times* back in 1901. Guild wrote:

On Christmas eve of 1898 I sat before my tent in the balmy tropical night [near Havana] chatting with a fellow-officer of Christmas and home.

Suddenly from the camp of the Forty-ninth Iowa rang a sentinel's call, "Number ten; twelve o'clock, and all's well!" It was Christmas morning. Scarcely had the cry of the sentinel died away, when from the bandsmen's tents of that same regiment there rose the music of an old, familiar hymn, and one clear baritone voice led the chorus that quickly ran along those moonlit fields: '*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord!*'

Another voice joined in, and another, and another, and in a moment the whole regiment was singing, and then the Sixth Missouri joined in, with the Fourth Virginia, and all the rest, till there, on the long ridges above the great city whence Spanish tyranny once went forth to enslave the New World, a whole American army corps was singing –

*Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed;
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.*

The Northern soldier knew the hymn as one he had learned beside his mother's knee. To the Southern soldier it was that and something more; it was the favorite hymn of General Robert E. Lee, and was sung at that great commander's funeral.

Protestant and Catholic, North and South were singing together on Christmas day in the morning – now that's an American army!



Our Faith Community @ Work

WORSHIP Ministry: (Lead Elders: Helen Brown and Karen Maxwell)

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

“I will show love to those who were called unloved and, to those who were called ‘not-my-people’, I will say ‘you are my people’ and they will answer, ‘you are our God.’” (Hosea 2:23) Bethany Presbyterian Church is a place where the mind is nourished as well as the spirit, and where we affirm the dignity and worth of every person. As we are all created in the image of God, we believe discrimination is incompatible with Christ’s Gospel of unconditional love. While we celebrate our Presbyterian identity, we acknowledge that we are not alone on the path to understanding God. We invite conversations that move us to seek a deeper understanding of life in the Spirit. **Be who you are and be welcome here.**

A Note About the Offering: As we are temporarily worshipping online only during this time, you are invited to make your contribution in one of two ways: mail it in to the church, or use our quick and secure online giving platform. This can be accessed through our website, or by scanning the QR code on the last page of this bulletin. Thanks for your generosity and cooperation.

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elders: Tina Patterson and Kim Snyder)

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

Bethany Members

Linda Abplanalp
Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Shelvia Russell

Christopher Bagley
Sylvia Donley
Ruby Martin
Mike Sutton
Ida Whitney

Katherine Bayliff
Henry Flythe
Joyce & Norman Mize
Nancy Sutton

Friends of Bethany

Carol Brooks
Bill Faucette
Christy Lutterloh
Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Tiffany Tauchren
Teresa Wilborn
Frank Wrenn

Janie Holt Clapp
Ben Johnson
Gaynell McCollum
Norma Proctor
Alex Thomas
Deborah & Larry

Jack Cook
Grace Johnson
Anne McDaniels
Shannon Russell
Ann Sutton
Randy Thompson
Cindy Uzzo
Don Burenhiede

TEACH Ministry: (Lead Elders: Tracey Troxler and Shelby Smith)

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) - NOT CURRENTLY MEETING DUE TO COVID

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.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

First Sunday in Lent

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (will return soon)
- 11:00 – Worship (Live Stream)

Wednesday, March 9th

- 6:30 – No Choir Practice

Sunday, March 13th :- Second Sunday in Lent

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (will return soon)
- 11:00 – Worship (Live Stream)

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

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Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp
Helen Brown
Tina Patterson

Class of 2023:

Chip Allen
Randy Cousins
Shelby Smith

Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell
Kim Snyder
Tracey Troxler

Staff

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Jon Phillips – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org

Chaplain: Rick Purcell – chaplain@bethanypreschurch.org

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – music@bethanypreschurch.org

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – admin@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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