



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

[www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org)

[www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian)

March 7, 2021 – 11:00 am

Third Sunday in Lent



*"So Jesus spoke again, 'I assure you that I am the gate of the sheep.*

*All who came before me were thieves and outlaws, but the sheep didn't listen to them.*

*I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture."*

John 10:7-9 (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: *I Need Thee Every Hour*

DAVID HEGARTY / TUNE: R. LOWRY

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

In the laughter of children, we hear the voice of the Gate of the Way, and find our way home.

***In the lap of a parent, God's compassion cradles us in the still waters of love.***

The Shepherd of our lives leads us through that door into life with him forever.

***We are baptized with living waters which refresh us, restoring us to follow Jesus all our days.***

The Holy Spirit, Keeper of truth, is the Light which guides us through every shadowed moment.

***The Breath of life stills our worries and fears, as we are lead to that peaceful place of Gods heart.***

#### \* OPENING HYMN #371: *Lift High the Cross*

CRUCIFER

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

*Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,  
the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. (Refrain)*

*All newborn servants of the Crucified  
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died. (Refrain)*

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
your death has brought us life eternally. (Refrain)

So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
praise to the Crucified for victory. (Refrain)

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

### A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

#### JOHN 10:1-10

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

**Thanks be to God!**

### AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Buoyed by your living waters, we are at peace in seas of stress and success; detoured onto those walkways leading to your joy, we find our way out of mazes of meetings and deadlines;

**Nourished at your picnic in that garden of grace, our shredded souls are anointed by your healing; you slow us down just enough, as we try to escape the very lives we think we want, so goodness and mercy can catch up with us and carry us into your heart.**

Day by day, God would lead us to the places of hope and healing, while moment by moment, we continue to follow sin down all the wrong paths. Let us confess our lives, as we draw near to the One who would restore us to wholeness.

**The wrong paths to foolish lives and repeated mistakes? We know all too well where they are, Gate of our lives. Stirring up the waters with trouble comes all too easy to us, we confess. And locking the doors of our hearts so we don't have to love others is second nature to us.**

Forgive us, our Goodness and Mercy. May our hearts overflow with hope for others, as you anoint us with healing oil. May we share from our abundance with all who hunger for life. May we follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to the places of service and life with you forever.

### AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

### AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Our Comforter leads us to that place where God's Table is spread with forgiveness and overflowing with grace. Here, we are called to life and love.

**We will live as God's people: forgiven to serve, blessed to share, loved so we might care. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### \* RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE: *Hear the Good News of Salvation*

*Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.  
Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.  
Jesus Christ, how much I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin!  
How I love you! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.*

NETTLETON

### \* SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

As the people of God gathered in these places, who are we?

**We are a community of believers, called by God to WORSHIP, SERVE, TEACH, and SUPPORT.**

With the whole church, let us say what we believe.

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us**

**heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.**

#### **AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES**

\* **A DOXOLOGY:** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

BEACH SPRING

*God, whose giving knows no ending, from Your rich and endless store,  
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:  
Gifted by You, we turn to You, offering up ourselves in praise;  
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.*

\* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**HYMN OF THE DAY #372:** *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

*Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.*

#### **AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

***Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name, Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.***

## **LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE**

**THE WORD IN MUSIC:** *O Divine Redeemer*

CHARLES GOUNOD / ARR. R. THYGERSON

**THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

Sermon: *I AM . . . The Door*

REV. JOHNSON

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE**

**CLOSING HYMN #467:** *How Great Thou Art*

HOW GREAT THOU ART

*O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed;*

*Refrain:*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

*When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; (Refrain)  
And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin; (Refrain)  
When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art! (Refrain)*

\* **SENDING**

Day by day, God will lead us:

***to those pools of peace where we can gather with our friends and strangers.***

Day by day, Jesus will call us:

***to give ourselves in service, to anoint others with hope.***

Day by day, the Spirit shows us:

***the people we might be, the community we might become.***

\* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

\* **POSTLUDE:** *Rejoice With a Song*

EDWARD BROUGHTON



# Our Faith Community @ Work

**WORSHIP Ministry:** (Lead Elders: Nancy Purcell and Helen Brown)

**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](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org); on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](http://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.**

**Audio Recordings** of each Sunday’s sermons are available through a link on our website, on our Facebook page, or at [www.buzzsprout.com/9198](http://www.buzzsprout.com/9198). A **Video Recording** of our Zoom Worship and our YouTube Live stream will be available on our Facebook page and on our website.

Resources used in today’s worship:

- *Glory to God* Presbyterian Hymnal
- *Presbyterian Outlook* Liturgical Resources
- *The Text This Week* website ([www.textweek.com](http://www.textweek.com))

This morning we continue our **Lenten Season Series**. We are looking forward to this series focusing on some of the “I Am” statements from Jesus. Here are the themes for this series:

- February 21<sup>st</sup> - *I Am the Bread of Life*
- February 28<sup>th</sup> - *I Am the Light of the World*
- **March 7<sup>th</sup> - I Am the Door**
- March 14<sup>th</sup> - *I Am the Good Shepherd*
- March 21<sup>st</sup> - *I Am the Resurrection and the Life*

**SERVE Ministry:** (Lead Elders: Randy Cousins and Tina Patterson)

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

Bill Faucette  
Jack Cook  
Joan Richardson  
Shannon Russell  
Katherine Turner  
Jeremy Harden  
Anne McDaniels  
Alex Thomas  
Stewart Dillard  
Shelvia Russell  
Carol Brooks  
Ritchie Fishburne  
Janie Holt Clapp

Diane Miller  
Peter Slater  
Joey Leake  
Ida Whitney  
Jean Berry  
Christy Lutterloh  
Eleanor Thompson  
Nancy Sutton  
Norma Proctor  
Christopher Bagley  
Randy Thompson  
Frederica Beatty  
Penny Rice (sister of Carolyn Thompson)

John & Ann Sutton  
Ruby Martin  
Teresa Wilborn  
Tiffany Tauchren  
Barbara Cousins  
Pat Kennedy  
Mike Sutton  
Pete Campbell  
Ben Johnson  
Grace Johnson  
Frank Wrenn  
Sylvia Donley  
Karen Maxwell

**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)

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.

**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.

**SUPPORT Ministry:** (Lead Elders: Chip Allen, Ben Russell, and Bill Abplanalp)

Elders of the Month for March are **Chip Allen** and **Tracey Troxler**.

We need your help on **Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> and March 27<sup>th</sup>** at 8:00 am as we gather to clean the yards and flower beds of the church and manse. We will be weeding and adding mulch to tidy up these areas for spring. Please contact the church office and let us know if you can come and help.

## This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- **Third Sunday in Lent**
- 9:45 - Faith Formation (as scheduled)
- 11:00 - Worship (online only) - "I Am" Lenten Sermon Series - III

Monday, the 9<sup>th</sup>:

- 7:00 - Session Meeting

Sunday, the 14<sup>th</sup>:

- **Fourth Sunday in Lent**
- 9:45 - Faith Formation (as scheduled)
- 11:00 - Worship (online only) - "I Am" Lenten Sermon Series - IV

### Session

**Moderator:** Rev. John W. Johnson

**Clerk:** Randy Cousins

**Treasurer:** Glenn Patterson

### Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell

Ben Russell

Tracey Troxler

### Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp

Helen Brown

Tina Patterson

### Class of 2023:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Shelby Smith

# bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



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### Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – [pastor@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@bethanypreschurch.org)  
Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – [music@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:music@bethanypreschurch.org)  
Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – [office@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:office@bethanypreschurch.org)  
Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – [finance@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:finance@bethanypreschurch.org)

Elder Emeritus: Bobby Peele

Elder Emeritus: Don Boggs

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*Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation*

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