



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

March 8, 2026 – 11:00 am

Third Sunday of Lent



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!

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Fantasia on "Old Hundredth"*

ROGER WILSON

WELCOME

***OPENING HYMN #281:** *Guide Me, Oh Thou Great Jehovah*

WILLIAM WILLIAMS

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;

Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield,
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee,
I will ever give to Thee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

(PSALM 95:1-7A)

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

For the Lord is a great God, and a great ruler above all gods. In God's hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are God's also.

The sea is the Lord's, for God made it, and the dry land, which God's hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture, and the sheep of God's hand.

GATHERING PRAYER

(EXODUS 17, ROMANS 5, JOHN 4)

Living water, flow through our hearts today.

Quench our thirst in our desert wanderings, and strengthen us for the road ahead.

Bathe us in your fountain of eternal life, that our spirits may flow with faith and love, through the power
of your eternal Spirit. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(EXCERPTED FROM THE CONFESSION OF 1967)

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.

*HYMN OF THE DAY #101: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

ISSAC WATTS

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

God of endless renewal, God who calls us to lives restored, God who rescues the lost and saves the afflicted, there are times when our way grows confused. We struggle to know what to do. Or worse, we know what needs to be done and find it easier to stay on the wrong path. Forgive us for failing to heed opportunities to follow a better way. Remind us that you stand more ready to forgive than we are to confess those aspects of our lives that stand in need of your grace. And thus forgiven, help us to lean in to what you would teach us about how we are to be. We pray all these things in Jesus' name, and for his sake. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

(ROMANS 8:34)

Who is to condemn?

It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes who was raised, who is at the right hand of God who indeed intercedes for us.

Believe the promise of the gospel: *In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

May the words of my mouth, and the meditations of all of our hearts, be acceptable, even pleasing in your sight, O Lord, our strength and redeemer. Amen.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 95

PEW BIBLE, 739

JOHN 4:5-42

PEW BIBLE, 1293

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked*

KENNETH DOWNING

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"One Day at The Well"*

RICK PURCELL, CRE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 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.

AN OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY: *Fair Havens*

STAN PETHEL

***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**

***CLOSING HYMN:** *Rock of Ages*

AUGUSTUS TOPLADY

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Save from wrath and make me pure.

Could my tears forever flow,
Could my zeal no languor know,
These for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.
In my hand no price I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When my eyes shall close in death,
When I rise to worlds unknown,
And behold Thee on Thy throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

***SENDING**

By our endurance, may we gain character, and may the character Christ has given us carry us to abundant hope, that as we know Christ, we might make him known. And as we go, may the love, grace and communion of our triune God go before us to show us the way.

POSTLUDE: *Recessional in A Minor*

LANI SMITH

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sundays, 9:45am Bible Study – Evie C. Marshall Room

Wednesdays, 10:00am Bethany Exercise Class - Evie C. Marshall Room

Exercise classes will start back after the first of the year on Wednesdays at 10:00am in the Evie C. Marshall classroom. Come join us for fun and fellowship.

Tuesday, March 10th 10:30am The Women of Bethany Church Gathering

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, March 10th at 10:30am. in the Evie C. Marshall classroom.

Katie & Lexie Glenn Scholarship Fund Application

Thanks to the generosity of Katie and Lexie Glenn, deceased members of Bethany Presbyterian church, a bequest was left to the church for a scholarship fund. Since 1988, Bethany has offered scholarships to students planning to further their education beyond high school. The purpose of the scholarship fund is to provide financial assistance to qualified students who have demonstrated that their financial need and resources are such that they can benefit from a scholarship award. The funds can only be used for pursuing a course of study at a level above that of high school.

Please note that **the deadline for applying for a scholarship is April 5, 2026 - although the sooner applications can be submitted, the better.** Application forms may be obtained in the church office. Please see Glenn Patterson if you have any questions.

Tuesday, April 7th Alamance Co. Mobile Library

The Alamance County Public Libraries mobile library will be at Bethany on the first Tuesday of each month. The 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.

S.A.F.E. (Southern Alamance Family Empowerment)

How can we help S.A.F.E. for during the **Winter months**? They are asking for **Soup, Canned Meats: Chicken, and Tuna, 1 lb. bags of Rice, Pasta, Spaghetti sauce, Spaghetti noodles.**

S.A.F.E. will be closed the 1st and 5th Saturday of the Month.

Consider donating your paper bags.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, March 8th - Third Sunday of Lent

9:45 – Bible Study - Evie C. Marshall classroom

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

Tuesday, March 10th

10:00 The Women of Bethany Church Gathering - Evie C. Marshall classroom

7:00 pm – Session Meeting

Wednesday, March 11th

10:00 – Exercise class

7:00 pm – Choir Practice

Sunday, March 15th - Fourth Sunday of Lent

9:45 – Bible Study - Evie C. Marshall classroom

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

Session

Moderator: Rick Purcell, CRE

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2026:

Chip Allen

Jean Payne

Ben Russell

Class of 2027:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Brandon Troxler

Class of 2028:

Helen Brown

Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Nancy Purcell

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worship serve teach support



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Staff

Pastor/CRE: Rick Purcell – pastor4bethany@gmail.com

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Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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