



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

March 9, 2025 – 11:00 am

First Sunday in Lent



Mt. of Temptation

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: *On That Bright, Golden Shore*

DONALD LEE MOORE

WELCOME

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN #411:** *Arise, Your Light is Come*

RUTH C. DUCK

Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God,
Which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come!
Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captives' liberty,
Good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come!
All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the broken-hearted ones
And comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

(BASED ON PSALM 91)

Where is our home?

Our home is in the shelter and shadow of God.

How can this be our refuge?

Because God's angels will guard your house and those in it from evil and threat.

How can we flourish?

Staying close to God's ways will bring our lives to abundance.

Let us worship God.

GATHERING PRAYER

(DEUTERONOMY 26, ROMANS 10, LUKE 4)

Merciful God, your ways lead to life; your light shines in our darkness.
The promises you made to our ancestors continue to this day.
We too share the bounty of your blessings, and the grace of eternal life in your name.
May we be worthy of our calling and help others find their way. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

***HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Take Time to Be Holy*

WILLIAM D. LONGSTAFF

Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord;
Abide in Him always, and feed on His Word.
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,
Forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.

Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;
Spend much time in secret, with Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus, like Him thou shalt be;
Thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see.

Take time to be holy, let Him be thy Guide;
And run not before Him, whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord,
And, looking to Jesus, still trust in His Word.

Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul,
Each thought and each motive beneath His control.
Thus led by His Spirit to fountains of love,
Thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

(BASED ON ROMANS 10)

Scripture says, "No one who believes in Christ will be put to shame."
Therefore, we do not approach God with shame but with life-giving expectation grounded in our trust of God.
For when we confess with our mouth and trust in our heart, we will find healing for ourselves and
for the world.

*God of wide circles, we too often revert to our fear-filled instinct to cut off those unfamiliar and distant.
May we evaluate others based on your heart.*

*In Romans, you remind us when we lean into your kin-dom agenda, our worldview is expanded to focus on our
common humanity. May we embrace your created diversity and include all in our cherished life's work.*

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

(BASED ON ROMANS 10)

Everyone. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.
Having called upon the wide arms of our gracious God, know that you are forgiven.
With joy, may we amplify God's grace into the whole world. Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Author and source of our lives and of our redeemer, Jesus Christ, we know what is written can be used
for evil or for good.

Open our hearts to your Spirit that the words read and proclaimed would go beyond ink, paper,
digital images and sound.

Despite the imperfect mediums, may this Scripture be the spiritual imparting of your deepest desires for the
world into our hearts.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 91:1-2

PEW BIBLE, 737

LUKE 4:1-13

PEW BIBLE, 1248

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Be Strong in the Lord*

TOM FETKE

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Temptation"*

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

***DOXOLOGY** *A Lenten Doxology*

G.W. DUB SHEPHERD

Praise God throughout these forty days.
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.
And praise the Spirit who imparts God's love in Christ into our hearts.
Amen.

*BLESSING OUR GIFTS

***CLOSING HYMN #375:** *Lord of All Good*

ALBERT F. BAYLY

Lord of all good, our gifts we bring You;
Use them Your holy purpose to fulfill:
Tokens of love and pledges brought anew,
That our whole life is offered to Your will.

We give our minds to understand Your ways;
Hands, eyes, and voices, to serve Your great design;
Heart with the flame of Your own love ablaze:
Till for Your glory all our powers combine.

Father, whose bounty all creation shows;
Christ, by whose willing sacrifice we live;
Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows:
To You with grateful hearts ourselves we give.

*SENDING

May you center yourselves in God's ways and God's identity.
May you see the faces of all, and our very planet, with the eyes of our Creator.
May you know your welfare is inextricably entwined with that of your neighbor,
the stranger you fear and the enemy you have named in your heart.
May you be open to the transformation of your heart into God's heart.
And may you walk humbly from this place to live life fully and generously
everywhere you go and in all you do.
Amen.

POSTLUDE: *Song of Triumph*

DAVID E. WION

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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

We will be discussing what being chosen by Jesus has beautiful and far-reaching implications – although it says even more about the Chooser than the choosees. We are loved because He's love. We are saved because He's merciful. We belong to the family of God because Jesus invites us, making the Bible and all its promises as true for us today as it was for God's chosen nation. Come join us and find out what does it actually mean to be Chosen.

Tuesday, March 18th 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

Tuesday, April 1st 10:30am The Women of Bethany Church Gathering

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, March 4th at 10:30am in the Evie C. Marshall classroom.

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

How we can help S.A.F.E. for the month of **March**? They are asking for **Mac and Cheese and Pasta**. S.A.F.E. will be closed the 1st and 5th Saturday of the Month. Consider donating your plastic and paper bags.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, March 9th – First Sunday in Lent (Daylight Saving Time Starts)

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

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

Tuesday, March 11th

7:00pm Session Meeting

Wednesday, March 12th

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, March 16th – Second Sunday in Lent,

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

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

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love learn serve



Session

Moderator: Rick Purcell, CRE

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2025:

Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Tina Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Class of 2026:

Chip Allen

Jean Payne

Ben Russell

Class of 2027:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Brandon Troxler

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