



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina
www.bethanypreschurch.org
www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

March 10, 2024 – 11:00 am
Fourth Sunday in Lent



"Widow's Mite," Royce Bair

Jesus replied, "The most important one is *Israel, listen! Our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your mind, and with all your strength.* The second is this, *You will love your neighbor as yourself.* No other commandment is greater than these."
Mark 12:29-31 (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); and *LiturgyLink*, <https://www.liturgylink.net>.*

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Sun of My Soul, Thou Savior Dear*

ALBIN C. WHITWORTH

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***OPENING HYMN #139:** *Come, Thou Almighty King*

FELICE DE GIARDINI

Come, Thou Almighty King,
Help us Thy name to sing,
Help us to praise:
Father, all-glorious,
O'er all victorious,
Come, and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.

Come, Thou Incarnate Word,
Gird on Thy mighty sword,
Our prayer attend:
Come, and Thy people bless,
And give Thy word success;
Spirit of holiness,
On us descend.

Come, Holy Comforter,
Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour:
Thou who almighty art,
Now rule in every heart,
And ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of power.

To Thee, great One in Three,
The highest praises be,
Hence evermore!
Thy sovereign majesty
May we in glory see,
And to eternity
Love and adore.

***OPENING SENTENCES**

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

God dances in light
God delights in creation
God loves the world

God made the world
And all that is in it
God loves the world

God saves us through grace
It is none of our doing
God loves the world

***GATHERING PRAYER**

Gracious God,
in order that the children of earth
might discern good from evil
you sent your Son to be the light of the world.
As Christ shines upon us,
may we learn what pleases you,
and live in all truth and goodness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. ***Amen.***

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

ROM. 10:8; 2 COR. 5:18-19

The Word is near to us,
on our lips and in our hearts.
All of this is from God,
who entrusts us with the message of reconciliation.
Thanks be to God.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 89:1-4

PEW BIBLE, 734

MARK 12:28-44

PEW BIBLE, 1234

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF OUR PLEDGES

OFFERTORY

***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 #80:** *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

Jesus walked this lonesome valley,
He had to walk it by Himself;
O, nobody else could walk it for Him,
He had to walk it by Himself.

We must walk this lonesome valley,
We have to walk it by ourselves;
O, nobody else can walk it for us,
We have to walk it by ourselves.

You must go and stand your trial,
You have to stand it by yourself,
O, nobody else can stand it for you,
You have to stand it by yourself.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"AND WE," TERI PETERSON

Let us come together to tell the truth about ourselves.

God, you call us to love you with all our heart,
and we are happy to confine our love to our hearts,
though we reserve the right to define "all,"
loving only when we "feel" it.

You call us to love you with all our soul,
and that sounds easier,
because souls we only have to deal with at church.
You call us to love you with all our mind,
and we definitely know how to think about love!
You call us to love you with all our strength,
and we have used these words to justify
using our strength against others in your name.
You call us to love our neighbor, and our enemy,
as we love ourselves,
and we confess that You are getting too personal.
How can we love those to whom we do not speak?
How can we love those with whom we disagree?
How can we love... how can You love... those people?
Forgive us, Lord, for drawing the circle too tightly,
for presuming to know your mind,
for being quick to judge and quick to anger.
Open our hearts, our souls, our minds, our strength
to love you, and our neighbor, with our whole being.
We pray in the name of the One who loves us first.

Silent Prayer

KYRIE #572 *Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us*

JOHN MERBECKE

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Listen, the time has come at last.
Look, now is the day of salvation!

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE: *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

JOHN NEWTON

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *The Lamb*

GERALD PATRICK COLEMAN

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"What's Most Important"*

REV. PHILLIPS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Throughout Lent, we will hold a period of silent prayer and reflection during our Prayers of the People. This time will be opened and closed in song. After the period of silent prayer, you are invited to come forward to light a tealight to represent your prayer. Each week you will be invited to pray on a different theme. This week, you are invited to pray for our congregation.

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

TAIZÉ COMMUNITY

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

***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.***

***CLOSING HYMN #78:** *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed*

ISAAC WATTS

Alas! And did my Savior bleed,
And did my Sovereign die!
Would He devote that sacred head
For sinners such as I!

Was it for crimes that I had done
He suffered on the tree?
Amazing pity! Grace unknown!
And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide,
And shut its glories in,
When Christ, the great Redeemer, died
For human creatures' sin.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give my self away;
'Tis all that I can do.

***SENDING**

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

Shield us God
with your crook
and your staff
Bring us safely home.

Guide us God
with your truth
and your goodness
Bring us safely home.

Encourage us God
with your oil
and your kindness
Bring us safely home.

Shepherd us God
walk with us
always
Bring us safely home.

POSTLUDE: *The Joy of the Lord*

GREGG SEWELL

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sundays, 9:45am Bible 101 Part 2: The New Testament – Evie C. Marshall Room

We're back this Sunday! With a brand New Testament! Join Jon and friends as we continue our Bible 101 survey of the Biblical text, focusing on how it is interpreted, its context, and its content.

All Day Throughout Lent – Stations of the Cross – Recreation Area

The Stations of the Cross have been a part of the Lenten journey of Christians to express their faith in a multisensory way for centuries. You are invited to participate in this ancient tradition of remembering Christ's death by walking an ecumenical version in our Recreation Area this Lenten season.

Thursdays Throughout Lent 11am-1pm – Drive Thru Prayer – Parking Lot

Do you need prayer? You are invited to stop on by our parking lot on Thursdays from 11-1 for prayer with Jon or an elder throughout the Lenten season.

Sundays February 18 – March 17th 11am – Lenten Worship - Sanctuary

The season of Lent. Our Lenten Sunday worship will include extended periods of silent prayer.

Sunday, March 17th 11am – Brunch Church – Fellowship Hall

For worship on the 5th Sunday of Lent we will hold a Brunch Church service. Our Scouts will provide the meal and serve us as we come together around the table to worship and eat together.

Sunday, March 24th 11am - Palm Sunday Service - Sanctuary

Tuesday, March 26th 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

Thursday, March 28th 6pm – Maundy Thursday Dinner Church – 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. Our Scouts will provide the meal and serve us. Come as you are and invite a friend – all are welcome!

Friday, March 29th 7:00pm - Good Friday Seven Last Words - Sanctuary

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.

Sunday, March 31st 11am Easter Sunday - Sanctuary

Our Easter celebration. Celebrate Jesus' resurrection with us!

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, March 10th – 4th Sunday in Lent – Daylight Savings Time Begins
9:45 – Adult Sunday School - Bible 101 – New Testament Evie C. Marshall classroom
11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Wednesday, March 13th
6:30 – Choir Practice

All Day Throughout Lent
Stations of the Cross – Recreation Area

Thursdays Throughout Lent
11-1– Drive Thru Prayer – Church Parking Lot

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11:00 – Worship (In-Person – in the Fellowship Hall)

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Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

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Kim Snyder

Tracey Troxler

Class of 2025:

Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Tina Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Class of 2026:

Chip Allen

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