



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

March 11, 2018 – 11:00 am

Fourth Sunday in Lent



"You are saved by God's grace because of your faith. This salvation is God's gift. It's not something you possessed. It's not something you did that you can be proud of. Instead, we are God's accomplishment, created in Christ Jesus to do good things. God planned for these good things to be the way that we live our lives."
Ephesians 2:8-10 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

If we're traveling, there's a strong likelihood we're going to get nickel and dimed to death by hidden fees at the airport and in the hotel lobby! Read the fine print when renting a car. But, if you read the small print in Ephesians 2, you'll find nothing but free stuff that God offers, including mercy and grace!

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Melodie Sacra*

D. PAXTON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

AN OFFERING OF PEACE

May the Love of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(Please take a moment to share the peace of Christ with your neighbor.)

*** GATHERING SONG:** *I Am Who I Am, I Will Be Who I Will*

JANE PARKER HUBER / ST. DENIO

"I am who I am, I will be who I will, unfettered Creator and creating still!"

In such words of freedom, our God's clarion voice speaks loudly or softly, and our hearts rejoice.

*"I am who I am!" now in this time and place. God with us! Christ with us! The fullness of grace!
Each day is exciting, with justice our goal, the Spirit igniting new flames in the soul.*

*"I am who I am!" – God both faithful and free; unbound by tradition, "I'll be who I'll be."
"I will be who I will be" – God beyond thought, unshackled by anything people have wrought.
God's names are so varied: Rock, Eagle, and Dove, Messiah, Emmanuel, Wisdom, and Love.
Yet all are reflections of only a part. "I will be who I will be" – that is the heart!*

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

In this place, the community of faith is reminded of the promise:

God's love endures forever!

In spite of our impatient grumbling, despite our attraction to the shadows:

Christ's light shines in us!

When we think our hands are empty, when we have no music in our souls:

the Spirit fills us with glad songs and creates us for good works!

*** OPENING HYMN #461: *God Is Here!***

ABBOT'S LEIGH

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

AN INVITATION TO THE WORD

The universe proclaims God's truth. God's knowledge flows night and day!

We open our ears to hear, our minds to comprehend, our hearts to receive.

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 2:1-10

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1424

AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

By nature, we are impatient, irritated, grumbling, disobedient children, always demanding our way. But God, who is good and kind and gentle, comes to transform us, by grace, into the people we are meant to be. Let us open ourselves to the One who overflows with love for us, as we confess our sins to God.

The Light of the world has come, but we admit we love the shadows all around us. For there, we can boast of our achievements, rather than point to your grace; there, we can grumble of our unhappiness with you, instead of singing your praises; there, we can give into our natural anger, and not be touched by your call to be agents of peace and hope.

Forgive us O God: lead us from the shadows of sin into the light of your joy; raise us up as your children, so we may kneel in service to others; shower us with the grace, the hope, the peace you have brought to us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Let the community of faith say so:

God's love endures forever!

Let those gathered in grace say so:

God's love endures forever!

Let those gathered from all parts of the world say so:

God's love endures forever!

This is the good news for us:

God's love endures forever. Thanks be to God! Amen!

*** RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #404: *Precious Lord, Take My Hand***

PRECIOUS LORD

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light;

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG (@ HEART) / MOMENT FOR MISSION

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Speak, O Lord*

KEITH GETTY

*Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of Your Holy Word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory.
Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility;
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail-
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.
Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us-
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises,
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory.*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***Mercy and Graced to Life!***

Text: Ephesians 2:1-10

REV. JOHNSON

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 424

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* **HYMN OF RESPONSE #356:** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

NETTLETON

* SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

As the people of God gathered in this place, who are we?

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

With the whole church, let us confess our faith. Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *What Wondrous Love is This*

L. SMITH

*** THE DOXOLOGY:**

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

*** CLOSING HYMN #417:** *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

REGENT SQUARE

*** LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY: LETTING GO OF SIN**

We have been born into a world of sin. We hurt our neighbors, intentionally and unintentionally. We turn away from God. Sin is inescapable.

But so is grace. God calls us to repent and Jesus speaks to us, "Your sins are forgiven." We can let go of our sins and turn back to God, trusting in God's mercy and forgiveness.

As we extinguish this candle, we let go of our sins. We repent for all that we have done or left undone, and allow ourselves to be forgiven, so that we might respond by offering forgiveness to others and gratitude to God.

[A candle is extinguished.]

Faithful God, forgive us for turning away from you and others. As we journey toward the cross this Lenten season, help us to repent of our sin and to forgive others in the same way you have forgiven us. Amen.

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*** POSTLUDE:** *Wings of Faith*

E. BROUGHTON

Please stand in body or spirit.



Our Faith Community @ Work

WORSHIP Ministry: (Lead Elders: Nancy Purcell and A. J. Campbell)

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.**

For our children: Childcare is available during the entire worship hour for infants and preschool children. Children are invited and welcome to stay in the service, in whatever manner befits their person: they should feel free to squirm, whine, dance, sing, cry, pray, or otherwise make themselves known. Activities for children can be found at several locations throughout the sanctuary. See an usher if you can’t find one.

Audio and Visual Assistance: A hearing enhancement system is available for those who have a need. An usher will be happy to provide you with a receiver this morning. Large print bulletins are also available.

Operating our audio and video systems this morning is **Rick Purcell**. Anyone wishing to join this team of volunteers please contact the church office at any time.

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.

Resources used in this morning’s worship:

- *Sing the Faith* Presbyterian Hymnal
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)
- *Homiletics Online* website (www.homileticsonline.com)

Today is the **Fourth Sunday in Lent** and marks the continuation of our journey to the cross. We are also continuing our **Lenten Discipline Challenge**. The challenge is to place one thing from your closet or your home that you aren’t using anymore in the trash bag each day, filling it up with 40 items by the end of Lent. You are then asked to donate these items to one of our local agencies. If you did not receive a bag and instructions last week, they are available in the narthex or from an usher.

Do you have a smartphone? Are you on Facebook? If so, take a moment to **“check in” on Facebook**, letting your friends know that you are here at Bethany Presbyterian Church! It may seem like a small thing, but in reality, it is a wonderful message of evangelism and witness, as you let the cyber-world know what is important to you.

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elder: Jean Payne and Sandy Cook)

We are currently asking for **donations of eyeglasses** (and reading glasses) that are no longer of use to use. These will be donated to Salem Presbytery’s medical mission trip to Chiapas, Mexico in June. The basket for donations can be found on the table in the Welcome Center.

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

Bill Faucette	Diane Miller	John & Ann Sutton
Faye Campbell	Jack Cook	Peter Slater
Frances Nolan	Polly & Dick Wilson	Joey Leake
Layla Benoklen	Teresa Wilborn	Shannon Russell
Ida Whitney	Tiffany Tauchren	Mary Moore
Rachel Poteat	Jean Berry	Barbara Cousins
Jeremy Harden	Christy Lutterloh	Pat Kennedy
Anne McDaniels	Eleanor Thompson	Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Mike Sutton	Nancy Sutton	Pete Campbell
Steward Dillard	Norma Proctor	Carolyn Thompson
Ben Johnson	Levi Byrd	Shelvia Russell
Celeste Bayliff Agner	Ruth Younts	Ruby Martin

TEACH Ministry: (Lead Elders: Brandon Troxler and Karen Maxwell)

The **Lenten Study Series “24 Hours That Changed the World”** continues each Wednesday during Lent, meeting at 6:00. New participants are always welcome.

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.

Young at Heart Class (Young at Heart Classroom – across from pastor’s office)

Using the *Uniform Series*, this class engages in lively discussions pertaining to the biblically based curriculum. The class is taught by a very capable team of teachers.

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: Ron Osborne, Chip Allen, and Glenn Patterson)

The Session is reminded of its monthly stated meeting this **Tuesday, the 13th at 7:00 pm.**

Elders of the Month for March are **Karen Maxwell** and **Sandy Cook.**

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- Fourth Sunday in Lent
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Monday, the 12th:

- 10:00 – Circle #1
- 7:00 – Circle #3

Tuesday, the 13th:

- 7:00 – Session Meeting

Wednesday, the 14th:

- 6:00 – “24 Hours That Changed the World” Lenten Study Series
- 7:00 – Choir Practice

Sunday, the 18th:

- Fifth Sunday in Lent
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Rick Purcell

Treasurer: Ron Osborne

Class of 2018:

Glenn Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Brandon Troxler

Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell

Ron Osborne

Jean Payne

Class of 2020:

Chip Allen

Sandy Cook

Karen Maxwell

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love learn serve



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Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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