



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

March 14, 2021 – 11:00 am

Fourth Sunday in Lent



*"I am the good shepherd. I know my own sheep and they know me,
just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. I give up my life for the sheep."
John 10:14-15 (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

We gather in the presence of our God:

where grieving people and children with skinned knees have their tears wiped away.

We gather as the little children of God:

to worship the One who provides what we need, not what we want.

We gather to worship the Good Shepherd:

who brings us back into the safety of the fold time and time again.

* OPENING HYMN #324: *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

OPEN MY EYES

*Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear.
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere.
Open my heart, and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!*

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

JOHN 10:11-18

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God!

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Lead us into all those places where we will discover your hope waiting to nourish and restore our famished souls.

Lead us into all those places where we may have the joy of filling the emptiness of others with your goodness.

Lead us into all those places where deeds of kindness and hands overflowing with mercy speak louder than platitudes.

God in Community, Holy in One, lead us into your kingdom.

Knowing how easy it is to wander from the paths of right living; aware of all the shadowed valleys we wander; remembering how we have failed to place our trust in God - how can we not come to God with our confessions?

We confess the emptiness of our souls which sends us searching for all those things which cannot nourish us. Our restless longing for the goods of the world fill us with every lust and envy. Our belief that still waters are stagnant causes us to thirst for whitewater thrills and adventures. Our trust in the hollow promises of our culture turns us away from the shelter you offer to us.

Forgive us, Goodness Incarnate. Call us back from our wayward lives, so we may find rest in the stillness of your gentle heart; we may find healing from your scarred hands; we may find that life for which we yearn, together in you and through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

This is the good news: God will walk with us in every moment, God will fill us with goodness and mercy, God will bring us home to live forever.

Anointed with grace and forgiveness, our lives overflow with love for all people. Thanks be to God. Amen.

* **RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE:** *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

PAUL VASILE

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.*

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

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

FROM A DECLARATION 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 believe Christ gives us and demands of us personal lives that are centered in God and open to God's reality and rule. Christ teaches us to put obedience to God above the interests of self, family, race, or nation; to offer God joyously our money, ability, and time. It is part of our daily discipline to observe a day of worship and rest, setting aside our own working to enjoy God's work, celebrating with sisters and brothers the Lord's goodness.

We need constantly to search out God's way in Scripture, not expecting detailed directions for every decision, but relying on the Word to tell us who God is, to press God's present claim on us, and to assure us of God's grace and comfort. We are charged to pray for ourselves and others with gratitude, boldness, and persistence, confident that God hears and answers our prayers in ways best for us all. Life in God's presence issues in life for others, for if we do not love sisters and brothers whom we see, we cannot love God whom we do not see.

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 #170: *The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want*

CRIMOND

*The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want; He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me the quiet waters by.
My soul He doth restore again; And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, E'en for His own name's sake.
Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear none ill;
For Thou art with me; and Thy rod and staff me comfort still.
My table Thou hast furnished in presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.
Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me;
And in my God's house evermore my dwelling place shall be.*

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 PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *I AM . . . The Good Shepherd*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

CLOSING HYMN #387: *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

BRADBURY

*Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us; for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.
Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to Thee.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to Thee.
Early let us seek Thy favor; early let us do Thy will.
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with Thy love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us; love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us; love us still.*

* **SENDING**

Let us go to be bold before God.

We will speak up for all people who long for healing and hope.

Let us go to shepherd Jesus' sisters and brothers.

We will risk our lives for justice, we will serve the outcast.

Let us go to anoint others with the Holy Spirit.

We will bring goodness and mercy to all whose lives need restoring.

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *How Firm a Foundation*



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; on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian; or on Twitter by following @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. 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:

- *Feasting on the Word* Commentary
- *Glory to God* Presbyterian Hymnal
- *Presbyterian Outlook* Liturgical Resources
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)

We rejoice that two weeks from today, Palm Sunday, will be **our first Sunday worshipping in person** in our beautiful sanctuary since November! Here are some guidelines to follow to ensure the health and safety of our congregation:

- **Masks must be worn at all times.**
- Please do not sit in any pews that have been blocked off. This is to make sure that social-distancing guidelines are being followed.
- Bulletins are available at the doors. They will not be distributed but you may pick one up as you wish.
- The offering will not be collected but offering plates are available in the narthex. You may place your offering in the plates on your way out, or you may follow the QR code below to give online.
- Please refrain from physical interaction during our “meet and greet” time. Waves and virtual hugs are our new normal - at least for awhile!
- Although we normally encourage singing hymns with gusto, that might not be the wisest thing to do right now. Either sing softly through your mask, or hum.
- John will be at the door to greet following the service, but will not shake hands or hug . . . just an elbow bump and the knowledge that he’s smiling beneath the mask!

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 21st - *I Am the Bread of Life*
- February 28th - *I Am the Light of the World*
- March 7th - *I Am the Door*
- **March 14th - *I Am the Good Shepherd***
- March 21st - *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 20th** at 9:00 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:

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

Monday, the 15th:

- 7:00 - Bethany Stream Team meeting

Saturday, the 20th:

- 9:00 - Church Work Day

Sunday, the 21st:

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

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

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love learn serve



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Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – music@bethanypreschurch.org

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

Elder Emeritus: Bobby Peele

Elder Emeritus: Don Boggs

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