



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

March 15, 2026 – 11:00 am

Fourth Sunday of Lent



I was blind, now I see.

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: *Prayer for Peace*

PAUL TAYLOR

WELCOME

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

CLARA H. SCOTT

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.

Refrain:

Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my eyes (ears, heart), 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. (Refrain)

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. (Refrain)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

(PSALM 146)

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to God all my life long.
Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord:
Who made heaven and earth, and all that is in them.
Who executes justice for the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.
The Lord sets the prisoner free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.
The Lord watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow,
But the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
The Lord will reign forever. Praise the Lord!

GATHERING PRAYER

(1 SAMUEL 16, PSALM 23, EPHESIANS 5, JOHN 9)

Shepherd of love, guide our steps open the eyes of our hearts, and fling wide the doors of our minds
to perceive as you perceive.
Open our lives to love as you love.
Open our world to become the world you envision for your creation.
In the light of your love, we pray, Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(PSALM 23:1-6)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

*HYMN OF THE DAY #85: *What Wondrous Love Is This*

AMERICAN FOLK HYMN

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the heavy cross for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,

While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
While millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on.
And through eternity I'll sing on.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

(FROM PSALM 103:8)

Almighty and merciful God, we continue to want more, blind to the blessings we already possess. We want everything now, blind to the value of patience and hard work. We take so much delight in our own accomplishments that we are blind to people in need. Forgive us! Cleanse us of our entitlement, anxiousness and pride. Help us see the world with your eyes so that we can be people of gratitude, courage and compassion, because of what we see in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

(FROM JEREMIAH 33:31-34)

"The days are surely coming," says the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel. I will put my law within them; I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God and they shall be my people. I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more."
We believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and our sins are remembered no more.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy, magnificent God, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, allow us to see you clearly in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

JOHN 9:1-41

PEW BIBLE, 1304

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Down to the River*

MARY McDONALD

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***"I Can See Clearly Now"***

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: *For the Beauty of the Earth*

MARK HAYES

*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 # 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.

***SENDING**

Let us go forth from this sacred gathering with new eyes to see God and each other more clearly.
The blessing of God Almighty: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with us all!

POSTLUDE: *Psalm 19 - Marcello*

ARR. BY LAU

** 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, April 7th 10:30am The Women of Bethany Church Gathering

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, April 7th at 10:30am. in the Evie C. Marshall classroom.

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.

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.

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 15th - Fourth Sunday of Lent
9:45 – Bible Study - Evie C. Marshall classroom
11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream).

Wednesday, March 18th
10:00 – Exercise class
7:00 pm – Choir Practice

Sunday, March 22nd - Fifth 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

1500 S. Main Street
Graham, NC 27253
www.bethanypreschurch.org
336.227.4041

Staff

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

Director of Music: – bethanypresmusic@gmail.com

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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