



Bethany Presbyterian Church

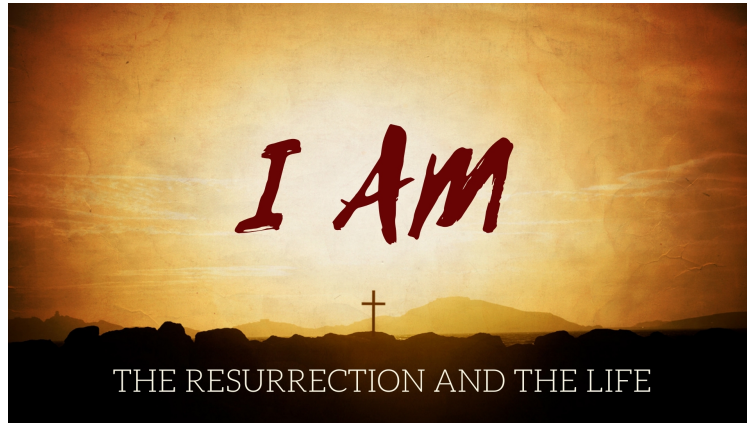
Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

March 21, 2021 – 11:00 am

Fifth Sunday in Lent



“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’”
John 11:25-26 (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: *At the Cross*

E. BROUGHTON / R. HUDSON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the day God has promised: the day of the new covenant.

We are here, because our hearts are filled with love for our God.

No longer carved on cold stone, this covenant is engraved on our hearts.

Our hearts are open so God’s Word can shape us.

We will reach out to our neighbors, our friends and family, even to strangers.

Our hearts are ready to serve God and all of God’s people.

* OPENING HYMN #148: *At the Name of Jesus*

KING’S WESTON

*At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him King of glory now;
’tis the Father’s pleasure we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning was the mighty Word.*

*Humbled for a season to receive a name
from the lips of sinners unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious, when from death he passed;*

*Bore it up triumphant, with its human light,
through all ranks of creatures, to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead, to the Father's breast,
filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.*

*Christians, this Lord Jesus shall return again,
with his Father's glory o'er the earth to reign;
for all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him King of glory now.*

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

JOHN 11:17-27

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God!

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

You have forgotten more than we will ever think of; you have forgiven more than we will ever do; you have shattered the cold stones encasing our hearts, so your could write your name on them. Redeemer of all, we praise you.

You plant the seed of grace and hope deep within us, watering them with your love; you call us to follow, so we may join you in serving the broken of our world. Jesus of the tears, we praise you.

You journey with us, leading us closer to the cross; you center us on the One we would follow, so we can see Jesus clearly; you point to your watch, so we know the hour for faithfulness has come. Generous Spirit, we praise you.

God in Community, Holy in One, we open our mouths to sing your praise, even as we pray.

If we would see Jesus, we must open our eyes to the ways we have not followed him as disciples. If we want God to create new hearts within us, we must speak of the old ways in which we continue to live. If we seek God's mercy, we must confess all that keeps us from living as God's children.

O Heart which seeks our own: we yearn for your presence in our lives, yet turn away from you time and again. We want to serve others, but become obsessed with our own desires. We need your Word to fill our emptiness, yet let it be silenced by the noise of our world. Our hearts are clogged with the foolishness of our lives, and often struggle to beat in rhythm with your own.

In this silence, and in the depths of our hidden souls, come to us and make us whole. Write grace upon our hearts, so we might be more forgiving people; write mercy on our hearts, so we might become more welcoming people; write hospitality upon our hearts that we might become more like Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who came for all people, even us.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

A new heart, a generous spirit, a fresh start: these are the gifts our God gives to us.

Through Christ, we are cleansed; through Christ, we are healed; through Christ, we become new 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: *The Lord Is God*

AZMON

*The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor, thanks, and praise
to God, the maker of all things and giver of our days.
With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and might,
O people, love the Lord your God, the source of truth and light.
At night or day, at home, away, together and apart,
O children, take these holy words and keep them in your heart.
The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor, thanks, and praise
to God, the maker of all things and giver of our days.*

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 IN MUSIC: *There's Room at the Cross*

RANDY COUSINS, SOLO

IRA STANPHILL

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***I AM . . . The Resurrection and the Life***

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

CLOSING HYMN #527: *There Is a Place of Quiet Rest*

MCAFFEE

*There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God,
a place where sin cannot molest, near to the heart of God.*

Refrain:

*O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,
hold us, who wait before thee, near to the heart of God.*

*There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God,
a place where we our Savior meet, near to the heart of God. (Refrain)*

*There is a place of full release, near to the heart of God,
a place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God. (Refrain)*

*** SENDING**

God sends us forth as people of the covenant.

Our hearts are filled with compassion which we will share with others.

Jesus calls us to share hope with all we meet.

Our hands will bring food for the hungry and build shelters for the homeless.

The Spirit of hospitality is engraved upon our spirits.

We will welcome everyone we meet with the grace which is written large upon our hearts.

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*** POSTLUDE:** *Nothing But the Blood*

T. BIRCHWOOD / R. LOWRY



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](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.**

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 one week 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 conclude our **Lenten Season Series**. 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	Diane Miller	John & Ann Sutton
Jack Cook	Peter Slater	Ruby Martin
Joan Richardson	Joey Leake	Teresa Wilborn
Shannon Russell	Ida Whitney	Tiffany Tauchren
Katherine Turner	Jean Berry	Barbara Cousins
Jeremy Harden	Christy Lutterloh	Pat Kennedy
Anne McDaniels	Eleanor Thompson	Mike Sutton
Alex Thomas	Nancy Sutton	Pete Campbell
Stewart Dillard	Norma Proctor	Ben Johnson
Shelvia Russell	Christopher Bagley	Grace Johnson
Carol Brooks	Randy Thompson	Frank Wrenn
Ritchie Fishburne	Frederica Beatty	Sylvia Donley
Janie Holt Clapp	Penny Rice (sister of Carolyn Thompson)	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**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Sunday, the 28th:

- **Palm/Passion Sunday**
- 9:45 - Faith Formation (as scheduled)
- 11:00 - Worship (in-person and online)

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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