



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

March 22, 2026 – 11:00 am

Fifth Sunday of Lent



Lazarus

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: *Trusting Jesus*

MARY McDONALD

WELCOME

***OPENING HYMN:** *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

I am weak but Thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

Thro' this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.

When my feeble life is o'er,
Time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore.

Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

(PSALM 130)

Out of the depths we call to you, O Lord.

Let your ears hear our supplication.

We wait for you, O God. In your word is our hope.

We wait for you, O Lord, for with you there is mercy.

Come. Let us worship God.

GATHERING PRAYER

(EZEKIEL 37, PSALM 130, JOHN 11)

Come, Spirit of God.

We wait for your presence.

We trust in your abiding promises.

Breathe the breath of your power into us this day, that we may experience the power of new life, the promise of forgiveness, and blessing of community. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(APOSTLES' CREED)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*HYMN OF THE DAY: *I Love to Tell the Story*

KATHERINE HANKEY

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love;
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true,
It satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story,
'Twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story
Of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story, more wonderful it seems
Than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams;
I love to tell the story, it did so much for me,
And that is just the reason I tell it now to thee. **(Refrain)**

I love to tell the story, 'tis pleasant to repeat,
What seems each time I tell it more wonderfully sweet;
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word. **(Refrain)**

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest;
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. **(Refrain)**

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

God, we are a busy people. We become pre-occupied with the demands of work, our relationships, and our communities. We tend to focus on our own needs and fail to see the needs of those around us. We do that which we should not and fail to do that which we should. We ask for your forgiveness and for your guidance in following the path you have set before us. Hear us now as we humbly come before you silently and privately to confess our sin.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

(PSALM 130, THE MESSAGE)

"If you, God, kept records on wrongdoings, who would stand a chance?
As it turns out, forgiveness is your habit, and that's why you're worshiped."
Friends, through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, we come before you now to worship you and listen to your Word. Open our ears to hear. May we understand your Word more fully and follow the path you have set before us. Amen.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

JOHN 11:1-45

PEW BIBLE, 1307

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Lead Me Home*

JOEL RANEY

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"The Other Miracle"*

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: *His Eye Is On the Sparrow*

C.E. WALZ

***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 # 316:** *Breathe on Me Breath of God*

EDWIN HATCH

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love,
And do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with Thee I will one will,
To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly Thine,
Until this earthly part of me
Glow with Thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
So shall I never die,
But live with Thee the perfect life
Of Thine eternity.

***SENDING**

As you leave here today carrying the light of Christ into a busy world, remember the words of Psalm 130, "I wait for the Lord/ ...in his word I hope;/ my soul waits for the Lord/ more than those who watch for the morning."

May this season of Lent be a time to ponder and reconnect with God.

Know that you are not alone in troubled times. Know that God walks with you. In the name of the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit. Go in Peace. Amen.

POSTLUDE: *Raise the Song on High*

STEVEN SCOTT

** 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 **month of March**? They are asking for **Soup, and Peanut Butter and Jelly**

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 22nd - Fifth Sunday of Lent
9:45 – Bible Study - Evie C. Marshall classroom
11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream).

Wednesday, March 25th
10:00 – Exercise class
7:00 pm – Choir Practice

Sunday, March 29th - Palm Sunday – Easter Cantata
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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