



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

[www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org)

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March 23, 2025 – 11:00 am

*Third Sunday in Lent*



Waiting

## 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:** *I Love Thee*

FRANKLIN RITTER

### WELCOME

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #84:** *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

JOHN BOWRING

In the cross of Christ I glory,  
Towering o'er the wrecks of time;  
All the light of sacred story  
Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me,  
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me:  
Lo! it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming  
Light and love upon my way,  
From the cross the radiance streaming  
Adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,  
By the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure,  
Joys that through all time abide.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING SENTENCES

(BASED ON PSALM 27:63)

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;  
***My flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.***  
So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.  
***Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.***  
So I will bless you as long as I live;  
***I will lift up my hands and call on your name.***

## GATHERING PRAYER

(ISAIAH 55, PSALM 63, 1 CORINTHIANS 10)

Lord of overflowing abundance, we praise you with joyful lips and bless you with uplifted hands.  
When our souls are parched, you offer us wine and milk without price and satisfy our hunger.  
Guard us when we stand for what is right, and save us from the time of trial,  
that we may be worthy disciples of your Son, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY #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.

## TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

(ISAIAH 55:6-7; LUKE 13)

The prophet Isaiah instructs us to seek and to call upon the Lord.  
The prophet pleads with the wicked to forsake their way, with the unrighteous to forsake their thoughts.  
The prophet invites them to return to the Lord that he may have mercy on them and assures them that our  
God will abundantly pardon.  
Let us seek God, let us call upon the Lord, knowing that we will be received with mercy and abundant forgiveness.

*Merciful God, we confess that we have been quick to judge others and slow to make changes in our own lives.  
We confess that we have focused on others' shortcomings instead reforming our own.  
Turn us, O Lord, from these ways that lead to perishing.  
Lead us, O Lord, in your ways that lead to abundant life.*  
(Time for Silent Confession.)  
*In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

(ISAIAH 55:8-9)

God speaks through the prophet Isaiah: my thoughts are not your thoughts nor are your ways my ways.  
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways.  
Let us find peace in God's ways of mercy and grace knowing that we are forgiven. Amen.

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of all times and places, be with us here and now.  
As we read from and reflect on Scripture, may your Holy Spirit move among us that we  
might hear your Word. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

**PSALM 63:1-8**

PEW BIBLE, 711

**LUKE 13:1-9**

PEW BIBLE, 1268

The Word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

**THE WORD IN MUSIC:** *Eternal Life*

Randy Cousins - Soloist

OLIVE DUNGAN

**THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

**Sermon:** *"Waiting"*

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**

**\*DOXOLOGY** *A Lenten Doxology*

G.W. DUB SHEPHERD

Praise God throughout these forty days.  
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.  
And praise the Spirit who imparts God's love in Christ into our hearts.  
Amen.

**\*BLESSING OUR GIFTS**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #426:** *Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak*

FRANCES R. HAVERGAL

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak  
In living echoes of Thy tone;  
As Thou hast sought, so let me seek  
Thine erring children lost and lone.

O lead me, Lord, that I may lead  
The wandering and the wavering feet;  
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed  
Thy hungering ones with manna sweet.

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach  
The precious things Thou dost impart;  
And wing my words, that they may reach  
The hidden depths of many a heart.

O fill me with Thy fullness, Lord,  
Until my very heart o'erflow  
In kindling thought and glowing word,  
Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.

O use me, Lord, use even me,  
Just as Thou wilt, and when, and where;  
Until Thy blessed face I see,  
Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.

**\*SENDING**

God has moved in all our lives. God has gathered us together this day.  
And now, God sends us into the world to join God's ongoing work.  
May the same God who led our ancestors from oppression continue to  
lead you; May the same Holy Spirit whose ways are higher than ours  
continue to empower you; and may the light of Christ continue to shine  
through each of you until the day that we are all gathered together again.  
Go in peace

**POSTLUDE:** *Wonderful Peace*

ROBERT J. HUGHES

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*\* Please stand in body or spirit.*



# Our Faith Community @ Work

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

**Sundays, 9:45am      Lenten Bible Study – Evie C. Marshall Room**

**Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>      10:30am      The Women of Bethany Church Gathering**  
The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:30am in the Evie C. Marshall classroom.

**Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>      Easter Jubilee at the Rudy Theater in Selma, NC**  
Everyone is invited to travel together on Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the season with the sounds of Easter at the Rudy Theater in Selma, NC. The Easter Jubilee is contemporary and traditional gospel music and their comedian that will keep you on your toes. More details to follow.

**Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>      Alamance Co. Mobile Library**  
The Alamance County Public Libraries 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

**Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>      Community Easter Egg Hunt – 10:00-11:30am in the Fellowship Hall**  
We're having an old favorite of ours – our Easter Egg hunt! Kids of all ages are welcome to participate in this fun family. Any and all help will be greatly appreciated!

**Mark Your Calendar – Details will follow...**

- **Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>      Dinner & Bingo**
- **Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>      Trip to Billy Graham Library**

### **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 6, 2025 - 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 we can help S.A.F.E. for the month of **March**? They are asking for **Mac and Cheese and Pasta**. S.A.F.E. will be closed the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the Month. Consider donating your plastic and paper bags.

## **This Week's Calendar:**

Sunday, March 23rd – Third Sunday in Lent

9:45 – Lenten Bible Study - Evie C. Marshall classroom

11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> – Fourth Sunday in Lent

9:45 – Lenten Bible Study - Evie C. Marshall classroom

11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

# **bethany presbyterian**

love learn serve



### **Session**

**Moderator:** Rick Purcell, CRE

**Clerk:** Randy Cousins

**Treasurer:** Glenn Patterson

### **Class of 2025:**

Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Tina Patterson

Nancy Purcell

### **Class of 2026:**

Chip Allen

Jean Payne

Ben Russell

### **Class of 2027:**

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Brandon Troxler

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### **Staff**

**Pastor/CRE:** Rick Purcell – [pastor4bethany@gmail.com](mailto:pastor4bethany@gmail.com)

**Director of Music:** Christopher Bagley – [bethanypresmusic@gmail.com](mailto:bethanypresmusic@gmail.com)

**Office Administrator:** Joy Saleeby – [admin@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:admin@bethanypreschurch.org)

**Bookkeeper:** Pam Hurt – [finance@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:finance@bethanypreschurch.org)

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