



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

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March 26, 2023 – 11:00 am

Fifth Sunday of Lent



"The Great Day of His Wrath," John Martin, 1851

"Then the king will reply to them, 'I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.'" Matthew 25:31-46 (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. Know that you are loved and we are so glad you are here! Parts of today's liturgy are from Ruth Burgess and Chris Polhill, Eggs and Ashes: Practical and Liturgical Resources for Lent and Holy Week (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2004); and Sally Foster-Fulton, Dancing in the Desert: Prayers and reflections for Lent (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2016).

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Cross of Sorrows*

SUSANNA KEENEY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***OPENING 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.

***OPENING SENTENCES**

"OPENING AND CLOSING RESPONSES FOR SUNDAYS IN LENT," RUTH BURGESS

God of glory
at home in the universe
make your home in us

Loving Jesus
at home in Bethany
make your home in us

Holy Spirit
at home in humanity
make your home in us

Let us worship our God.

***GATHERING PRAYER**

"STOP FOR A MINUTE," SALLY FOSTER-FULTON

Wisdom calls from every corner of creation. Stop for a minute and listen to her. She'll whisper when the wind whistles through the trees; she'll sing, sounding suspiciously like birdsong; she'll wave to you from the grass that grows and the animals that graze and the people who grey.

***God who lives with wisdom,
give the eyes of our hearts
insight to see you.
Attune the ears of our souls
to your eternal conversation.***

Wisdom speaks through Christ our brother. Stop for a minute and listen to him... "Love your enemy... forgive seven times seventy... become like a little child... do unto others as you would have them do unto you... give everything you have to the poor and come follow me... blessed are the peacemakers."

*Christ who lives with wisdom,
you taught not only through words but through action
and your life continues to pour into ours.
Give the eyes of our hearts insight to see you.
Attune the ears of our souls to your eternal conversation.
Amen.*

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Speak to us, O God, with the voice of your Holy Spirit, that we may know the way of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 98:7-9

PEW BIBLE, 741-742

MATTHEW 25:31-46

PEW BIBLE, 1207-1208

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF OUR PLEDGES

***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**

***HYMN OF THE DAY #81:** *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

CLAUDIA F. HERNAMAN

Lord, who throughout these forty days,
For us did fast and pray,
Teach us to overcome our sins,
And close by you to stay.

As you with Satan did contend,
And did the vict'ry win,
O give us strength in you to fight,
In you to conquer sin.

As you did hunger and did thirst,
So teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and so to live
By your most holy word.

And through these days of penitence,
And through your Passiontide,
For evermore, in life and death,
O Lord! with us abide.

Abide with us, that through this life
Of doubts and hope and pain,
An Easter of unending joy
We may at last attain!

CONFESSONAL LITANY AND PRAYER

Throughout Lent we will be praying through the Lord's Prayer. In your bulletin you received a prayer cloth. We will begin this time of prayer by the choir singing the Lord's Prayer, reciting a brief litany, and then praying and meditating on the specific phrase from the Lord's Prayer of the day. When we are done, you will be invited to bring the prayer cloth and lay it before the three crosses while we chant The Lord's Prayer.

Let us come together to tell the truth about ourselves,
singing together the prayer our Lord taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER (CHOIR)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

PRAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER

We will now enter into a time of silent prayer. You are invited to pray and meditate on the phrase "lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil" while holding your prayer cloth.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE: The Lord's Prayer

As our time of silent prayer is concluded, you are invited to come forward and leave your cloth at the foot of the cross, symbolizing bringing your Lenten prayer before Christ while we sing together.

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 sins, as we forgive them that sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *When a Poor One (Cuando el Pobre)*

Soloist: Bricen Bullis

J.A. OLIVER/

MIGUEL MARZANO/ARR. ALVIN SCHUTMAAT

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Wait... when did we see you?"*

REV. PHILLIPS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

You are once again invited to enter into a time of silent prayer.

LITANY FOR LENT

"LEAD US ON OUR JOURNEY," RUTH HARVEY

God, our God,
you have called us to be a people
on the move;
travelling light,
dying to live,
ready to lose ourselves for the sake of the world.

***You have called us to be a people
with a purpose;
travelling without a map,
travelling to where we are lead,
sustained by your Spirit,
committed to the gospel for the hope of the world.***

You have called us, your people,
to be the church.
But we are a church with problems:
too strong for the weak,
too staid for the young,
too respectable for the poor,
too divided for mission,
too obsessed with our own lives to think of the lives of others,
too unsure of our message to speak to the world.

***Move us on our journey
from where we are to where you want us to go.
Open our eyes on the way
to the people of different cultures, continents and countries,
who can bring difference to our lives.***

Take us on our journey
from where we are to what you want us to be;
so that we become a community
where all are welcomed and no one is excluded,
all are valued and no one is made to feel inadequate,
all are forgiven and no one is ashamed to belong,
all are encouraged and no one is too hurt to come among us.

***Lead us on our journey
from who we are to who you want us to be;
so that patience is built into us,
kindness is assumed in us,
gentleness is part of us,
compassion flows from us,
truth is second nature to us,
and the commitment of love is part of us.***

Let us go gladly on the journey towards Easter –
the journey towards death and resurrection.
Let us journey in the peace and power of the Spirit.

***CLOSING HYMN #428:** *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

WILLIAM WALSHAM HOW

We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus
As stewards true receive,
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,
To Thee our firstfruits give.

To comfort and to bless,
To find a balm for woe,
To tend the lonely in distress,
Is angels' work below.

The captive to release,
To God the lost to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace—
It is a Christ-like thing.

And we believe Thy Word,
Though dim our faith may be;
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,
We do it unto Thee.

***SENDING**

"OPENING AND CLOSING RESPONSES FOR SUNDAYS IN LENT," RUTH BURGESS

God on the road
God in the wilderness
God making all things new

God of our tears
God in our laughter
God making all things new

God in our living
God in our dying
God making all things new

CHORAL BLESSING: *My Peace*

POSTLUDE: *Nothing But the Blood*

TOM BIRCHWOOD/ROBERT LOWRY

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Feb. 26th - March 26th Lenten Worship – 11am in the Sanctuary

The Season of Lent. Our Lenten Sunday worship will include periods of silent prayer and mediation on the Lord's Prayer as well as opportunities to pray for one another.

April 1st Community Easter Egg Hunt – 10:00-11:30am in the Recreation Area

We're bringing back an old favorite of ours – our Easter Egg hunt! Kids of all ages are welcome to participate in this fun family

April 2nd Psalm Sunday Service – 11am in the Sanctuary

Our Palm Sunday service will include a Cantata sung by our choir and Communion.

April 3rd – April 9th Stations of the Cross – All day – here in the Recreation Area

We are excited to offer our Recreation Area as a space for the community for prayerful reflection during Holy Week. Our 15 stations (including a final station for the Resurrection) will utilize ecumenical meditations and prayers from the Iona Community.

April 6th Maundy Thursday Dinner Church – 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall

Come and join us for Dinner Church, a meal and liturgy around the table as we commemorate the Passover meal that Jesus celebrated with his disciples. RSVP to the office at 336-227-4041. Come as you are – all are welcome!

April 7th Good Friday Seven Last Words – 6:30 in the Sanctuary

We will hold a service of prayer and reflection on the Seven Last Words. Please note that there will be extended periods of silence and a darkened sanctuary during this service.

April 9th Easter Sunday – 11am in the Sanctuary

Our Easter celebration. Celebrate Jesus' resurrection with us!

April 11th 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.

This Week's Calendar:

Today Sunday, March 26th - 5th Sunday in Lent

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

Wednesday, March 29th

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, April 2nd - Palm Sunday & Communion

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

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Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

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