



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina
www.bethanypreschurch.org
www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

March 28, 2021 – 11:00 am
Palm / Passion Sunday



*“Adopt the attitude that was in Christ Jesus: Though he was in the form of God,
he did not consider being equal with God something to exploit.
But he emptied himself by taking the form of a slave and by becoming like human beings.”
Philippians 2:5-7 (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: *Palm Sunday Processional*

GENE CLARKE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* AN OFFERING OF PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(Please take a moment to share the peace of Christ with your neighbor in a safe, socially-distanced way.)

* GATHERING SONG: *Filled With Excitement* (SEE PAGE 5)

HOSANNA

* CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.

We will journey through praise, with joy on our lips; we will travel through betrayal and death, cradling hope deep in our hearts.

Jesus leads us through this week, and we will follow, for he is the life we long for, he is the Word who sustains us.

We wave palm branches in anticipation, we lay our love before him, to cushion his walk.

Setting aside all power, glory, and might, he comes: modeling humility and obedience for all of us.

Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God.

* OPENING HYMN #89: *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

ELLACOMBE

*Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple the joyful anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.*

*From Olivet they followed 'mid an exultant crowd,
the victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud;
the Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,
nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.
"Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer; the Lord of heaven, our King.
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice.*

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

LUKE 19:29-40

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1278

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God!

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

On this Sunday there is a wide gap between our shouts of praise at the beginning of the service and our entrance into Holy Week and the passion of Jesus by the end of it. Our emotions move from joy to solemnity. Our confession on this Sunday calls us to a special awareness of the grace of God that comes to us in this chasm between joy and sorrow. Let us confess our sin.

Holy God, we come waving palms and shouting "Hosanna" for the one who we assume is the Messiah, but the Messiah we get is not the Messiah we expect. The Messiah we get calls us to acknowledge and name the violence in our world and in our lives, but we accept this violence as the normal way of the world.

We have learned to live with homelessness, poverty, injustice, racism, sexism and homophobia. And when we fail to see and name the evils of our world, we allow them to flourish.

Open our eyes, O God, to see crucifixions in our midst and help us to participate in the places where you are bringing liberation and life.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Friends, the good news of the gospel assures us that God in Christ meets us in the broken places in order to redeem, liberate and heal us.

In Christ, we are healed and our eyes are opened. In Christ we are empowered to partake in God's liberating and justice-seeking work in our world. 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 ROMANS 3:31-39

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.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised,

who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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**

* **DEDICATION OF THE PALMS**

"Many people spread out their clothes on the road while others spread branches cut from the fields." (Mark 11:8)

Our Lord enters Jerusalem one final time. The crowds were joyous and shouted "Hosanna"!

We wave our palm branches to remember this celebration and to shout our Hosannas!

But our joy quickly turns to grief, as we remember the passion with the palms.

(During our closing hymn, you are invited to bring your palm branches forward and place them on the communion table. These branches will be saved and will be burned so that the ashes can be used at next year's Ash Wednesday Service.)

* **HYMN OF THE DAY #88:** *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

VALET WILL ICE DIR GEBEN

(Refrain)

*All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!*

*Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed One. (Refrain)*

*The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayers and anthems before thee we present. (Refrain)*

*To thee, before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise. (Refrain)*

*Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King! (Refrain)*

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS AND 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.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *The Palms*

J. B. FAURE

TINA PATTERSON, SOLO

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***Stones That Sing***

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

CLOSING HYMN #98: *O Sacred Head Now Wounded*

PASSION CHORALE

*O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down;
now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.*

*What thou, my Lord, hast suffered was all for sinners' gain:
mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve thy place;
look on me with thy favor, and grant to me thy grace.*

*What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
O make me thine forever; and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.*

* SENDING

Go out into the world as God's people.

We will journey with praise on our lips.

Go out into the world as followers of Jesus.

We will join the parade of the broken, the lost, the hopeless, for that is where Jesus may be found.

Go out into the world as the Spirit's peace.

We will share the warm breath of reconciliation with all we meet.

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* **POSTLUDE:** *Ride On in Majesty*

DAVID PAXTON / JOHN B. DYKES

199 Filled with Excitement

Mantos y palmas



1 Filled with ex-cite-ment, all the hap-py throng spread cloaks and
 2 As in that en-trance to Je-ru-sa-lem, ho-san-nas
 1 Man-tos y pal-mas es-par-cien-do va el pue-blo
 2 Co-mo en la gn-tra-da de Je-ru-sa-lén, to-dos can-



branch-es on the cit-y streets. There in the dis-tance they be-
 we will sing to Je-sus Christ, to our Re-deem-er who still
 le-gre de Je-ru-sa-lén. A-llá lo le-jos se vis-
 ta-mos a Je-sús el rey, al Cris-to vi-vo que nos



gin to see, there on a don-key comes the Sav-ior Christ.
 calls to-day, asks us to fol-low with our love and faith.
 lum-bra ya en un po-lli-nal Sal-va-dor Je-sús.
 lla-ma hoy pa-ra se-guir-le con a-mor y fe.

Refrain / Estribillo



From ev-ery cor-ner a thou-sand voic-es sing praise to the One who comes
 Mien-tras mil vo-ces re-sue-nan por do-quier; ho-sa-nal que vie-ne en el



in the name of God. Our ac-cla-ma-tion breaks forth in shouts of
 nom-bre de Dios. Con un a-lien-to de gran ex-cla-ma-



praise, our tri-um-phant song of joy: "Ho-san-na,
 ción y pro-rrum-pen con voz triun-fal: "¡Ho-sa-na!



ho-san-na to Christ! Ho-san-na, ho-san-na to Christ!"
 ¡Ho-sa-na al rey!" "¡Ho-sa-na! ¡Ho-sa-na al rey!"



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 today, Palm Sunday, is **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!

Join us this **Thursday, April 1st** for our always moving **Maundy Thursday Communion Service**, as we commemorate Christ’s last meal with his disciples and his last night on this earth. We welcome back our friend **Sylvester Allen** who will provide music for the service.

Next Sunday, April 4th will be our joyful celebration of the resurrection on **Easter Sunday**. Worship will begin at our usual time of 11:00, and will conclude outside with the flowering of our Easter cross. You may bring your own flowers, or some will be provided.

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
Jack Cook
Joan Richardson
Shannon Russell
Katherine Turner
Jeremy Harden
Anne McDaniels
Alex Thomas
Stewart Dillard
Shelvia Russell
Carol Brooks
Ritchie Fishburne
Janie Holt Clapp

Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Joey Leake
Ida Whitney
Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Christopher Bagley
Randy Thompson
Frederica Beatty

Penny Rice (sister of Carolyn Thompson)

John & Ann Sutton
Ruby Martin
Teresa Wilborn
Tiffany Tauchren
Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Mike Sutton
Pete Campbell
Ben Johnson
Grace Johnson
Frank Wrenn
Sylvia Donley
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.

We are looking forward to a new **Spring Bible Study**, welcoming back our guest leader and teacher **Dr. Donald Griggs** who recently led our wonderful study of the Gospel of Luke. Don has offered to continue with another study, looking at the book of Acts. Join us virtually on Zoom, and in person, as we begin this 7-week course on **Monday, April 12th**. We have ordered study books (only 9 were available on Amazon) and participants may pick one up in the church office. They are \$14.00 each. The Kindle version of the book is available on Amazon for \$8.00. Please sign up by calling the church office, or by registering using the form on our website.

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:

- **Palm/Passion Sunday**
- 9:45 - Faith Formation (as scheduled)
- 11:00 - Worship (in-person, Zoom, Facebook Live, YouTube Live)

Thursday, the 1st:

- 7:00 - Maundy Thursday Communion Service (in-person, Zoom Facebook Live, YouTube Live)

Sunday, the 4th:

- **EASTER 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
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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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