



Bethany Presbyterian Church

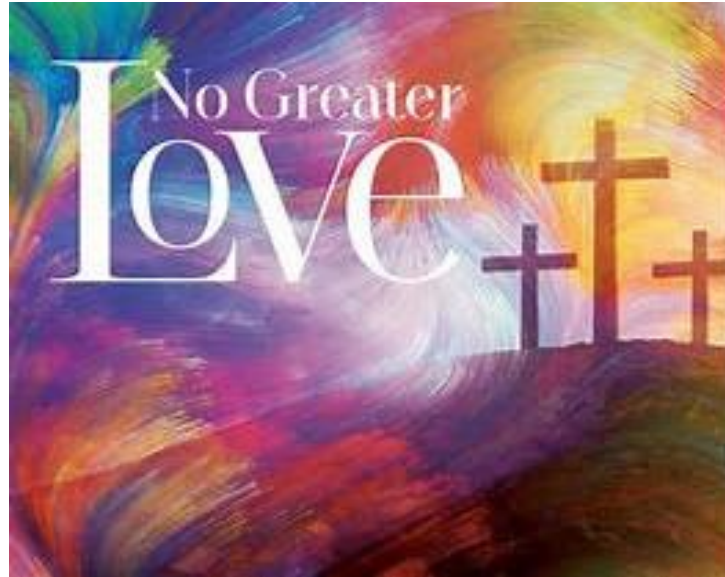
Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

March 29, 2026 – 11:00 am

Palm Sunday



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: *Hosanna*

MICHAEL W. SMITH

WELCOME

***OPENING HYMN:** *Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross*

Jesus, keep me near the cross,
There a precious fountain;
Free to all, a healing stream,
Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Refrain:

In the cross, in the cross
Be my glory ever,
Till my ransomed soul shall find
Rest beyond the river.

Near the cross, a trembling soul,
Love and mercy found me;
There the Bright and Morning Star
Shed His beams around me. **[Refrain]**
Near the cross! O lamb of God,
Bring its scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day
With its shadow o'er me. **[Refrain]**

Near the cross! I'll watch and wait,
Hoping, trusting ever;
Till I reach the golden strand,
Just beyond the river. **[Refrain]**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

"Hosanna!" They shouted. "Save us!"
"Hosanna!" We're shouting. "Save us!"
Savior, ride into our hearts again,
wash us with excitement and hope,
give us a reason to praise
and to shout again, "Hosanna! Hosanna!"

GATHERING PRAYER

(MATTHEW 21, ISAIAH 50)

Christ of both celebration and sorrow, be with us in our time of worship today and in the week ahead.
Help us embrace the fullness of your story, both the triumph and the tragedy.
Strengthen us to proclaim blessing and hope, no matter the circumstances, that we may be children
of your promise, both now and forevermore. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(FROM PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11)

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.
**And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death —
even death on a cross.**
Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

**Holy Christ, we confess that amidst all the Palm Sunday crowds,
we find ourselves in more turmoil than triumph.
Our faith is unsteady. Our wisdom is eroding. Our resolve is shaken.
Our mercy is hardening. Our hope is weakening.
Come again and save us from these sins.
Give us strength to follow you, our humble Savior, our wise fool, our all in all.
Amen.**

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Hear this promise: Jesus has set his face toward the cross.

Nothing we can do can deter him.

He has determined that we are worth saving.

By the power of the cross, by the power of wondrous love, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit, share with us your wisdom; gift us with your hope; sustain us with your truth. Be in our hearing and our thinking, that through the words of Scripture we might know your call on our lives. Amen.

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Easter Cantata - No Greater Love*

LLOYD LARSON

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: *Fairest Lord Jesus*

HERMANN SCHROEDER

***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 # 92:** *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

ELIZABETH CECILIA DOUGLAS CLEPHANE

Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty rock
Within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness,
A rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat,
And the burden of the day.

Upon that cross of Jesus
Mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of One
Who suffered there for me;
And from my stricken heart with tears
Two wonders I confess:
The wonders of redeeming love
And my unworthiness.

***SENDING**

Today we have hailed you as our champion.

Tomorrow distractions will overtake us, and our enthusiasm may fade.

Help us keep our eyes on you this week:

on Monday, when you clear the temple of greed and deceit;

on Tuesday, when you challenge our comfort and ease;

on Wednesday, the last day before the world tilts;

on Thursday, when you wash your disciples' feet, and promise us a new covenant of your own body and blood, and are betrayed and arrested while you pray;

on Friday, when you are examined, found guilty, and executed and plead with your last breath for our forgiveness;

on Saturday, when you lie dead in the tomb, and it seems all is lost.

The story is ancient, but the promises are fresh.

So keep our eyes on you this week, and bring us back together on Sunday, when we will see what God has done.

And wherever you go, may you be kept in the love of God, the mercy of Christ, and the power of the Spirit, now and forevermore. Amen.

POSTLUDE: *Prelude in g minor*

ARTHUR BIRD

** 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 29th - Palm Sunday – Easter Cantata

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

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

Wednesday, April 1st

10:00 – Exercise class

7:00 pm – Choir Practice

Thursday, April 2nd

6:00pm – Maundy Thursday Service

Sunday, April 5th - Easter Sunday – Communion, Pennies for Hunger

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

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worship serve teach support



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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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Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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