



Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

March 30, 2025 – 11:00 am
Fourth Sunday in Lent



Welcome Home

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: *Prayer of Penitence*

PETER I. TCHAIKOWSKY

WELCOME

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN #78:** *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed*

ISAAC WATTS

Alas! And did my Savior bleed,
And did my Sovereign die!
Would He devote that sacred head
For sinners such as I!

Was it for crimes that I had done
He suffered on the tree?
Amazing pity! Grace unknown!
And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide,
And shut its glories in,
When Christ, the great Redeemer, died
For human creatures' sin.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give my self away;
'Tis all that I can do.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

(INSPIRED BY PSALM 32)

In times of trouble, in days of fear,
Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.
When we are lost and lonely, not sure of our place,
Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.
When we are hard-hearted and cynical,
Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.
When we struggle to believe God's promise of redemption,
Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.
Together we look to God to teach us the way we should go.
Steadfast love surrounds us, as together we place our trust in the Lord.

GATHERING PRAYER

(JOSHUA 5, LUKE 15)

God of ages past and present faithfulness, welcome us into your love, as we worship you this day.
Draw closer to us, that we might trust your promises and follow your ways.
In hope and faith, we pray. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

*HYMN OF THE DAY: *The Old Rugged Cross*

GEORGE BENNARD

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary. [Refrain]

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
a wondrous beauty I see,
for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
to pardon and sanctify me. [Refrain]

To that old rugged cross I will ever be true,
its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then he'll call me some day to my home far away,
where his glory forever I'll share. **[Refrain]**

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

Scripture promises us that no matter how far we stray from God's ways, when we make the decision to return to God, God runs to greet us with open arms. Trusting in the never-failing mercy of the Lord, let us turn to God together by confessing our sins.

Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Forgive those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for his sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your holy name.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Psalm 32 says: "Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered." Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are those happy people whose sins have been forgiven. Believe in the good news of the gospel and rejoice!

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, your mercy is wide, but our understanding is limited. As we hear your Word read and proclaimed today, open our minds and our hearts, that your good news may reach the deepest places within us. Renew us in your forgiving love and enliven our imaginations to possibilities for sharing that love with others. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

2 COR 5:16-21

PEW BIBLE, 1409

LUKE 15:1-3, 11B-32

PEW BIBLE, 1271-1272

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Daniel, Daniel, Servant of the Lord*

ARR. BY UNDINE SMITH MOORE

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"The Prodigal"*

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 #288: *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

ISAAC WATTS

I sing the mighty power of God
That made the mountains rise;
That spread the flowing seas abroad
And built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
The sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command,
And all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord
That filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word
And then pronounced them good.
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed,
Where'er I turn my eyes;
If I survey the ground I tread,
Or gaze upon the skies!

There's not a plant or flower below
But makes Thy glories known;
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,
By order from Thy throne;
While all that borrows life from Thee
Is ever in Thy care,
And everywhere that we can be,
Thou, God, art present there.

*SENDING

Go out into the world in peace; have courage;
hold onto what is good; return no one evil for evil;
support the weak; help the suffering; honor all people;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

POSTLUDE: *I Will Arise and Go to Jesus*

RACHEL SAWYER

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

Tuesday, April 8th Easter Jubilee at the Rudy Theater in Selma, NC
Everyone is invited to travel together on Tuesday, April 8th 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 8th 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

Mark Your Calendar – Details will follow...

- **Sunday, April 27th Dinner & Bingo**
- **Tuesday, May 20th 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 1st and 5th Saturday of the Month. Consider donating your plastic and paper bags.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, March 30th – Fourth Sunday in Lent
9:45 – Lenten Bible Study - Evie C. Marshall classroom
11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Wednesday, April 2nd
6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, April 6th – Fifth Sunday in Lent, Communion and Pennies for Hunger
9:45 – Lenten Bible Study - Evie C. Marshall classroom
11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

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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

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – bethanypresmusic@gmail.com

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – admin@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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