



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypresbyterian.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

April 2, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday in Lent



“Jesus said to him, ‘Today, salvation has come to this household because he too is a son of Abraham. The Human One came to seek and save the lost.’”

Luke 19:9-10 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Lord of the lost, we are quick to judge and slow to accept those whom we consider lower than ourselves. But you show us the way of acceptance, forgiveness, and peace. We honor your name for teaching us to love, for the sake of the one who is the essence of love itself, Jesus Christ our loving Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE: *A Lenten Meditation*

E. BROUGHTON

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.)

* GATHERING SONG #525: *Here I Am, Lord*

DANIEL L. SCHUTTE

* CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in awe,

standing in the presence of the One who crafted the stars, the mountains, the seas.

We gather in faith,

trusting that the One who has held little children holds our lives in the heart of God.

We gather in need,

seeking the One who longs for justice to grace each and every person in creation.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

* **HYMN OF PRAISE #388:** *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

ANGEL'S STORY

AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

How patient is God! We run around trying to do everything our way, and God just waits. We try to buy life and happiness, and God waits. We hurt others and walk away from those in need, and God waits. God waits, and upon hearing our heartfelt prayers and cries for help, God touches us with forgiveness and new life. Come, join me as we pray to the One who waits to hear - from us!

Surrounded by so many seductions, we find it difficult to see you in our lives. Justice has a hard time surviving when there is so much persecution and affliction towards the little ones of the world. Our neighborhoods, our families, even our churches, are filled with strife and contention. We cry for help; forgive us! As we wait for your grace to fill our lives, may we open our hearts to your hope and healing, always giving thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Rich, poor; young, old; sinner, saint. We are all God's children, and God transforms each of us into the people we are meant to be.

Broken, we are mended; separated from others, we are made one; longing to serve, we are sent forth. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

* **RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE:** *We Are Forgiven*

TRADITIONAL / HAL HOPSON

447 We Are Forgiven

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff has a melody with lyrics: "We are for-giv-en. We are for-giv-en. Thanks be to". The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: "God. Thanks be to God. We are for-giv-en." The third staff concludes the melody with lyrics: "We are for-giv-en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God." Chord symbols are placed above the notes: G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, Dsus, D, G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, D, G.

* **SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE**

EXCERPTED FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

As the people of God gathered in this place, who are we?

We are a community of believers called by God to worship, serve, teach, and support.

To whom do we belong?

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

In whom do we trust?

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

In what do we rejoice?

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

* **HYMN OF THE DAY #85:** *What Wondrous Love Is This*

AMERICAN FOLK HYMN

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *What a Friend We have in Jesus*

C. CONVERSE

* **A DOXOLOGY:** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

BEACH SPRING

1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly
cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn
to you, of - fer - ing up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall
rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. Amen.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *If You Ask Him*

R. HENDERSON

*He'll fill your cup if you ask Him. He'll brighten up your day.
He'll hold your hand if you ask Him. He'll give you strength anew.
He'll understand if you ask Him. He'll keep your secrets too.*

*(All you have to do is) Ask Him. Ask Him. Ask Him. Ask Him.
And I know He will see you through.*

*He'll comfort you if you ask Him. He'll keep you through the night.
He'll stay with you if you ask Him. He'll make things all right.
He'll calm your fears if you ask Him. He'll give you peace of mind.
He'll dry your tears if you ask Him, He'll give you Joy divine.*

*(All you have to do is) Ask Him. Ask Him. Ask Him. Ask Him.
And I know He will see you through.*

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG (@ HEART): A DRAMATIC READING FOR LENT

Leader: Three

All: **Three**

Women: **Three**

Men: **Three**

Choir: **Three**

Leader: Three time he told them what would happen.

North side: **Luke 9:22 – “He said, ‘The Human One must suffer many things and be rejected – by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts – and be killed and be raised on the third day.’”**

West side: *Again from Luke 9 – “Take these words to heart: the Human One is about to be delivered into human hands.” They didn’t understand this statement. Its meaning was hidden from them so they couldn’t grasp it. And they were afraid to ask him about it.*

Choir: *From Luke 18 – “Jesus took the Twelve aside and said, ‘Look, we’re going up to Jerusalem, and everything written about the Human One by the prophets will be accomplished. He will be handed over to the Gentiles. He will be ridiculed, mistreated, and spit on. After torturing him, they will kill him. On the third day, he will rise up.’”*

Leader: Three times they heard. Three times they failed to understand.

All: *Two*

Women: *Two*

Men: *Two*

Children: *Two*

Choir: *Two*

Leader: Two interruptions.

North side: *You know, those things that happen that mess up our day.*

West side: *Only if you let it.*

North side: *Yes, only if you let it.*

West side: *Interruptions didn’t seem to bother Jesus very much.*

Leader: A blind beggar

Women: *“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”*

Choir: *Be quiet!*

Men: *Don’t bother him!*

Choir: *Leave Jesus alone!*

Leader: Can’t you see the man is busy?

North side: *“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”*

Leader: “What do you want me to do for you?”

West side: *“Lord, I want to see,” he replied.*

Choir: *Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has healed you.”*

Leader: Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God.

All: *When all the people saw it, they also praised God.*

Women: *A second interruption.*

Men: *Not a big interruption.*

All: *Hey!*

Women: *Just a little interruption.*

All: *Knock it off!*

Men: *You can overlook this interruption.*

All: *I’m right here you know.*

Leader: Zacchaeus.

North side: *That wee little man.*

West side: *Up in a sycamore tree.*

Leader: A . . . tax collector!

All: *Boooooo!*

Choir: *Tax collectors have feelings too, you know.*

Leader: One

Women: *One*

Men: *One*

Choir: *One*

Children: *One*

Leader: One Savior – Jesus, the Christ

Women: *One purpose – Salvation*

Men: *One destination – Jerusalem*

Leader: One thought.
All: Love – He did it for love!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION #324: Open My Eyes That I May See

OPEN MY EYES

*Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for Thee, ready, my God, thy will to see;
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

THE SPOKEN WORD

Lord, silence any voice but your own.

That we may hear you speaking to us on this day.

A Reading from Luke 18:31-19:10

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God!

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1276

SERMON: UP A TREE

REV. JOHNSON

LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

*** CLOSING HYMN #371: Lift High the Cross**

CRUCIFER

As is our custom, our Pennies for Hunger Offering will be received during the final hymn. You may bring your offerings forward and place them in the basket on the table.

*** LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY: LETTING GO OF WEALTH**

We live in a world that tells us we never have enough. We are constantly seeking more: more money, bigger houses, newer cars, and the latest technology. Fearing scarcity, we hoard our possessions and store up our own treasures.

We worship money instead of God. When we let go of our wealth and acknowledge that it all belongs to God, we learn to trust and rely on God, who desires that all have enough.

As we extinguish this light, we let go of our wealth. We let go of our constant need for more, the illusion that possessions make us self-sufficient, and admit our need for God.

[A candle is extinguished.]

Creator God, remind us again that the world and all that is in it is yours. Teach us to relax our hold on possessions and to cling to you instead. Help us to use the gifts you've given us wisely, to share them generously, joyfully trusting in your abundance. Amen.

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*** POSTLUDE: The Joy of the Lord**

G. SEWELL

** Those who are able may stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WORSHIP Ministry: (Lead Elders: Nancy Purcell and A. J. Campbell)

WELCOME to this service of worship at Bethany Presbyterian Church. 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).

Operating our audio and video systems this morning is **Rick Purcell**. Anyone wishing to join this team of volunteers please contact the church office at any time.

Audio Recordings of each Sunday's sermons are available through a link on our website, or at www.buzzsprout.com/9198.

Resources used in this morning's worship:

- Our Dramatic Reading this morning is courtesy of Rev. Scott Orr, pastor at Lindley Park Baptist Church in Greensboro
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.org)
- *Call to Worship* resource (PCUSA publication)
- Narrative Lectionary website (www.workingpreacher.org)

Our worship this morning ends with our **Lenten Candle Liturgy**. Just as we light a candle each Sunday during Advent, leading up to Christmas, here we extinguish a candle each Sunday, leading up to Easter. Each candle represents a "letting go" of something that is holding us back from living life to the fullest. This morning we let go of wealth.

Please make note of our upcoming observances during Holy Week:

- **Sunday, April 9th: Passion/Palm Sunday** / Celebration and Dedication of the Palms
- **Thursday, April 13th: Maundy Thursday Communion Service** / Sacrament of the Lord's Supper / stripping of the sanctuary with reading of Passion Psalm / extinguishing the last Lenten candle
- **Saturday, April 15th – 11:30 am: Easter Egg Hunt** / open to community / location at Rec Building weather permitting
- **SUNDAY, APRIL 16TH: EASTER SUNDAY** / Announcement of the Resurrection / re-lighting of Christ candle / flowering of the cross outside to conclude service

On the last Sunday in January we marked the **Kickoff of our 125th Anniversary Celebration**. Our theme scripture passage for the celebration is Isaiah 40:28-31, ***Growing Stronger – Growing Deeper – Reaching Higher***. Mark your calendars for our other celebration events:

- **Sunday, May 28th – Rev. Norman Whitney**, preaching / Luncheon following worship
- **Saturday, September 23rd** – Concert by renowned artist, **David LaMotte** (www.davidlamotte.com)
- **Sunday, September 24th** – Culmination of anniversary celebration / **Rev. J. Herbert Nelson**, preaching (Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA) / **David LaMotte** providing music / Anniversary luncheon following worship

Do you have a smartphone? Are you on Facebook? If so, take a moment to **"check in" on Facebook**, letting your friends know that you are here at Bethany Presbyterian Church! It may seem like a small thing, but in reality, it is a wonderful message of evangelism and witness, as you let the cyber-world know what is important to you.

To the parents of young children: Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel that you must suppress those wiggles in God's house. **Please note that a professionally staffed nursery is available during the worship hour.** Here are some hints to make worship with your children more rewarding:

- Consider sitting towards the front where it is easier for little ones to engage. On the second pew nearest the choir loft, there are activities for children of all ages to keep busy with during the service.
- Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, musicians, and leaders.
- Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behavior by mimicking you.
- If you have to leave the sanctuary with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me!"
- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.
- **To adult worshippers:** The presence of children is a gift to the church and they are a reminder that our church is growing! Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elders: Jean Payne and Sherrie Moore)

Our ongoing prayer list is below. Please let the church office know if there are any changes.

Bill Faucette	Diane Miller	John & Ann Sutton
Faye Campbell	Jack Cook	Peter Slater
Frances Nolan	Polly & Dick Wilson	Joey Leake
Layla Benoklen	Teresa Wilborn	Shannon Russell
Ida Whitney	Tiffany Tauchren	Mary Moore
Rachel Poteat	Jean Berry	Barbara Cousins
Jeremy Harden	Christy Lutterloh	Pat Kennedy
Anne McDaniels	Eleanor Thompson	Harold Baldwin
Mike Sutton	Nancy Sutton	Duffy Strigo
Steward Dillard	Infant Sadie Ruth Majors	Norma Proctor
Donna Mitchell-Ayers	Ben Johnson	Gloria Carden Woods
	Family of Sandy Cook	

Each week **Salem Presbytery** lists churches and other ministries that we are to lift up in prayer that week. A complete list can be viewed online at the presbytery website: www.salempresbytery.org. On the prayer list for this week are: **Mount Tabor Presbyterian, Cleveland; Bethel Presbyterian, McLeansville; Love Valley Presbyterian; Toddie Peters, Faculty, Elon University.** Please keep these churches and ministries in your prayers this week.

TEACH Ministry: (Lead Elders: Brandon Troxler and Karen Maxwell)

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.

Young at Heart Class (Young at Heart Classroom – across from pastor's office)

Using the *Uniform Series*, this class engages in lively discussions pertaining to the biblically based curriculum. The class is taught by a very capable team of teachers.

Seeker's Class (Church Office)

The Seeker's Class is currently using a study guide that correlates with the preaching text and themes that are used in our worship services.

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.

SUPPORT Ministry: (Lead Elders: Ron Osborne, Ron Kimrey, and Glenn Patterson)

Elders of the Month for April are **Sherrie Moore and Ron Osborne.**

The congregation has been mailed a letter soliciting donations for replacement of our 40-some-year-old boiler! We are hoping that it will make it through the winter, so this work can be completed in the spring. Please see Ron Kimrey if you have any questions. And thanks in advance for your generosity.

The **Scholarship Committee** reminds those interested that now is the time for applications to receive scholarships for college/graduate school. Applications can be obtained from the church office, and the deadline for applying is April 30th. Please see Ron Osborne if you have any questions.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Monday, the 3rd:

- 7:00 – Circle #4

Wednesday, the 5th:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, the 6th:

- Covenant Bible Study: *Living the Covenant – Episode 24*

Sunday, the 9th:

- PASSION/PALM SUNDAY
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship



Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Rick Purcell

Treasurer: Ron Osborne

**1500 S. Main Street
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**www.bethanypreschurch.org
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Class of 2017:

Ron Kimrey
Karen Maxwell
Sherrie Moore

Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley –
music@bethanypreschurch.org

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

Class of 2018:

Glenn Patterson
Nancy Purcell
Brandon Troxler

Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell
Ron Osborne
Jean Payne

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