



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

April 3, 2022 – 11:00 am

Fifth Sunday in Lent



"Robert Indiana's Love" – Whgler

"As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love."
John 15:9 (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. Some of our liturgy this morning is taken from Ruth Burgess and Chris Polhill, Eggs and Ashes: Practical and Liturgical Resources for Lent and Holy Week, (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2004).

PRELUDE: *I Love Thee*

FRANKLIN RITTER

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

Through the gift of the Holy Spirit
God's love is poured into our hearts

Rom. 5:5

OPENING HYMN: *Oh, How I Love Jesus*

There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
it sounds like music in my ear,
the sweetest name on earth.

Refrain:

O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,
because he first loved me!

It tells me of a Savior's love,
who died to set me free;
it tells me of his precious blood,
the sinner's perfect plea. **[Refrain]**

It tells of one whose loving heart
can feel my deepest woe;
who in each sorrow bears a part
that none can bear below. **[Refrain]**

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

CONFESSIONAL LITANY

Our time of telling the truth about ourselves in Lent will be spoken with a sung congregational response:

HYMN 204 *"Stay with Me" (Glory to God)*

Stay with me;
remain here with me;
watch and pray.
Watch and pray.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you are always faithful,
even when we betray you.
Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

HYMN 204 *"Stay with Me" (Glory to God)*

Lord Jesus Christ,
you claim us as your own,
even when we deny you.
Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

HYMN 204 *"Stay with Me" (Glory to God)*

Lord Jesus Christ,
you clothe us in righteousness,
even when we give you a crown of thorns.
Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

HYMN 204 *"Stay with Me" (Glory to God)*

Lord Jesus Christ,
you bless us with your word,
even when we mock and curse you.
Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

HYMN 204 *"Stay with Me" (Glory to God)*

Lord Jesus Christ,
you reach out to us in love,
even when we reject and despise you.
Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

HYMN 204 *"Stay with Me" (Glory to God)*

Lord Jesus Christ,
you pour out your grace for us,
even when we give you sour wine.
Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

HYMN 204 *"Stay with Me" (Glory to God)*

Lord Jesus Christ,
you give your life to save us,
even though we crucify you.
Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

HYMN 204 *"Stay with Me" (Glory to God)*

silence

Holy God, when Jesus cried and breathed his last
you tore away the ancient curtain between heaven and earth, life and death.
As we turn to face the cross, show us Jesus, in his suffering and glory,
that we may believe and have eternal life; through Christ, your Son, our Savior.

HYMN 204 *"Stay with Me" (Glory to God)*

Amen.

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION AND ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

Our Prayer for Illumination and Scripture Readings during Lent will be spoken with a sung congregational response:

HYMN 842 *"The Lord Is My Light" (Glory to God)*

The Lord is my light,
my light and salvation:
in God I trust;
in God I trust.
(sung 2x)

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us, by your Word, through these forty days, and minister to us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may be reformed, restored, and renewed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN 842 *"The Lord Is My Light" (Glory to God)*

PSALM 146:1-10

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 778

HYMN 842 *"The Lord Is My Light" (Glory to God)*

JOHN 15:9-17

PEW BIBLE, PAGES 1314

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 842 *"The Lord Is My Light" (Glory to God)*

HYMN OF THE DAY #359: *More Love to Thee, O Christ*

E. PRENTISS

More love to Thee, O Christ,
More love to Thee!
Hear Thou the prayer I make
On bended knee;
This is my earnest plea:
More love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee,
More love to Thee!
Once earthly joy I craved,
Sought peace and rest;

Now Thee alone I seek,
Give what is best;
This all my prayer shall be:
More love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee,
More love to Thee!

Then shall my latest breath
Whisper Thy praise;
This be the parting cry
My heart shall raise;
This still its prayer shall be:
More love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee,
More love to Thee!

TIME OF PRAYER

Our Time of Prayer during Lent begin and end a sung congregational response:

HYMN 471 *“O Lord, Hear My Prayer” (Glory to God):*

O Lord, hear my prayer.
O Lord, hear my prayer.
When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer.
O Lord, hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.

Time of silent prayer and meditation

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.*

Hymn 471 *“O Lord, Hear My Prayer” (Glory to God)*

LISTENING FOR GOD’S VOICE

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *A Lenten Prayer*

ROBERT POWELL

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *“God’s (Not) New Thing”*

REV. PHILLIPS

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

CLOSING HYMN: *My Jesus, I Love Thee*

WILLIAM R. FEATHERSTON

My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
for thee all the follies of sin I resign;
my gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I love thee because thou hast first loved me
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death,
and praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath,
and say when the deathdew lies cold on my brow:
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow:
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

BLESSING OUR GIFTS

CLOSING RESPONSES

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

The love of God is at home in us.

We go out in peace.

The justice of Jesus is at home in us.

We go out in hope.

The wildness of God's Spirit is at home in us.

We go out in wonder and joy.

Amen.

POSTLUDE: *March Funebre*

F. CHOPIN / ARR. BY GEORGE BLAKE

** Please stand in body or spirit.*

Hymn Story

My Jesus, I Love Thee

Born and raised in Montreal, Quebec, William Featherston most likely wrote this hymn at the age of sixteen on the occasion of his conversion and/or baptism. It was published anonymously in the *London Hymn Book* to a now forgotten tune. Adoniram Judson Gordon found it, wrote a new tune for it, and also published it anonymously in *The Service of Song for Baptist Churches*. It wasn't until around 1930, fifty years after its publication, that enough research had been done to establish Featherston as the author, who had died at the young age of 28.

Today, it is a much loved hymn of assurance and confession of faith, with words of comfort and peace. And perhaps bolstering the power of the text is Featherstone's story itself. A young man with no connections, who simply wrote a poem one night about his own faith, has, unbeknownst to him, come to bless millions. God certainly works in mysterious ways to use the gifts and talents of his people.

Hymn Story

More Love to Thee

This hymn was written by Elizabeth Payson Prentiss. Elizabeth suffered from poor health most of her life, but showed promise as a writer even as a young girl. She began submitting prose and verse at age 16 to a popular national magazine for young people, and the magazine published several of her submissions. During her lifetime, she wrote five books, one of which became a best-seller.

Elizabeth was the daughter of a clergyman, and she married a Presbyterian clergyman, Dr. George L. Prentiss, pastor of the Mercer Street Presbyterian Church in New York City—and later homiletics professor at Union Theological Seminary.

In 1856, tragedy struck—two of the Prentiss children died of illness. Elizabeth was devastated as she tried to come to grips with her loss—and also her sense of the unfairness that God would allow her children to die. She and her husband talked about it at length, and his encouragement gave her some help—but her grief was profound.

Then one day she felt inspired to write some verse inspired by something that her husband had said in a sermon: “Love can keep the soul from going blind.” She thought that if love could do that, she needed more love. And so she began to write.

She quickly dashed off three verses and part of a fourth verse, and then she stopped. She didn’t do anything with her poem at that time, perhaps feeling that the solace that she received from writing it was enough.

But thirteen years later, she showed her poem to her husband, and he encouraged her to have it printed in leaflet form, which she did—after completing the fourth verse. Even then she distributed the leaflets only to a few of their friends.

But one of the leaflets somehow made its way to William H. Doane, a Cincinnati businessman who wrote gospel songs as an avocation, and also collaborated with Fanny Crosby on a number of songs—Crosby writing the verse and Doane writing the music.

Doane wrote a tune to go with Elizabeth’s verse and included the song in a book of Christian music that he published in 1870. The timing was fortuitous, because the Great Awakening was sweeping across the land, creating quite an interest in Christian music.

Of all the things that Elizabeth wrote, this song is the one that has blessed the most people.

Copyright 2008, [Richard Niell Donovan](#)



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.**

A Note About the Offering: As we have returned to worship as the pandemic has been becoming less and less a threat, we have continued the practice of not passing the offering plates at the time of the offering during our service, thus decreasing the threat of spreading germs. Instead, you are invited to make your contribution in one of four ways: drop it in the offering plate that is located at the narthex door (before worship) and in the narthex (following worship); mail it in to the church; drop it off at the church in person; or, use our quick and secure online giving platform. This can be accessed through our website, or by scanning the QR code on the last page of this bulletin. Thanks for your generosity and cooperation.

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elders: Tina Patterson and Kim Snyder)

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

Bethany Members

Linda Abplanalp

Barbara Cousins

Pat Kennedy

Joyce & Norman Mize

Mike Sutton

Christopher Bagley

Sylvia Donley

Ruby Martin

Nancy Sutton

Katherine Bayliff

Henry Flythe

Laura Mitchell-Ayers

Shelvia Russell

Ida Whitney

Friends of Bethany

Carol Brooks

Bill Faucette

Christy Lutterloh

Diane Miller

Peter Slater

Tiffany Tauchren

Teresa Wilborn

Frank Wrenn

Janie Holt Clapp

Ben Johnson

Gaynell McCollum

Norma Proctor

Alex Thomas

Deborah & Larry

Jack Cook

Grace Johnson

Anne McDaniels

Shannon Russell

Ann Sutton

Randy Thompson

Cindy Uzzo

Don Burenhiede

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) - NOT CURRENTLY MEETING DUE TO COVID

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.

SUPPORT Ministry: (Lead Elders: Chip Allen, Randy Cousins, and Bill Abplanalp)

Elders of the Month for April are **Randy Cousins** and **Chip Allen**.

Anniversaries & Birthdays

- Judy & Darrell Holmes April 7
- Pam & Mark Hurt April 27

- Sandy Russell April 1
- Dusty Kimrey April 8
- Tommy Lane April 12
- April Troxler April 12
- Gerald Donley April 17
- Helen Brown April 22
- Maureen Kelly April 24
- Morgan Troxler April 27

Liturgist

- April 3rd Chip Allen
- April 10th Rick Purcell
- April 17th
- April 24th

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

Fifth Sunday in Lent

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (will return soon)
- 11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Wednesday, April 6th

- 6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, April 10th :- Palm Sunday

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (will return soon)
- 11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Holy Week Calendar:

Thursday, April 14th Maundy Thursday
6:00pm Dinner Church & Fish Fry

Friday, April 15th Good Friday

Sunday, April 17th Easter Sunday & Communion

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love learn serve



Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

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Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp
Helen Brown
Tina Patterson

Class of 2023:

Chip Allen
Randy Cousins
Shelby Smith

Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell
Kim Snyder
Tracey Troxler

Staff

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Jon Phillips – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org

Chaplain: Rick Purcell – chaplain@bethanypreschurch.org

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

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – admin@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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