



Bethany Presbyterian Church

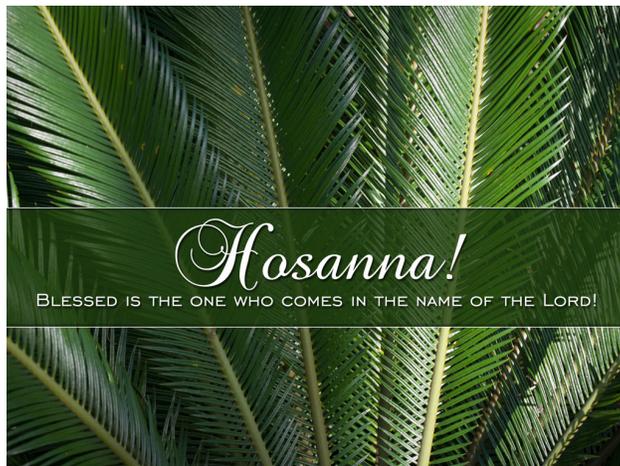
Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

April 5, 2020 – 11:00 am

Palm/Passion Sunday



“Now a large crowd spread their clothes on the road. Others cut palm branches off the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds in front of him and behind him shouted, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!’”
Matthew 21:8-9 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

“Awake to the day of triumph for our Savior! Give thanks for this day that leads to the cross! Come with your branches, hosannas, and songs! Fill the air with welcome to the Lord! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.” - Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Year A

PRELUDE

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.)

* CALL TO WORSHIP

The way has been prepared.

For the crowds it is the way of celebration.

For Jesus it is the way of completion

Amid shouts and waving palm branches, he comes into the Holy City.

Open your hearts this day to receive the Savior.

We open wide our hearts and spirits to receive Jesus the Christ.

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

REST

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 21:1-11

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1199

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Today Jesus enters Jerusalem as a king.

But soon shouts of “Hosanna!” will turn to cries of “Crucify!”

Like the crowds of long ago, we are fickle followers.

But God is faithful.

Suffering God, the way of the cross is a hard road.

It is draining. It is demanding. It is fraught with danger.

You ask us to stay by your side as you walk toward Calvary. But weariness and fear overtake us. Like the first disciples, we are quick

to betray you, to deny you, to abandon you.

Forgive us, God, and strengthen us for the journey ahead. Give us courage to face the pain and suffering of this world and to respond with compassion. As the darkness gathers,

renew our faith, fill us with hope, and startle us with your grace.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD’S GRACE

The One we greet with shouts of “Hosanna,” does, indeed, come to save us from sin and death—not with military might, but with the power of love.

O give thanks to the Lord, who is good! God’s steadfast love endures forever! Amen.

* SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

ADAPTED FROM THE CONFESSION OF 1967 (PCUSA BOOK OF CONFESSIONS)

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.

With the whole church, let us say what we believe.

God’s reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery which the Scriptures describe in various ways. It is called the sacrifice of a lamb, a shepherd’s life given for his sheep, atonement by a priest; again it is ransom of a slave, payment of debt, vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty, and victory over the powers of evil. These are expressions of a truth which remains beyond the reach of all theory in the depths of God’s love for humankind. They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement of God’s reconciling work. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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 PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *Who Is This?*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

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

PASSION CHORALE

* **SENDING**

We do not know what the future will hold for us,
but we are assured that whatever happens, God is with us!

Follow Jesus boldly to the cross and beyond.

For God's promises are good and true.

You are beloved.

We go in peace.

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**



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).

Obviously, due to the ongoing health crisis surrounding the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, we are not worshipping in person at this point in time, but rather gathering virtually using the Zoom meeting platform. Each week the congregation will be emailed a link by which everyone can join the meeting using their computer, laptop, smartphone, or tablet. John will lead worship in this manner, and congregants are invited to participate as they are able. For those who are unable to connect via Zoom, we are also hoping to be on Facebook Live as well. We are still trying to work out some glitches in that.

For those unable to get the link via email, it will also be on our Facebook page, and on our website.

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 will be available on our Facebook page and on our website.

This **Thursday, April 9th**, we will gather virtually on Zoom for our annual **Maundy Thursday Communion Service**. The PC(USA) has authorized churches to celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper virtually. As we gather on Thursday evening, please have handy bread or some other element to symbolize the body, and a drink to represent the cup.

Resources used in today's worship:

- *Feasting on the Word* worship resources
- *Ministry Matters* website (www.ministrymatters.com)

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
Teresa Wilborn
Tiffany Tauchren

Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Joey Leake
Shannon Russell
Mary Moore

John & Ann Sutton
Ruby Martin
Shirley Lane
Ida Whitney
Katherine Turner

Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Katherine Bayliff
Randy Thompson
Frederica Beatty
Christopher Bagley
Family of Harry Smith

Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Pete Campbell
Ben Johnson
Alex Thomas
Glenn Thompson
Carol Brooks
Lou Crutchfield

Jeremy Harden
Anne McDaniels
Mike Sutton
Steward Dillard
Shelvia Russell
Family of Foy Bayliff
Ritchie Fishburne
Janie Holt Clapp
Robert Sykes
Jean Payne

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

Our **Lenten Study *The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life*** continues each Monday evening during Lent at 7:00 via a Zoom meeting. Call John to get the link.

SUPPORT Ministry: (Lead Elders: Chip Allen, Ben Russell, and Bill Abplanalp)

Elders of the Month for March are **Chip Allen** and **Tina Patterson**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- **Palm/Passion Sunday**
- 11:00 – Worship on Zoom

Monday, the 6th:

- 7:00 - Lenten Study Series, *The Walk*

Thursday, the 9th:

- Maundy Thursday Communion Service (via Zoom)

Sunday, the 12th:

- **Easter Sunday**
- 11:00 - Worship on Zoom

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Karen Maxwell

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2020:

Chip Allen
Randy Cousins
Karen Maxwell

Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell
Ben Russell
Tracey Troxler

Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp
Helen Brown
Tina Patterson

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love learn serve



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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

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Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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