



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

[www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org)

[www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian)

April 5, 2026 – 11:00 am

*Easter Sunday*

Communion



## 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:** *Easter Medley – Easter Hymn, Christ Arose*

ARR. BY LENNY SEIDEL

### WELCOME

**\*OPENING HYMN #123:** *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

LYRA DAVIDICA

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!  
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!  
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!  
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!  
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!  
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!  
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!  
Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
Praise eternal as God's love; Alleluia!  
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING SENTENCES

(FROM HYMN #248 GLORY TO GOD," CHRIST IS RISEN! SHOUT HOSANNA!")

Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

***Hosanna! Hosanna!***

Celebrate this day of days!

***Hosanna! Hosanna!***

Let all creation be amazed!

***Hosanna! Hosanna! Christ is Risen!***

## GATHERING PRAYER

(JOHN 20, ACTS 10)

God of mystery and might, on a dawn shrouded in grief and pain, you surprise us with the light of your wondrous love. We come to the tomb expecting death, but find life instead.

Take us back to that moment, when fear was healed by hope and death was banished by life.

In the holy awe of Easter morning, may our sing out our joy, for Christ, our Lord, has risen today! Amen.

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP)

***This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.***

***We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.***

***Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.***

### \*HYMN OF THE DAY #122: *Thine Is the Glory*

EDMOND BUDRY

Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son;  
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment Rolled the stone away,  
Kept the folded grave clothes Where Thy body lay.

Lo! Jesus meets us, Risen from the tomb;  
Lovingly He greets us, Scatters fear and gloom.  
Let the church with gladness Hymns of triumph sing,  
For the Lord now liveth; Death hath lost its sting.

No more we doubt Thee, Glorious Prince of life!  
Life is naught without Thee; Aid us in our strife.  
Make us more than conquerors Through Thy deathless love;  
Bring us safe through Jordan To Thy home above.

Thine is the glory,  
Risen, conquering Son;  
Endless is the victory  
Thou o'er death hast won.

## TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

*Savior God, forgive our life-alienating ways, our exclusion and judgment of others; the way we evaluate and compare. Forgive our death-dealing sins, our habits that demean and degrade, our addiction to violent and destructive behavior. Redeem us. Restore us. Resurrect us for life in Christ. Amen.*

## AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

(HYMN #232 GLORY TO GOD, "JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY")

"Jesus Christ is risen today. But the pains which he endured, our salvation have procured."  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia. Amen.

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Divine Redeemer, bearer of life, open us to the wisdom of your Word today and enlighten us with your truth. Liberate us from all that distracts and turns us from your path. Guide us and ground us in Christ's everlasting hope. Amen.

### ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

**PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24**

PEW BIBLE, 758

**JOHN 20:1-18**

PEW BIBLE, 1320

The Word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

**THE WORD IN MUSIC:** *Easter Song*

ANNE HERRING

### THE WORD PROCLAIMED

**Sermon:** *"He Is Risen"*

RICK PURCELL, CRE

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

*We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper today by inviting everyone who wants to participate up front to receive the bread and cup (we use gluten free bread and grape juice). If you are more comfortable remaining seated but would like to participate, raise your hand and we will come to your seat to serve you. We believe that Jesus invites everyone forward to his table to "taste and see," and so we proclaim that all are welcome to participate.*

### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

#### 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.*

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE**

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
*Thanks be to God.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**AN OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS**

**OFFERTORY** *Jesus Took the Cup* (The Choir)

HAL HOPSON

**\*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**

**\*RECESSIONAL HYMN #118:** *The Day of Resurrection*

ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS

*We will follow the choir as we sing and process out to the front lawn for our flowering of the cross  
and a time of fellowship.*

*Happy Easter!*

The day of resurrection!  
Earth, tell it out abroad;  
The Passover of gladness,  
The Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal,  
From this world unto the sky,  
Our Christ hath brought us over  
With hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil,  
That we may see aright  
The Lord in rays eternal  
Of resurrection light;  
And listening to His accents,  
May hear, so calm and plain,  
His own "All hail!" and, hearing,  
May raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful,  
Let earth the song begin,  
Let the round world keep triumph,  
And all that is therein;  
Let all things seen and unseen  
Their notes of gladness blend,  
For Christ the Lord is risen,  
Our joy that hath no end.

**\*SENDING AROUND THE CROSS**

Celebrate this day of days! Rejoice in God, your Savior!  
Know the new life gifted through Jesus Christ! Shout your Alleluia's for all to hear!  
May the grace, hope, peace and love of God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be with us all,  
now and forever. Amen.

*\* 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 7<sup>th</sup> 10:30am The Women of Bethany Church Gathering**

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. in the Evie C. Marshall classroom.

**Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> Scout Troop 9 Clothing Drive**

Clean out your closets for Spring cleaning. Donate all your not needed clothing, shoes, and small household appliances. Drop off is Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am – 12:00pm at the Bethany Presbyterian Church parking lot. This is a great way to support your Spring cleaning and help the less fortunate members of our community.

### **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 April**? They are asking for **Soup, and Peanut Butter and Jelly**

S.A.F.E. will be closed the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the Month.  
Consider donating your paper bags.

## This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> - Easter Sunday – Communion, Pennies for Hunger

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

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

Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>

10:00 – Exercise class

7:00 pm – Choir Practice

Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

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

# bethany presbyterian

worship serve teach support



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### Staff

**Pastor/CRE:** Rick Purcell – [pastor4bethany@gmail.com](mailto:pastor4bethany@gmail.com)

**Director of Music:** – [bethanypresmusic@gmail.com](mailto:bethanypresmusic@gmail.com)

**Office Administrator:** Joy Saleeby – [office@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:office@bethanypreschurch.org)

**Bookkeeper:** Pam Hurt – [finance@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:finance@bethanypreschurch.org)

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