



Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

April 6, 2025 – 11:00 am
Fifth Sunday in Lent & 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: *Cross of Sorrow*

ESTHER S. HIGGINS

WELCOME

***PROCESSIONAL #485:** *To God Be the Glory*

FANNY JANE CROSBY

To God be the glory, great things He hath done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory: great things He hath done.

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. [Refrain]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

(PSALM 126)

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dreamed.
Our mouths were filled with laughter,
our tongues with songs of joy.
It was said among the nations,
The Lord has done great things for them.
The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.

GATHERING PRAYER

God of Love, you know our lives inside and out—the times of joy and laughter, and the times of loss and pain. You accompanied our ancestors of faith into exile and then journeyed with them back to the Promised Land. Jesus our sibling, you wept at the grave of Lazarus and then you celebrated at the dinner table with your resurrected friend. Be with us in time of plenty and times of want, and let us rejoice in your presence, for you see us and care for us. In the name of the Embracing Spirit, we pray. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

*HYMN OF THE DAY #92: *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

ELIZABETH CECILIA CLEPHANE

Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty rock
Within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness,
A rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat,
And the burden of the day.

Upon that cross of Jesus
Mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of One
Who suffered there for me;
And from my stricken heart with tears
Two wonders I confess:
The wonders of redeeming love
And my unworthiness.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

We come to confession like a wooden boat. We are weathered by storms of our own making; we are splintered and cracked, taking on water. God meets us in our confession as an expert carpenter: sanding, repairing, repainting, again and again, until we are restored. Trusting in God's great love for us, let us join in our confession together, let us pray:

*Ever-Present God, you offer us restoration and wholeness, yet we resist you.
We reduce the purpose of this life to the amount of stuff we can retain,
and we disregard the damage done to our planet, our neighbors, and to ourselves in the process.
We confess that we would rather remain as we are than risk the change that results from your
presence in our lives.
In this season of Lent, help us to realize just how much we depend on one another.
Guide us to reorient our lives towards your goodness and your joy.
And as you do, we ask that you renew us, restore us, and remain with us, as you always have.*

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

The Lord has done great things for us. Through the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ, we are renewed, and we are made whole. Beloved children of God, know that you are forgiven, and be at peace. Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, just as you spoke at the dawn of creation, continue to speak to us now as we prepare to encounter your Word. Be with us in our listening, in our speaking, in our understanding, and in our responding. Amen.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

JOHN 12:1-8

PEW BIBLE, 1308

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked*

GEOFFREY O'HARA/DANIEL TWOHIG

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Being With The Poor"*

REV. FRANK DEW

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

***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 :** *O How He Loves You and Me*

KURT KAISER

O how He loves you and me!
O how He loves you and me!
He gave His life; what more could He give?
O how He loves you; O how He loves me;
O how He loves you and me!

Jesus to Calv'ry did go,
His love for sinners to show.
What He did there bro't hope from despair.
O how He loves you; O how He loves me;
O how He loves you and me!

O how He loves you and me!
O how He loves you and me!
He gave His life; what more could He give?
O how He loves you; O how He loves me;
O how He loves you and me!

*SENDING

Remember, as our time of worship draws to a close and our lives of service begin anew,
go out into the world in peace.
Return no one evil for evil.
Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, love everyone.
That God's light and love, justice, and joy, might be for you and all people everywhere.
Amen.

POSTLUDE: *Nothing But the Blood*

TOM BIRCHWOOD/ROBERT LOWRY

** 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 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

Sunday, April 13th 11am - Palm Sunday Service – Sanctuary

Thursday, April 17th Maundy Thursday - Sanctuary

Sunday, April 20th 11am Easter Sunday - Sanctuary

Our Easter celebration. Celebrate Jesus’ resurrection with us!

Tuesday, May 6th 10:30am The Women of Bethany Church Gathering

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, May 6th at 10:30am in the Evie C. Marshall classroom.

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 months of **April and May?** They are asking for **Breakfast items (Cereals, Granola Bars, Oatmeal, Breakfast Bars), Grape Jelly, Mac & Cheese, Pasta and Pasta Sauce and Green Beans.**

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, 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)

Tuesday, April 8th

- Easter Jubilee Trip
Leave church 9:30am
- 7:00pm Session Meeting

Wednesday, April 9th

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, April 13th – Palm Sunday

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

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

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love learn serve



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 – office@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

Scan this QR code for fast, safe, and reliable online giving:



Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Community

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