



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypresbyterian.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

April 9, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.

Passion / Palm Sunday



“As Jesus approached the road leading down from the Mount of Olives, the whole throng of his disciples began rejoicing. They praised God with a loud voice because of all the mighty things they had seen.

Luke 19:37 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Hosanna, King, blessed are you, our king, who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven! Even if our voices were silenced, creation itself would rise up to praise you! Hosanna in the Highest! Amen.

PRELUDE: *Palm Sunday Processional*

GENE CLARKE

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:** *Filled with Excitement* (see insert)

RUBEN RUIZ AVILA

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Honor.

Honor and praise.

Honor, praise, and glory.

Honor, praise, and glory are yours Almighty God, now and forever.

In celebration, we join the crowds of old,

waving branches, giving honor to the Messiah.

Yet, our celebration is bittersweet, for our story doesn't end here.

We know the pain of what lies ahead.

Today anticipates the rest of the story —

a story of betrayal and death, a story of hope and resurrection.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

*** HYMN OF PRAISE #88:** *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

Lord of abundant pardon and mercy, be with us this day as we parade through the Jerusalem gates, wanting the reign of God to be established immediately in the hearts of all people. Make us aware that fear and anger are powerful motivators for evil. Open our hearts to the words of Jesus, that we might find courage and healing for all our burdens.

Lord, we confess that we would rather have a nice parade, with banners waving and people cheering than to face the suspicious eyes of the fearful people. We want them to believe in Jesus right away and to walk away from the path to the cross. But it could not be so.

Jesus walked straight into the path of destructive fear and faced it with his life. From his table of compassion and from the cross he offered healing words of love and hope.

As we continue our Lenten journey, forgive us, we pray, for our eagerness to leave the scenes of hurt, anger, and hostility and to march into the bright sunlight that will be Easter. Give our souls healing so that Easter may truly shine through us.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Though we are a fickle people, God loves and redeems us through Jesus Christ. Feel the power of redeeming love.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

*** RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #404:** *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

PRECIOUS LORD

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand;

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light;

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

*** 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 #89:** *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

ELLACOMBE

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

CORONATION / ARR. T. BIRCHWOOD

* **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: *Joy in the Morning*

NATALIE SLEETH

Joy, there'll be joy. There'll be joy, joy, joy, joy, joy.

There'll be joy in the morning on that day. There'll be joy in the morning on that day.

For the daylight will dawn when the darkness is gone. There'll be joy in the morning on that day.

There'll be peace and contentment evermore.

There'll be peace and contentment on the earth once more.

Every heart, every voice will together rejoice.

There'll be peace and contentment evermore.

And the glory, glory, glory of the Lord will shine.

And the glory, glory, glory of the Lord will bring the truth divine.

There'll be love and forgiveness everywhere. There'll be love and forgiveness everywhere.

And the way of the Lord will that day be restored. There'll be love, sweet love everywhere.

*And the glory, glory, glory of the Lord will shine.
And the glory, glory, glory of the Lord will bring the truth divine.
There'll be love and forgiveness.
There'll be peace and contentment.
There'll be joy, joy, joy, joy...JOY!*

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG (@ HEART)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *Lord, We Hear Your Word with Gladness*

BEACH SPRING

*Lord, we hear your Word with gladness: you have spoken – we rejoice:
Words of love and life and freedom – help us make their truth our choice!
Now in holy celebration for your Word we worship you;
Spoken, written, known in Jesus, ours today to prove anew.*

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 19:29-44

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1278

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON: *PALM BRANCHES AND RED CARPETS*

REV. JOHNSON

LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

* DEDICATION OF THE PALMS

"Many people spread out their clothes on the road while others spread branches cut from the fields." (Mark 11:8)

Our Lord enters Jerusalem one final time. The crowds were joyous and shouted "Hosanna"!

We wave our palm branches to remember this celebration and to shout our Hosannas!

But our joy quickly turns to grief, as we remember the passion with the palms.

(During our closing hymn, you are invited to bring your palm branches forward and place them on the communion table. These branches will be saved and will be burned so that the ashes can be used at next year's Ash Wednesday Service.)

* **CLOSING HYMN:** *A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd* (see insert)

THOMAS TROEGER

* LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY: LETTING GO OF CONTROL

Faith enables us to let go and to live out of control. When we learn to depend on God, we learn how to let go of control.

Palm Sunday and the events of Holy Week were not what the people hoped for or imagined when they dreamed of a Messiah.

Christ is doing a new thing among us, so lay down your cloaks, shout hosanna, and risk following Christ all the way to the cross. As we extinguish this light, we let go of control. We let go of our assumptions, our own plans, our hopes, so that we can see Christ in our midst, transforming the world.

[A candle is extinguished.]

Holy One, as we enter the coming days of darkness, remind us that you are the one who calls new life out of death, light out of darkness. Give us the strength to follow you to the cross. Amen.

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* **POSTLUDE:** *Ride On In Majesty*

J. DYKES / ARR. D. PAXTON

* *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 **Brandon Troxler**. 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:

- *Ministry Matters* website (www.ministrymatters.org)
- *Call to Worship* resource (PCUSA publication)
- Narrative Lectionary website (www.workingpreacher.org)

We welcome to Bethany this morning guest musicians, **trumpeters Jay Meachum and Rusty Smith**.

You should have received a palm upon entering the sanctuary this morning, in our observance and celebration of **Palm Sunday**. Please join in waving your palms during our Gathering Hymn. Also, please note the **Dedication of the Palms** at the end of the service. You may bring your palms to the communion table during the final hymn. They will be kept and burned, so the ashes may be used for next year's Ash Wednesday service.

As has been the case throughout Lent, 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 control.

Please make note of our upcoming observances during Holy Week and beyond:

- **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
- **Sunday, April 23rd:** Our choir will present Part II of Handel's *Messiah*, as part of our morning worship

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: **Staff of Salem Presbytery; St. James Presbyterian, Greensboro; Fairmont Presbyterian, Lexington; Wentworth Presbyterian, Reidsville.** 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 looking at the *Nooma* video series, created by author Rob Bell.

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:

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

Monday, the 10th:

- 10:00 – Circle #1
- 7:00 – Circle #3

Tuesday, the 11th:

- 7:00 – Session Meeting

Wednesday, the 12th:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 16th:

- **EASTER SUNDAY**
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Rick Purcell

Treasurer: Ron Osborne

Class of 2017:

Ron Kimrey
Karen Maxwell
Sherrie Moore

Class of 2018:

Glenn Patterson
Nancy Purcell
Brandon Troxler

Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell
Ron Osborne
Jean Payne

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



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