



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

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

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

April 11, 2021 – 11:00 am

*Second Sunday of Easter*



*“Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up a mountain.  
He sat down and his disciples came to him. He taught them, saying:  
‘Happy are people who are hopeless, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.’”  
Matthew 5:1-3 (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.*

### TRINITY CHIMES

**PRELUDE:** *There is a Fountain*

GARY DAVIDSON

### 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 a socially-distanced peace of Christ with your neighbor.)*

\* **GATHERING SONG #121:** *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright*

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

*That Easter day with joy was bright, the sun shone out with fairer light,  
When, to their longing eyes restored, the apostles saw their risen Lord.*

*O Jesus, King of gentleness, do all our inmost hearts possess,  
And we to You will ever raise the tribute of our grateful praise.*

*From every weapon death can wield, your own redeemed forever shield;  
O Lord of all, with us abide in this our joyful Eastertide.*

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Word of life spoke:

***reminding us not to be afraid.***

The Word of life reached out:

***to touch us in moments we are almost overwhelmed with uncertainty.***

The Word of life walked out of death's dread tomb:

***through the days in which we live, so we might walk with hope***

**\* OPENING HYMN #119: *The Strife is O'er***

VICTORY

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*The strife is o'er, the battle done, the victory of life is won;*

*The song of triumph has begun. Alleluia!*

*The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their legions hath dispersed:*

*Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!*

*The three sad days are quickly sped, Christ rises glorious from the dead:*

*All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!*

*Lord, by Your wounds on Calvary from death's dread sting Your servants free,*

*That we may live eternally. Alleluia!*

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

### A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

**MATTHEW 5:1-11 (CEB)**

Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

***Thanks be to God.***

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1173

#### AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Lord of Resurrection surprises, open our hearts this day to the presence of Jesus Christ. Erase our excuses for unbelief, and exchange them for strong witness to the power of your mercy and love. Give us courage and challenge us to walk the path of discipleship, knowing that Jesus goes before us, leading and guiding our steps.

***Patient Lord, you wait for us to understand. You wait for us to remove the blinders of prejudice, fear, unbelief, confusion. You have offered to us the greatest miracle of all time, the resurrection of Your Son Jesus Christ.***

We sang and celebrated last Sunday, but a week has passed and we have slid back into our old ways of perceiving your presence and love.

***Shake us up, Lord! Shake us up and cause us to look with new eyes on our Savior, who came that we might have life, abundantly serving all who are in need. Forgive our stubbornness and our complacency. Reach out to us so that we may reach out with healing love to others.***

#### AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

#### AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Let the stone of ignorance, stubbornness and fear be rolled away from your heart. Celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ! Know that his love is poured out for all of us, for our healing. Be at peace and Rejoice!

***Amen.***

**\* RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE: *Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!***

TRADITIONAL

*Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burden down. (Repeat)*

*I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burden down. (Repeat)*

*Feel like shouting, "Hallelujah!" since I laid my burden down. (Repeat)*

**\* SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE**

EXCERPTED FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

As the people of God gathered in these places, 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. 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.***

**AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES**

**\* A DOXOLOGY:**

BEACH SPRING

*God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,  
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:  
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;  
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.*

**\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**\* HYMN OF THE DAY #316: *Breathe on Me, Breath of God***

TRENTHAM

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew,  
That I may love what Thou dost love, and do what Thou wouldst do.  
Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,  
Until with Thee I will one will, to do and to endure.  
Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly Thine,  
Until this earthly part of me glows with Thy fire divine.  
Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,  
But live with Thee the perfect life of Thine eternity.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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: *Rise Again***

DALLAS HOLM

GLENN PATTERSON, SOLOIST

**THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

Sermon: ***You Are Blessed: The Poor in Spirit***

REV. JOHNSON

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

**\* CLOSING HYMN #315: *Every Time I Feel the Spirit***

PENTECOST

*Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.  
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.*

*Upon the mountain, when my Lord spoke, out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.  
Looked all around me, it looked so fine, till I asked my Lord if all was mine. (Refrain)*

*Jordan river, chilly and cold, it chills the body but not the soul.  
There is but one train upon this track; it runs to heaven and then right back. (Refrain)*

**\* SENDING**

Let us go forth, walking in the light of God.

***We go to share the good news of life to a world which struggles with a pandemic.***

Let us go forth, serving in the light of Christ.

***We go to unlock the doors of fear, to bring hope to all in the shadows.***

Let us go forth, living in the light of the Spirit.

***We go to share healing with the broken, to be a community to the lonely.***

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\* POSTLUDE:** *Day of Victory*

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*\* Please stand in body or spirit.*



# 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](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org); on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](http://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.**

**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](http://www.buzzsprout.com/9198). A **Video Recording** of our Zoom Worship and our YouTube Live stream will be available on our Facebook page and on our website.

Resources used in today’s worship:

- *Feasting on the Word* Commentary
- *The New Daily Study Bible Series* Commentary
- *Ministry Matters* online resource ([www.ministrymatters.com](http://www.ministrymatters.com))
- *Presbyterian Outlook* Liturgical Resources
- *The Text This Week* website ([www.textweek.com](http://www.textweek.com))

We rejoice that we can now worship together in our beautiful sanctuary! Here are some guidelines to follow to ensure the health and safety of our congregation:

- **Masks must be worn at all times.**
- Please do not sit in any pews that have been blocked off. This is to make sure that social-distancing guidelines are being followed.
- Bulletins are available at the doors. They will not be distributed but you may pick one up as you wish.
- The offering will not be collected but offering plates are available in the narthex. You may place your offering in the plates on your way out, or you may follow the QR code below to give online.
- Please refrain from physical interaction during our “meet and greet” time. Waves and virtual hugs are our new normal - at least for awhile!
- Although we normally encourage singing hymns with gusto, that might not be the wisest thing to do right now. Either sing softly through your mask, or hum.
- John will be at the door to greet following the service, but will not shake hands or hug . . . just an elbow bump and the knowledge that he’s smiling beneath the mask!

As we enter this Eastertide, this morning John will begin a new six-week Sermon Series focusing on The Beatitudes in the fifth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. Here are the themes for the series:

- **Today: You Are Blessed: The Poor in Spirit**
- April 18th: *You Are Blessed: The Mourners and the Meek*
- April 25th: *You Are Blessed: A Hunger for Righteousness*
- May 2nd: *You Are Blessed: A Child of God*
- May 9th: *You Are Blessed: Persecuted*
- May 16th: *You Are Blessed: Rejoice and Be Glad!*

**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	Diane Miller	John & Ann Sutton
Jack Cook	Peter Slater	Ruby Martin
Joan Richardson	Joey Leake	Teresa Wilborn
Shannon Russell	Ida Whitney	Tiffany Tauchren
Katherine Turner	Jean Berry	Barbara Cousins
Jeremy Harden	Christy Lutterloh	Pat Kennedy
Anne McDaniels	Eleanor Thompson	Mike Sutton
Alex Thomas	Nancy Sutton	Ritchie Fishburne
Stewart Dillard	Norma Proctor	Ben Johnson
Shelvia Russell	Christopher Bagley	Grace Johnson
Carol Brooks	Randy Thompson	Frank Wrenn
Janie Holt Clapp	Penny Rice (sister of Carolyn Thompson)	Sylvia Donley
	Joyce & Norman Mize	

**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)

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.

We are looking forward to a new **Spring Bible Study**, welcoming back our guest leader and teacher **Dr. Donald Griggs** who recently led our wonderful study of the Gospel of Luke. Don has offered to continue with another study, looking at the book of Acts. Join us virtually on Zoom, and in person, as we begin this 7-week course tomorrow, **Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**. It's not too late to sign up. Just speak to John after the service.

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

Elders of the Month for April are **Randy Cousins** and **Tina Patterson**.

**The Session** is reminded of their regular monthly stated meeting **this Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00** here at the church or via Zoom.

## This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (as scheduled)
- 11:00 – Worship

Monday, the 12<sup>th</sup>:

- 7:00 – Spring Bible Study

Tuesday, the 13<sup>th</sup>:

- 7:00 - Session Meeting

Sunday, the 18<sup>th</sup>:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (as scheduled)
- 11:00 – Worship

### Session

**Moderator:** Rev. John W. Johnson

**Clerk:** Randy Cousins

**Treasurer:** Glenn Patterson

### Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell

Ben Russell

Tracey Troxler

### Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp

Helen Brown

Tina Patterson

### Class of 2023:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Shelby Smith

# bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



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### Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – [pastor@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@bethanypreschurch.org)

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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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*Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation*

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