



Bethany Presbyterian Church

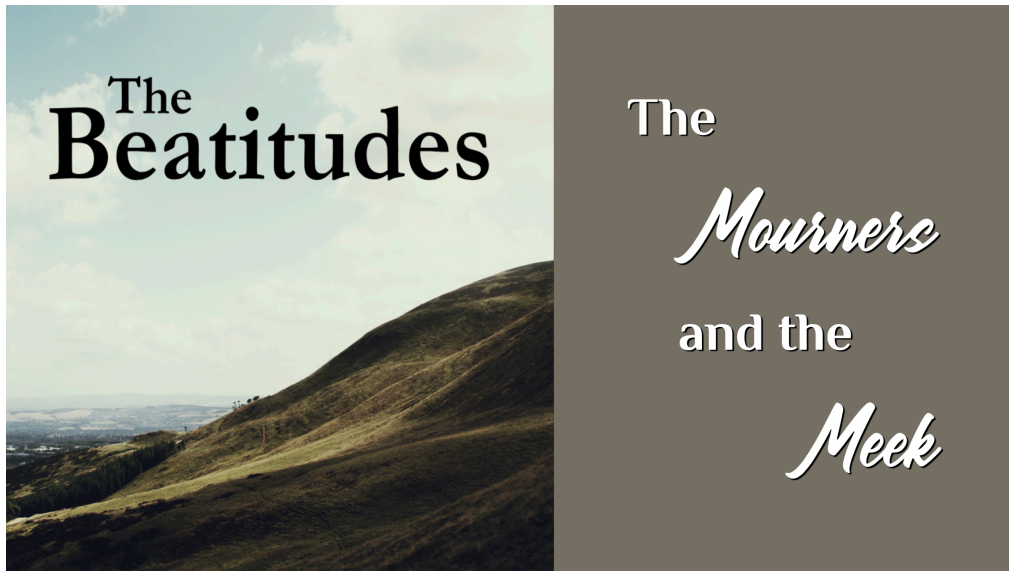
Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

April 18, 2021 – 11:00 am

Third Sunday of Easter



*“When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.’”
Matthew 5:1-3, 4-5 (NRSV)*

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: *In Peaceful Rest*

THEODORE DUBOIS / ARR. L. SMITH

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:** *God Is Calling Through the Whisper*

W ZLOBIE LEZY

*God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit’s deepest sighs,
through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise.
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder; hush of stillness, rush of wonder:
God is calling—can you hear? God is calling—can you hear?*

*God is calling through the voices of our neighbors' urgent prayers,
through their longing for redemption and for rescue from despair.
Place of hurt or face of needing; strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling—can you hear? God is calling—can you hear?
God is calling through the music of sublime and human arts,
through the hymns of earth and angels, and the carols of our hearts.
Lift of joy and gift of singing; days and nights our praises bringing:
God is calling—and we hear! God is calling—and we hear!*

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

When fear and doubts stroll through our doors:

God stands beside us, whispering of peace.

When we toss and turn late at night:

God sits by our beds, singing lullabies of love.

When we stumble through the shadows of sin:

God illuminates the paths of goodness and joy.

*** OPENING HYMN #357: O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee**

MARYTON

*O Master, let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.*

*Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.*

*Teach me thy patience, still with thee in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong.*

*In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way;
in peace that only thou canst give, with thee, O Master, let me live.*

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 5:1-11 (NRSV)

Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1173

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

When we are blinded by anger, you pour out your love for all to see; when we wonder what tomorrow will bring, you call us to trust in you; when sadness fills our hearts, you plant gladness in our hearts. God of Easter: touch us with your grace.

You show us your hands, so we may reach out to mend the broken; you show us your feet, so we may walk with those the world passes by; you show us your face, so we may know who our sisters and brothers look like. Risen Christ: touch us with your compassion.

You open our eyes, so we may see God's love; you open our minds, so we may welcome God's Word; you open our lips, so we may be God's witnesses. Spirit of Hope: touch us with your peace.

God in Community, Holy in One, open us to your presence.

If our actions mirrored our words, if our hands were mentored by our hearts, if we walked the talk we would be God's children. But too often, it is our silence, our doubts, our fears which tell others who we truly are. Let us confess to God how we have not been as faithful as we hope.

God of empty tombs: Peter speaks with power and clarity of his faith, while we remain silent. The psalmist speaks of trusting in you, while our doubts overwhelm us. Jesus is ready to come and grace us with peace, but our fears keep our hearts shuttered and locked.

God of full hearts: your love can change us from scared people to children of grace. You can weed doubts from our hearts and plant seeds of joy in their place. You can silence the panic of our souls with the peace Jesus offers to each of us. Transform us into Easter people, through the power of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Savior.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

What marvelous love, what wondrous grace, what abundant mercy God offers - to us! We really are God's people - that is exactly who we are!

We are God's children - those whose lives have been changed by the One who loves us and forgives us. Thanks be to God! 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 #171: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

ST. COLUMBA

*The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.*

*Where streams of living water flow my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.*

*Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.*

*In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.*

*Thou spread'st a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!*

*And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.*

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: *Because He Lives*

WILLIAM GAITHER / ARR. F. BOCK

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *You Are Blessed: The Mourners and the Meek*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN #387: *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

BRADBURY

*Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need Thy tender care.
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us; for our use Thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us: Thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us: Thine we are.
Thou hast promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse, and power to free:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to Thee;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to Thee.
Early let us seek Thy favor; Early let us do Thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, With Thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast love us, love us still.*

* SENDING

Go now, to be God's children in the world.

We will open our minds to understand the needs around us.

Go now, to be Christ's servants in the world.

We will open our hands to share our blessings with all.

Go now, to be the Spirit's hope for the world.

We will open our hearts to welcome those who have no one to care for them.

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE: *Rise and Rejoice*

FRANKLIN RITTER

* *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; on Facebook at 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. 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)
- *Presbyterian Outlook* Liturgical Resources
- *The Text This Week* website (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 worship in this Eastertide, John will offer 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:

- April 11th: *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
Linda Abplanalp		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.

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

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

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Monday, the 19th:

- 7:00 – Spring Bible Study

Wednesday, the 21st:

- 7:00 – Bethany Stream Team

Sunday, the 25th:

- 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



1500 S. Main Street
Graham, NC 27215

www.bethanypreschurch.org
336.227.4041

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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