



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

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

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April 19, 2026 – 11:00 am

*Third Sunday of Easter*



A road to Emmaus

## 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:** *Prelude on VILLE DU HAVRE*

ARR. BY RIZZOTTO

### WELCOME

**\*OPENING HYMN #108:** *Christ Is Alive*

BRIAN WREN

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound  
To distant years in Palestine,  
But saving, healing, here and now,  
And touching every place and time.

Not throned afar, remotely high,  
Untouched, unmoved by human pains,  
But daily, in the midst of life,  
Our Savior in the Godhead reigns.

In every insult, rift and war,  
Where color, scorn or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
And lives, where even hope has died.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
Good news to this and every age,  
Till earth and sky and ocean ring  
With joy, with justice, love and praise.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING SENTENCES

(FROM PSALM 116)

I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.

***I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people,***  
in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem.  
***Praise the Lord!***

## GATHERING PRAYER

(LUKE 24)

Lover of our souls, you meet us on the road of life and lift us from our pain and grief.  
Heal our hardness of heart, and open our minds to the subtleness of your ways and the grandeur of your kingdom.  
During times of suffering and doubt, help us grow strong and true, through your enduring word.  
Reveal your presence to us, as we show hospitality to strangers and break bread in your name. Amen.

# OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

## \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(THE CONFESSION OF BELHAR)

***We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain. That this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted.***

## \*HYMN OF THE DAY #383: *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

RAY PALMER

My faith looks up to Thee,  
Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine:  
Now hear me while I pray,  
Take all my guilt away,  
O let me from this day  
Be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart  
Strength to my fainting heart,  
My zeal inspire;  
As Thou hast died for me,

O may my love to Thee  
Pure warm, and changeless be,  
A living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread,  
And griefs around me spread,  
Be Thou my guide;  
Bid darkness turn to day,  
Wipe sorrow's tears away,  
Nor let me ever stray  
From Thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream,  
When death's cold sullen stream  
Shall o'er me roll.  
Blest Savior, then, in love,  
Fear and distrust remove;  
O bear me safe above,  
A ransomed soul!

#### TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

*Merciful God, even as we proclaim the saving life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we fail to see the living Christ in our midst. We find ourselves preoccupied with our own well-being and success, forgetting your imperative to love our neighbor as ourselves. We turn away from systems that challenge our way of thinking, choosing to justify our actions instead of examining our intentions. Show us again how to live a resurrection faith, a faith that sees life and hope in the midst of death and destruction. Transform our hearts so that where they are hardened toward you, neighbor and self, they may once again be filled with love and moved to actions of grace and mercy. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.*

#### AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

In Acts 2:39, Peter says: "For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." Receive the good news, Children of God, you are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

#### A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Creator, reveal yourself to us in the reading and proclamation of your Word. Give us ears to hear your voice, eyes that see you among us, and hearts that are willing to follow where you lead. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.

#### ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

**PSALM 116:1-4, 12-19**

PEW BIBLE, 757

**LUKE 24:13-35**

PEW BIBLE, 1287

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

**THE WORD IN MUSIC:** *Blessed Assurance*

RUTH SCHRAM

#### THE WORD PROCLAIMED

**Sermon:** *"Who Are You Walking With?"*

RICK PURCELL, CRE

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**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.*

**AN OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS**

**OFFERTORY:** *Farther Along*

TRADITIONAL

**\*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**

**\*CLOSING HYMN # 324:** *Open My Eyes That I May See*

CLARA H. SCOTT

Open my eyes, that I may see  
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;  
Place in my hands the wonderful key  
That shall unclasp and set me free.

**Refrain:**

Silently now I wait for Thee,  
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;  
Open my eyes (ears, heart), illumine me,  
Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear  
Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;  
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,  
Everything false will disappear. **(Refrain)**

Open my mouth, and let me bear,  
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
Open my heart and let me prepare  
Love with Thy children thus to share. **(Refrain)**

**\*SENDING**

May you be embraced by the relational nature of our faith.  
May you hear the truth of God's love that binds us as one family.  
May you receive God's word with awe, allowing it to shape how you live and love.  
And may you go with the grace and peace of the God who created you,  
the God who redeems you, and the God who sustains you now and forevermore!

**POSTLUDE:** *Postlude on LANCASHIRE*

ARR. MUELLER

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*\* 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, May 5<sup>th</sup> 10:30am The Women of Bethany Church Gathering**

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. in the Evie C. Marshall classroom.

**Tuesday, May 5<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.

**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 19<sup>th</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter  
9:45 – Bible Study - Evie C. Marshall classroom  
11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream).

Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>  
10:00 – Exercise class  
7:00 pm – Choir Practice

Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> - 4<sup>th</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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