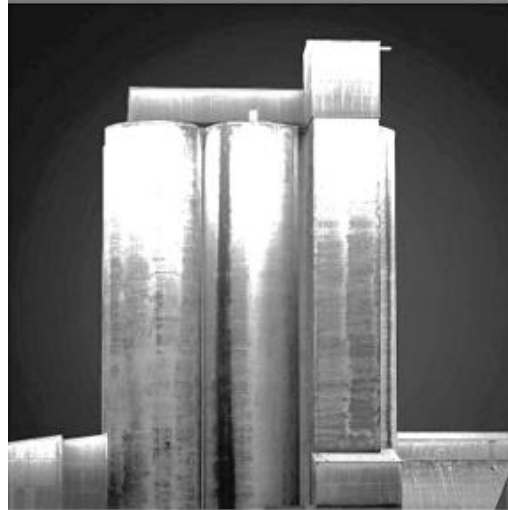




# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina  
[www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org)  
[www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian)

April 21, 2024 – 11:00 am  
*Fourth Sunday of Easter*



John Finn, "Silos"

Through his interpretation of the scriptures, he demonstrated that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. He declared, "This Jesus whom I proclaim to you is the Christ." Acts 17:3 (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. Know that you are loved and we are so glad you are here! Parts of today's liturgy are from Ruth Burgess, Fire and Bread: Resources for Easter Day to Trinity Sunday, (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2006), and LiturgyLink, <https://www.liturgylink.net>.*

### TRINITY CHIMES

**PRELUDE:** *Meditation on "Galilee" (Jesus Call Us)*

SUSANNA KEENEY

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #460:** *Holy God, We Praise Your Name*

IGNAZ FRANZ

Holy God, we praise Your Name;  
Lord of all, we bow before You;  
All on earth Your scepter claim,  
All in heaven above adore You.  
Infinite Your vast domain,  
Everlasting is Your reign.

Hark, the loud celestial hymn  
Angel choirs above are raising;  
Cherubim and seraphim,  
In unceasing chorus praising,  
Fill the heavens with sweet accord:  
Holy, holy, holy Lord.

All apostles join the strain  
As Your sacred name they hallow;  
Prophets swell the glad refrain,  
And the blessed martyrs follow,  
And from morn to set of sun,  
Through the church the song goes on.

Holy Father, Holy Son,  
Holy Spirit, Three we name You,  
While in essence only One;  
Undivided God we claim You,  
And adoring bend the knee  
While we own the mystery.

#### \*OPENING SENTENCES

"OPENING AND CLOSING RESPONSES FOR EASTERTIDE," RUTH BURGESS

Children of God  
*this is what we are*

People of God  
*this is who we are*

Give thanks to God, for God is good,  
*The love of God is now and for ever*

Let us worship our God.

#### GATHERING PRAYER

"EASTER 4 PRAYER," THOM SHUMAN

On the lonely paths through life,  
you are smoothing the way for us.  
In the barren soil where we till our souls;  
you are nurturing us with love.  
Wherever we are, we find you,  
Crafter of Creation.

When we go to fill the emptiness  
of a hungry world,  
you are handing us the bags of food.  
When we see children struggling  
to get past the potholes of poverty,  
you are waiting with the gifts  
we can use to smooth their way.  
Wherever we are, we find you,  
Shepherd of God's little ones.

At the corner where anger  
intersects with judgement,  
you are handing out bottles  
filled from peace's spring.  
At every opportunity we have  
to share goodness and mercy,  
we find our pockets stuffed  
with simple acts of kindness.  
Wherever we are, we find you,  
Shepherd's Spirit.

Wherever we are, we find you,  
God in Community, Holy in One.  
**Amen.**

# OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

## A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

"BEYOND YOUR WORDS," SCOTT CERVAS

As we read the words of scripture,  
we are pointed to your living Word who walked among us;  
and we are surrounded by your Spirit,  
who whispers words within our hearts and minds.  
Inspire us in our hearing and reflecting,  
that we may move beyond your words  
into life-changing acts of grace, love, hope, and peace. **Amen.**

## ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

### ACTS 17:1-9

PEW BIBLE, 1349

### 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

PEW BIBLE, 1437

The Word of the Lord.  
***Thanks be to God.***

## AN OFFERING OF OUR PLEDGES

### OFFERTORY

**\*DOXOLOGY #593:** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

THOMAS KEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

### \*BLESSING OUR GIFTS

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY #359:** *More Love to Thee, O Christ*

ELIZABETH PAYSON PRENTISS

More love to Thee, O Christ,  
More love to Thee!  
Hear Thou the prayer I make  
On bended knee.  
This is my earnest plea:  
More love, O Christ, to Thee;  
More love to Thee,  
More love to Thee!

Once earthly joy I craved,  
Sought peace and rest;  
Now Thee alone I seek,  
Give what is best.  
This all my prayer shall be:  
More love, O Christ to Thee;  
More love to Thee,  
More love to Thee!

Then shall my latest breath  
Whisper Thy praise;  
This be the parting cry  
My heart shall raise;  
This still its prayer shall be:  
More love, O Christ to Thee;  
More love to Thee,  
More love to Thee!

## TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"SO FULL," TERI PETERSON

It is tempting to think we have it all figured out, but then we fool only ourselves even as we crowd out the Spirit. When we admit our faults and our failings, we make room for the still small voice of God to speak, to us and through us. Before God, with the people of God, let us confess the ways we wound our lives, and the life of the world. Let us pray.

***Living God, our lives are so full, and we keep filling them. Activities, knowledge, resume-builders, work, fun, stuff – more, more, more seems to be our mantra. There is no space for us to live or move or just be. We confess that you are often unknown to us, for we cannot see how to fit you in. We confess that we like to feel important, and with you there is no power or status to be earned. We confess that we have more than our share of most things, yet we still want. Forgive our gluttony and arrogance of mind, body, and spirit, and turn us again to see your face. Silence in us every voice but your own, and make yourself know to us again this day. Amen.***

*silence*

## AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Friends, hear this good news: God is not far from each one of us.  
In every breath, the Spirit make us new, alive in Christ!  
***We are forgiven, loved, and free. Thanks be to God! Amen.***

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE: *He is Lord*

He is Lord. He is Lord.  
He is risen from the dead and He is Lord  
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Creaseless Praise*

TOM FETKE

### THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Ope"*

REV. PHILLIPS

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

NICENE CREED

*We affirm our faith in worship as a response to the hearing of the Word of God proclaimed. Our affirmations of faith often come from the historic creeds and confessions of our denomination's Book of Confessions. If you'd like to learn more about our creeds and confessions, we have a video series "Know Your Confessions" by Pastor Jon that you can find on our YouTube page ( [direct shortened link here - http://tiny.cc/z62qxz](http://tiny.cc/z62qxz) )*

*We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### 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.*

**\*CLOSING HYMN #441:** *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*

TIMOTHY DWIGHT

I love Thy kingdom, Lord,  
The house of Thine abode,  
The church our blessed Redeemer saved  
With His own precious blood.

I love Thy church, O God;  
Her walls before Thee stand,  
Dear as the apple of Thine eye,  
And graven on Thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall,  
For her my prayers ascend;  
To her my cares and toils be given,  
Till toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy  
I prize her heavenly ways,  
Her sweet communion, solemn vows,  
Her hymns of love and praise.

Sure as Thy truth shall last,  
To Zion shall be given  
The brightest glories earth can yield  
And brighter bliss of Heaven.

**\*SENDING**

"OPENING AND CLOSING RESPONSES FOR EASTERTIDE," RUTH BURGESS

Holy and just  
***Make us like Jesus***

Ready to take risks  
***Make us like Jesus***

Willing to weep  
***Make us like Jesus***

Aware that we're loved  
***Make us like Jesus***

When people meet us  
***May they meet God in us***

So be it, Holy Spirit  
***Amen***

**POSTLUDE:** *Sound the Trump of Victory*

PATRICIA LOU HARRIS

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*\* Please stand in body or spirit.*



# Our Faith Community @ Work

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### **Sundays April 14 and 21<sup>st</sup> PNC Informational Meeting - following church**

Do you have questions about the upcoming Pastor Nominating Committee? Are you interested in serving but aren't quite sure what you might be getting into? Would you like to know more about the process? If so, then please join us in the Evie C. Marshall Room following service this Sunday and next as Pastor Jon and friends discuss how we will elect the PNC, what the PNC is, what they will be doing, and what sort of a commitment is involved. Everyone with questions is encouraged to attend.

### **Sundays April 28<sup>th</sup> Called Congregational Meeting – following church in the Sanctuary**

The Session of Bethany Presbyterian Church is calling a Congregational Meeting to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee and to introduce the Mission Study to the congregation. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. All active members of the congregation in attendance will be able to vote.

### **Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> 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

### **Yard Sale Coming – Details to be announced**

### **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 28, 2024 - 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)**

S.A.F.E.'s April donation request is for Canned Meats and the donation request for May is Peanut and Jelly. If you have extra plastic and paper bags, please consider donating them.

## This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, April 21st      Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

Following Church - PNC Informational Meeting – Evie C. Marshall Room

Wednesday, April 24th

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, April 28th      Fourth Sunday of Easter & Called Congregational Meeting

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

Following Church - Called Congregational Meeting in Sanctuary

# bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



### Session

**Moderator:** Rev. Jon Phillips

**Clerk:** Randy Cousins

**Treasurer:** Glenn Patterson

1500 S. Main Street  
Graham, NC 27253

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

336.227.4041

### Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Tracey Troxler

### Class of 2025:

Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Tina Patterson

Nancy Purcell

### Class of 2026:

Chip Allen

Jean Payne

Ben Russell

### Staff

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Jon Phillips – [pastor@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@bethanypreschurch.org)

Chaplain: Rick Purcell – [chaplain@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:chaplain@bethanypreschurch.org)

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – [music@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:music@bethanypreschurch.org)

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – [admin@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:admin@bethanypreschurch.org)

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – [finance@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:finance@bethanypreschurch.org)

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