



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

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April 23, 2023 – 11:00 am

Third Sunday of Easter



Domenico Fetti –
"Peter's Vision of a Sheet with Animals,"
1619

The voice spoke a second time, "Never consider unclean what God has made pure."
Acts 10:15 (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 and Chris Polhill, Fire and Bread: Resources for Easter Day to Trinity Sunday (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2006); Glendon Macaulay, Dirt, Mess and Danger: Liturgies & worship resources (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2011); and Ruth Burgess, Summer: Liturgical Resources for May, June and July including Eastertide and Pentecost (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2020).

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Resurrection*

GERALD PETERSON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain
Of triumphant gladness;
God hath brought forth Israel
Into joy from sadness;
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke
Jacob's sons and daughters;
Led them, with unmoistened foot,
Through the Red Sea waters.

Tis the spring of souls today;
Christ has burst His prison,
And from three days' sleep in death
As a sun hath risen.
Now rejoice, Jerusalem,
And with true affection
Welcome in unwearied strains
Jesus' resurrection.

***OPENING SENTENCES**

"WHEN FLOWERS BLOOM," LIZ DELAFIELD

When flowers bloom in the desert,
Christ is risen. ***Alleluia, Alleluia!***

When enemies sit around tables and talk about peace,
Christ is risen. ***Alleluia, Alleluia!***

When people stand up for what is right in the face of great evil,
Christ is risen. ***Alleluia, Alleluia!***

When, despite hardship and struggle, people sing and dance,
Christ is risen. ***Alleluia, Alleluia!***

When prison bars are shattered
by the cry of "Freedom!",
Christ is risen. ***Alleluia, Alleluia!***

When in our wounded and broken world,
life triumphs over death, peace over war, hope over fear,
freedom over captivity, love over hate,
Christ is risen. ***He is risen indeed.
Alleluia, Alleluia!***

Let us worship our God.

***SONG OF ADORATION #243** (*Glory to God*): *Be Not Afraid* (sung 2x)

TAIZE COMMUNITY

Be not afraid; sing out for joy!
Christ is risen, alleluia!
Be not afraid; sing out for joy!
Christ is risen, alleluia!

LITANY OF PRAISE

"APPEARANCES," JUDITH JESSOP

In a burning bush, a still small voice, a baby born,
God revealed a Living Presence:
eye-catching, awesome, wonderful.

In nailed hands outstretched,
bread broken, shared, many fish caught,
Christ revealed a Living Presence:
peace-giving, nourishing, joyful.

In the world's distress, a friend's loving concern,
another's voice, the Spirit reveals a Living Presence:
challenging, supportive, leading the Way.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, with joy we celebrate
the presence of your risen Word.
Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit
so that we may proclaim the good news
of eternal and abundant life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 9:36-37

PEW BIBLE, 1181

ACTS 10:1-17, 34-48

PEW BIBLE, 1338,1339-1340

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF OUR PLEDGES

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY #428:** *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

WILLIAM WALSHAM HOW

We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

*BLESSING OUR GIFTS

***HYMN OF THE DAY #X118:** *The Day of Resurrection!*

ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS

The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
The Passover of gladness,
The Passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
From this world unto the sky,
Our Christ hath brought us over
With hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil,
That we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal
Of resurrection light;
And listening to His accents,
May hear, so calm and plain,

His own "All hail!" and, hearing,
May raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful,
Let earth the song begin,
Let the round world keep triumph,
And all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen
Their notes of gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord is risen,
Our joy that hath no end.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"PRAYERS OF THE HEART," CHRIS POLHILL

Risen Christ,
hear the prayer of my heart
not the dull confusion of my mind.
Hide the tears I will not shed,
the grief I hide in busyness,
and bring your resurrection love
weaving new life.

Risen Christ,
hear the prayer of my heart
not the words of foolish boasting.

Hear the doubts within my soul,
dark denials freezing action,
and shine your resurrection light
revealing new life.

Risen Christ,
hear the prayer of my heart
not the fear I hide behind.
Hear the longing for a fairer world,
for God's justice and compassion,
and bringing your resurrection power
enabling new life.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

I proclaim to you in the name of our risen Lord that:
You are enough.
You are forgiven.
You are loved.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE: *He is Lord* (Choir will sing first, then congregation)

*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: *An Exhortation of Praise*

ROBERT J. FRYSON

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Over the Line"*

REV. PHILLIPS

EASTERTIDE PRAYER

"YOU SHOWED US HOW TO DO IT," GLENDON MACAULAY

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.*

LITANY FOR EASTER

"LET US SAY THAT AGAIN," RODDY HAMILTON, "SPILL THE BEANS"

"Living God!"
Let us say that again:
"Living God!"

May the life you have redeemed
from death
be alive in us,
that in our living and being
we proclaim
a life that never dies –
and is so full of alleluias
of the love and justice
and the making of peace,
it can never die.

May we find a million ways
to proclaim you are alive:

**in word and deed,
in hope and action,
in longing and being,
in singing and speaking,
in laughter and care,
in questions and wonder,
in faith and belief.**

May we be your resurrection people,
alive to life
and ready to share it
with the world.

**Hear us,
live in us,
reshape us,
call us
anew
and again
into life
and all its fullness.
So be it.**

***CLOSING HYMN #119:** *The Strife is O'er*

FRANCIS POTT, TRANSLATOR

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!

***SENDING**

"A BLESSING," CHRIS POLHILL

The power of the Creator who brings life out of death,
be in this place.
The risen Christ be your constant companion.
The healing embrace of the Holy Spirit encircle you
so that you see resurrection ever about you.

CHORAL BLESSING: *He is Lord*

POSTLUDE: *Go Forth in Faith*

CHRISTOPHER GALE

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Stations of the Cross – All day – here in the Recreation Area

We are excited to offer our Recreation Area as a space for the community for prayerful reflection during Holy Week. Our 15 stations (including a final station for the Resurrection) will utilize ecumenical meditations and prayers from the Iona Community.

April 28th Church Office will be closed today.

April 28th Bingo Night – 7pm Shiloh Presbyterian Church

Shiloh Presbyterian Church has invited us to join them for Bingo Night.

May 2nd 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.

May 19th Movie Night – 7pm Shiloh Presbyterian Church

Shiloh Presbyterian Church has invited us to join them for Movie Night. The movie is *Jesus Revolution* and popcorn and drinks will be provided.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, April 23rd - Third Sunday of Easter

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

Wednesday, April 26th

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, April 30th - Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

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love learn serve



Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

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Class of 2023:

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Class of 2025:

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Staff

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