



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

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

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April 26, 2026 – 11:00 am

*Fourth Sunday of Easter*



## 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:** *Festive Trumpet Tune*

DAVID GERMAN

### WELCOME

**\*OPENING HYMN #387:** *Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

WILLIAM B. 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 loved us, love us still.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING SENTENCES

(ADAPTED FROM GLORY TO GOD #93)

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!  
***Behold! The Savior of the world is risen!***  
Fling wide the portals of your hearts:  
***Let us feel the presence of the God's grace and love!***  
O Holy spirit, lead us on in worship;  
***Call us each by name, that we may give God glory!***

## GATHERING PRAYER

(JOHN 10)

Loving Shepherd, you call us as your own.  
When danger is close at hand, you gather us to yourself, that we might dwell secure.  
When evil surrounds us, you give us a home and a safe place to rest.  
When foes threaten our fellowship, you rescue us from peril.  
Restore our souls, Gentle Savior, and lead us in the paths of righteousness, that we may walk in the ways  
of goodness and mercy, all the days of our lives. Amen.

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(SECOND HELVETIC CONFESSION)

***In all crises and trials of our life we call upon God alone, and do so by the mediation of our only mediator and intercessor, Jesus Christ. For we have been explicitly commanded: "Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me" (Psalm 1:15). Moreover, we have a most generous promise from the Lord who said: "If you ask anything of the Father, he will give it to you" (John 16:23), and: "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). And since it is written: "How are men to call upon him in whom they have not believed?" (Romans 10:14), and since we do believe in God alone, we assuredly call upon God alone, and we do so through Christ alone. Amen.***

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,  
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;  
There are sweet expressions on each face,  
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

**Refrain:**

Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet heavenly Dove,  
Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love.  
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;  
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived,  
When we shall leave this place.

There are blessings you cannot receive  
Till you know Him in His fullness and believe;  
You're the one to profit when you say,  
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way." **(Refrain)**

**TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES**

*Gracious God, from before the foundation of the world, you called us by name and pledged your steadfast love. But like ornery sheep, we stray from the fold. You offer to lead us, but we prefer to lead ourselves. Christ laid down his life, yet we refuse to lay down our phones, our plans, our pride. Forgive us, O God. Call us back to the open gate of Christ's redeeming love that we may enter your Beloved Community and find restoration for our souls, reconciliation with our enemies and the glory of abiding with you forevermore. Amen.*

**AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE**

The proof God's amazing love is this: while we were yet sinners, Christ came to us; Christ died for us; and Christ rose from the dead so that the gates of hell and heaven may be thrown open wide and all of creation renewed. So believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and restored to new, abundant life.  
**Alleluia! Amen!**

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

(ADAPTED FROM HOWARD THURMAN, "GIVE ME THE LISTENING EAR" MEDITATIONS OF THE HEART)

O God, give us the listening ear. Give us the listening ear that will not shrink from a word that corrects and admonishes; a word that challenges us to deeper consecration and higher resolve; a word that lays bare the needs that make our days uneasy; a word that seizes upon everything decent in our nature and channels it into paths of healing in the lives of others. Give us, O Lord, the listening ear. Amen.

**ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE**

**PSALM 23**

PEW BIBLE, 680

**JOHN 10:1-10**

PEW BIBLE, 1305

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

**THE WORD IN MUSIC:** *Brother James Air*

DOUGLAS WAGNER

**THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

**Sermon:** *"The Good Shepherd"*

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:** *Surely the Presence of the Lord Is In This Place*

LANNY WOLFE

**\*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 # 438:** *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

JOHN FAWCETT

Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
Is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne  
We pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
Our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes,  
Our mutual burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows  
The sympathizing tear.

From sorrow, toil, and pain,  
And sin we shall be free;  
And perfect love and friendship reign  
Through all eternity.

**\*SENDING**

Christ has called you by name to gather here for worship; now he sends you out as sheep among wolves, to do the courageous, faith-filled work of seeking common ground, and building up God's Beloved Community here on earth. May you possess all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden in Christ, the empowering Spirit of courage to persevere in the face of resistance, and the undying hope promised in Christ's resurrection that we shall all, in the end, come to dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Now may the Lord bless you and keep you; May God make God's face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. May the Lord lift up the light of their countenance upon those whom you love, both this day and forevermore. Alleluia! Amen.

**POSTLUDE:** *Ye Holy Angels Bright*

FRANKLIN RITTER

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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 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).

Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 – Exercise class  
7:00 pm – Choir Practice

Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter - Communion & Pennies for Hunger  
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

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