



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

April 27, 2025 – 11:00 am

Second 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: *Hear Now, the Heavens Rejoicing*

JAMES DENTON

WELCOME

***PROCESSIONAL #142:** *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

EDWARD PERRONET

All hail the power of Jesus' Name!

Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all!
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,
Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of all!
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe,
On this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of all!
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all!
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

(BASED ON PSALM 118:14-29)

God of peace, we enter this holy room knowing the gospel's cornerstones of grace and mercy are often rejected in our world.

Yet we understand that rejection is not the end of the story.

We know that those we have come to know as the builders and the rulers of the world do not have the final word.

The Gospel of Grace is the Lord's doing.

Despite powers and principalities, despite the clamoring of meanness and cruelty,

this is the day that the Lord has made.

Grace is the ground upon which we walk.

Let us rejoice and be glad.

GATHERING PRAYER

(ACTS 5, PSALM 150, REVELATION 1, JOHN 20)

God of mystery and miracles, breathe your peace upon us.

Reveal your presence, as we look for you each day.

Strengthen our faith and our trust, as we pray for miracles for one another and for all of your creation. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

***HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Because He Lives*

BILL & GLORIA GAITHER

God sent His son, they called Him, Jesus;
He came to love, heal and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!

Refrain

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,
And feel the pride and joy he brings;
But greater still the calm assurance:
This child can face uncertain days because He Lives! **(Refrain)**

And then one day, I'll cross the river,
I'll fight life's final war with pain;
And then, as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives! (Refrain)

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

We are called to tell the truth. Those who are perfectly loved need not fear their shadows. When we speak what we fear and what we hope, silence cannot trap us and lies cannot hold us. As much as we are tempted to hide, telling the truth together reminds us that we trust in God's grace and the grace of this community. We remember that God's love yields healing. Honesty, confession, and forgiveness restore us to one another. As we pray together, we are reminded that our confessions of sin, just like our confessions of faith, are held in community. The literal words matter less than the contrite hearts who speak it. Trusting God loves us, and we love and are loved by each other, let us pray.

Holy God, we have found ourselves in fear, locked in rooms of inaction and indecision, unclear where we are called or what we could offer. We have lost ourselves in anxiety so loud we have not heard your voice. We have not recognized you on the move in the world, wounds in your side and life in your lungs. We have believed in the finality of your death and assumed all is left to our own meager efforts. We have refused to see, so we might not have to believe the gospel and live our lives accordingly. God of new life, restore hope throughout our bodies. Help us to breathe again. Strengthen us for the joy that is before us. Grant us eyes to see your beloved people all around us and ears to hear your good news through all the noise. Even as we have looked away, come to see us, call us forth from our locked rooms and bring us out to walk with you in the world you so love.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

The God of truth is present to us in the speaking of truth.
The Spirit of grace is present to us in the sharing of grace.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, we have come here for a word of life. As we seek you in your Word, meet us here.
Grant us your wisdom and your hope.

PRAYER RESPONSE

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.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 150

PEW BIBLE, 781

JOHN 20:19-31

PEW BIBLE, 1321

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *God and God Alone*

PHILL MCHUGH/ARR. BY TOM FETKE

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Eyewitness News"*

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

***DOXOLOGY #558:** *Come Sing a Song of Harvest*

FRED PRATT GREEN

Come, sing a song of harvest,
Of thanks for daily food!
to offer God the first fruits
Is old as gratitude.

*BLESSING OUR GIFTS

***CLOSING HYMN # 145:** *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart*

EDWARD HAYES PLUMPTRE

Rejoice ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ your King.

Refrain:

Rejoice! rejoice!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

Yes, on through life's long path,
Still chanting as ye go;
From youth to age, by night and day,
In gladness and in woe. **(Refrain)**

At last the march shall end;
The wearied ones shall rest;
The pilgrims find their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest. **(Refrain)**

Then on, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ your King. **(Refrain)**

*SENDING

Go forth from this room knowing that our God can no longer be held in locked rooms, that blessings and new life and cosmic peace has come for us — and that we are not the only ones.
And may God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you, those you love and for whom you pray,
now and forevermore.

POSTLUDE: *Thine is the Glory*

ARR. BY BRIAN GLYNCANNON

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sundays, 9:45am Bible Study – Evie C. Marshall Room

Sunday, April 27th Dinner & Bingo & Fun!!

Join us on Sunday, April 27th at 5:00 pm for Spaghetti, Salad and Dessert and Bingo!! We need your participation to help with prizes!! Please bring something (or multiple things) from home that you no longer want or need. Items can be funny, silly, tacky or nice! No need to spend money!! Put your items in a bag or sealed box so that it can't be seen! Surprises are more fun!! Bring a friend! Hope to see you all there! Questions – call Tina Patterson.

Tuesday, April 29th 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

Tuesday, May 6th 10:30am The Women of Bethany Church Gathering

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, May 6th at 10:30am in the Evie C. Marshall classroom.

Mark Your Calendar – Details will follow...

- **Tuesday, May 20th Trip to Billy Graham Library**

S.A.F.E. (Southern Alamance Family Empowerment)

How we can help S.A.F.E. for the months of **April and May?** They are asking for **Breakfast items (Cereals, Granola Bars, Oatmeal, Breakfast Bars), Grape Jelly, Mac & Cheese, Pasta and Pasta Sauce and Green Beans.**

S.A.F.E. will be closed the 1st and 5th Saturday of the Month.

Consider donating your plastic and paper bags.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, April 27th – Second Sunday of Easter

9:45 – Bible Study - Evie C. Marshall classroom

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

5:00pm – Bingo Night & Spaghetti Dinner

Wednesday, April 30th

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, May 4th – Third 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 2025:

Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Tina Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Class of 2026:

Chip Allen

Jean Payne

Ben Russell

Class of 2027:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Brandon Troxler

1500 S. Main Street
Graham, NC 27253
www.bethanypreschurch.org
336.227.4041

Staff

Pastor/CRE: Rick Purcell – pastor4bethany@gmail.com
Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – bethanypresmusic@gmail.com
Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@bethanypreschurch.org
Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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