



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

April 28, 2019 – 11:00 am

Second Sunday of Easter



“Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!’ Thomas responded to Jesus, ‘My Lord and my God!’”

John 20:27-28 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Of the hundreds of prisoners who’ve been exonerated on the basis of DNA evidence since the Innocence Project began its work, almost 75 percent were originally convicted on the basis of eyewitness testimony. No surprise that Thomas, the intellectual among the disciples, refused to accept eyewitness testimony — unless it was his own.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Abide With Us*

J. S. BACH

“Abide with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” (Luke 24:29 - the invitation from Jesus’ fellow Emmaus travelers)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

AN OFFERING OF PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(Please take a moment to share the peace of Christ with your neighbor.)

* GATHERING SONG #115: *Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain*

ST. KEVIN

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Happy Easter Season! Today is the first day of the week.

The joy of Easter still sings in our hearts.

Breathe the breath of new life in your spirits!

We open our hearts to all the wondrous work God has for us to do.

Welcome to worship this glorious day!

Let our lives be testimony to God's redeeming love! Let us worship God!

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

TRURO

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

AN INVITATION TO THE WORD

As God has spoken in ages gone by.

God speaks to us now.

Hear the word of the Lord.

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

JOHN 20:19-31

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1321

Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Holy God, the tomb has been opened, and we dance into your future. Your life has dawned on us, and we surround you with our praise. You reach out your hand, and lead us into joy.

Jesus Christ, you pick open the locked doors of our hearts and come in to be with us forever. You breathe peace into our souls, so we may bring healing to a troubled world.

Holy Spirit, you show us our hearts, so we may give love to others. You show us our hands, sending us to serve the needy. You show us your hope, so we may live in your joy.

God in Community, Holy in One, who is, who was, and who is to come, hear us as we offer our prayers. When we keep our faults and failures locked safely away, we have no need to confess. But God comes into our hearts when we least expect, so we can be filled with forgiveness, with hope, with peace.

God of empty tombs and emptier people: when we hesitate to speak of your hope, forgive us, and give us a voice. When we find it difficult to love one another, forgive us, and give us fresh compassion. When we want to stand with the high and mighty, forgive us, and seat us next to the poor and oppressed.

When we stay locked behind our fears and doubts, forgive us, and send us out to share your grace. When we cannot believe your Word of new life, forgive us, and fill us with your joy.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Christ comes into every shadowed corner of our lives with the light of Easter. Christ comes into the locked rooms of our faults and gifts us with grace and hope.

Christ comes to fill us with peace, so we may proclaim the good news of mercy and forgiveness for all. Thanks be to God. Amen.

* **RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #355:** *Hear the Good News of Salvation*

NETTLETON

Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.

Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.

Jesus Christ, how much I love You! Jesus Christ, You save from sin!

How I love You! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.

* **SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

As the people of God gathered in this place, who are we?

We are a community of believers, called by God to WORSHIP, SERVE, TEACH, and SUPPORT.

With the whole church, let us say what we believe. Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third

day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

JOEL MARTINSON

* **A DOXOLOGY:** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

BEACH SPRING

*God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.*

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

* **HYMN OF THE DAY #316:** *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

TRENTHAM

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Because You Live, O Christ*

DUTCH MELODY

*Because You live, O Christ, the garden of the world has come to flower;
The darkness of the tomb is flooded with Your resurrection power.*

*The stone has rolled away and death cannot imprison!
O sing this Easter Day, for Jesus Christ has risen.*

*Because You live, O Christ, the spirit bird of hope is freed for flying;
Our cages of despair no longer keep us closed and life-denying.*

*Because You live, O Christ, the rainbow of Your peace will span creation,
The colors of Your love will draw all humankind to adoration.*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *Eyewitness Talk*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* **CLOSING HYMN #118:** *The Day of Resurrection!*

LANCASHIRE

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *Rejoice the Lord is King!*

HEALY WILLAN

* *Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WORSHIP Ministry: (Lead Elders: Nancy Purcell and A. J. Campbell)

WELCOME to this service of worship at Bethany Presbyterian Church (PCUSA). Whether you are a member or a visitor we are so glad that you are worshipping with us this morning and pray that this time of worship will be both renewing and rewarding for you. If you have any questions about Bethany, please speak to the pastor or call the church at 336.227.4041. You can find us online through our website at www.bethanypreschurch.org; on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian; or on Twitter by following [@bpresbyterian](https://twitter.com/bpresbyterian).

“I will show love to those who were called unloved and, to those who were called ‘not-my-people’, I will say ‘you are my people’ and they will answer, ‘you are our God.’” (Hosea 2:23) Bethany Presbyterian Church is a place where the mind is nourished as well as the spirit, and where we affirm the dignity and worth of every person. As we are all created in the image of God, we believe discrimination is incompatible with Christ’s Gospel of unconditional love. While we celebrate our Presbyterian identity, we acknowledge that we are not alone on the path to understanding God. We invite conversations that move us to seek a deeper understanding of life in the Spirit. **Be who you are and be welcome here.**

For our children: Childcare is available during the entire worship hour for infants and preschool children. Children are invited and welcome to stay in the service, in whatever manner befits their person: they should feel free to squirm, whine, dance, sing, cry, pray, or otherwise make themselves known. Activities for children can be found at several locations throughout the sanctuary. See an usher if you can’t find one.

Audio and Visual Assistance: A hearing enhancement system is available for those who have a need. An usher will be happy to provide you with a receiver this morning. Large print bulletins are also available.

Please take a moment – members and guests – to sign the **Fellowship Pads** that are located on each row. If you are a guest, please share any contact information you wish to, so that we may be in touch.

Operating our audio and video systems this morning is **Rick Purcell**. Anyone wishing to join this team of volunteers please contact the church office at any time.

Audio Recordings of each Sunday’s sermons are available through a link on our website, on our Facebook page, or at www.buzzsprout.com/9198.

Resources used in this morning’s worship:

- *Homiletics Online* website (www.homileticonline.com)
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)

Our Music Director, Christopher Bagley is away this morning, and so we welcome our **guest musician, David Vaughan**. David is a Ruling Elder at First Presbyterian in Burlington, and currently serves as Stated Clerk of Salem Presbytery.

Do you have a smartphone? Are you on Facebook? If so, take a moment to **“check in” on Facebook**, letting your friends know that you are here at Bethany Presbyterian Church! It may seem like a small thing, but in reality, it is a wonderful message of evangelism and witness, as you let the cyber-world know what is important to you.

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elders: Jean Payne and Randy Cousins)

Our ongoing prayer list is below. Please let the church office know if there are any changes.

Bill Faucette
Jack Cook
Joan Richardson
Teresa Wilborn
Tiffany Tauchren

Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Joey Leake
Shannon Russell
Mary Moore

John & Ann Sutton
Ruby Martin
Shirley Lane
Ida Whitney
Katherine Turner

Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Family of Levi Byrd
Foy Bayliff
Dusty Kimrey

Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Pete Campbell
Ben Johnson
Katherine Bayliff
Randy Thompson
Jerry Perdue

Jeremy Harden
Anne McDaniels
Mike Sutton
Steward Dillard
Shelvia Russell
Alex Thomas
Bill Abplanalp
Robert Sykes

TEACH Ministry: (Lead Elders: Karen Maxwell and Tracey Troxler)

All are invited to take advantage of the several educational opportunities for all ages on Sunday mornings. Sunday school classes begin at 9:45 a.m.

Fellowship Class (Fellowship Classroom – by ramp door)

This class is using our denomination's *Present Word* curriculum and lives up to the class name in all aspects of their life here at Bethany.

Children (Upstairs – the really, really green room!)

This class for younger children is using our denomination's *We Believe* curriculum in introducing our children to the faith.

Youth (Upstairs, across from the choir room)

Using a variety of creative curricula, this class explores topics that relate to faith and adolescence.

SUPPORT Ministry: (Lead Elders: Ron Osborne, Chip Allen, and Ben Russell)

Elders of the Month for April are **Nancy Purcell** and **Ben Russell**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Wednesday, the 1st:

- 7:00 – Choir Practice

Sunday, the 5th:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Rick Purcell

Treasurer: Ron Osborne

Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell
Ron Osborne
Jean Payne

Class of 2020:

Chip Allen
Randy Cousins
Karen Maxwell

Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell
Ben Russell
Tracey Troxler

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love learn serve



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Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org
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Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@bethanypreschurch.org
Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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