



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

April 28, 2024 – 11:00 am  
*Fifth Sunday of Easter*



"Hug," Petras Gagilas

Now I encourage you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: Agree with each other and don't be divided into rival groups. Instead, be restored with the same mind and the same purpose.  
1 Corinthians 1:10 (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:** *Here Faith Abides*

GERALD PETERSON

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #281:** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

WILLIAM WILLIAMS

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,  
Pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;  
Hold me with Thy powerful hand;  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,

Feed me till I want no more,  
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,  
Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through;  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
Be Thou still my strength and shield,  
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death, and hell's destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side;  
Songs of praises, songs of praises,  
I will ever give to Thee,  
I will ever give to Thee.

### \*OPENING SENTENCES

"OPENING AND CLOSING RESPONSES FOR EASTERTIDE," RUTH BURGESS

In the midst of creation,  
in the fields and the city,  
to all who will listen  
***I will tell of your love.***

In the company of the poor,  
in the presence of the mighty,  
to all who will listen  
***I will tell of your love.***

Your love is more than words  
your love is real and active  
to all who will listen  
***I will tell of your love.***

Let us worship our God.

### GATHERING PRAYER

O God,  
form the minds of your faithful people into a single will.  
Make us love what you command  
and desire what you promise,  
that, amid all the changes of this world,  
our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. ***Amen.***

# OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

## A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God,  
by your Word and Spirit,  
that in your light we may see light,  
in your truth find freedom,  
and in your will discover your peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

**ACTS 18:1-4**

PEW BIBLE, 1351

**1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-18**

PEW BIBLE, 1387

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.

### \*BLESSING OUR GIFTS

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY #339:** *Be Thou My Vision*

IRISH BALLAD

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art--  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

## TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"PRUNING," REBECCA PAGE LESLEY

There are many things that can cut us off from the One True Vine. Our sins are like so much dead wood. When we confess the dead places in our lives, God offers us the forgiveness we need to prune them away and allow us to thrive once more. We come now to confess the parts of our lives that do not bear fruit.

*Gracious God, we confess that we each have places in our lives that could use some pruning.  
Our words do not always give grace to those who hear,  
our actions do not always witness to our baptism in your name.  
We have ignored those who need our help the most  
and focused on hoarding more for ourselves.  
Our selfish desires only serve to wither us and turn us into dying branches.  
Forgive us, and prune away our dead places so that we may bear fruit generously in your name.*

*silence*

## **AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE**

We are grafted into the Living Vine. The Vinegrower had tended to us and removed our sinful and withered ways. We are given another chance to live and bear fruit. For these gifts of love and life, let us stand and sing praise!

**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:** *Unity*

GLORRAINE MOORE

**THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

**Sermon:** *"Unity"*

REV. PHILLIPS

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH – PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

*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> )*

*In life and in death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.*

*We trust in Jesus Christ,  
fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
preaching good news to the poor  
and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed  
and blessing the children,  
healing the sick  
and binding up the brokenhearted,*

*eating with outcasts,  
forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.  
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,  
Jesus was crucified,  
suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.  
God raised this Jesus from the dead,  
vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal.*

*With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

"O LORD OUR HELP," NATHAN WILLIAMS

#### 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 #379: *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

EDWARD MOTE

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

#### **Refrain:**

On Christ, the solid Rock I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In every high and stormy gale,  
My anchor holds within the veil. **(Refrain)**

His oath, His covenant, His blood  
Support me in the whelming flood;  
When all around my soul gives way,  
He then is all my hope and stay. **(Refrain)**

When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh may I then in Him be found,  
Dressed in His righteousness alone,  
Faultless to stand before the throne. **(Refrain)**

**\*SENDING**

OPENING AND CLOSING RESPONSES FOR EASTERTIDE,<sup>1</sup> RUTH BURGESS

Heard and valued  
Freed and forgiven  
***We go into the world  
to bear much fruit***

Fed and nourished  
Loved and cherished  
***We go into the world  
to bear much fruit***

Today and tomorrow  
Rooted in Jesus  
***We go into the world  
to bear much fruit***

***Amen***

**POSTLUDE:** *Song of Triumph*

DAVID E. WION

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

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*\* Please stand in body or spirit.*



# Our Faith Community @ Work

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### **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

### **Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> Yard Sale – 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 28th      Fifth Sunday of Easter & Called Congregational Meeting

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

Following Church - Called Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>      Sixth Sunday of Easter & Communion

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

# 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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