



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

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

[www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian)

April 29, 2018 – 11:00 am

*Fifth Sunday of Easter*



*“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified when you produce much fruit and in this way prove that you are my disciples.”*

John 15:7-8 (CEB)

## GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Great wine is the reflection of a particular vineyard, be it from an Old World tradition or an eclectic New World experiment. God wants to tend the finest vineyard ever, the one that takes the ultimate prize for grands crus. May we, as disciples of Jesus, the true vine, embrace our role as branches — channels for God’s grace, so that when the world samples the fine vintage of God’s love and grace, they will want to know the winemaker!*

### TRINITY CHIMES

**PRELUDE:** *Reflection on McAfee*

C. MCAFEE / ARR. B. SHEPHERD

### 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:** *You Are My Strength When I Am Weak*

DENNIS JERNIGAN

*You are my strength when I am weak; you are the treasure that I seek; you are my all in all.*

*When I fall down, you pick me up; when I am dry, you fill my cup; you are my all in all.*

*Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name! Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name!*

*Taking my sin, my cross, my shame; Rising again I bless Your name; you are my all in all.*

*Seeking You as a precious jewel; Lord, to give up I’d be a fool; you are my all in all.*

*Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name! Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name!*

\* **GATHERING SONG #372:** *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Here in this place of worship, with the congregation of the faithful,  
***we lay down our fears, to boldly sing God's praise.***

Here in the vineyard of the Lord, with our sisters and brothers in Christ,  
***grandparents tell stories of faith to little ones sitting on their laps.***

Here where God waits to serve us at the Table:

***we shall be so filled with love that we will run to serve others.***

\* **OPENING HYMN #276:** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

### AN INVITATION TO THE WORD

The universe proclaims God's truth. God's knowledge flows night and day!  
***We open our ears to hear, our minds to comprehend, our hearts to receive.***

### AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE: JOHN 15:1-8

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

***Thanks be to God.***

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1313

### AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Teach us to love one another with that passion which comes from your overflowing heart, Vine Grower, so those around us will recognize us as sisters and brothers, bound together by your love not divided by our fears.

***Teach us to serve one another with that compassion which comes from our broken heart, Vine of our lives, for the hungry are our brothers, the immigrants are our sisters, the homeless are our families.***

Teach us include others with that embracing welcome which comes from your inviting heart, Fruit-bearing Spirit, offering forgiveness to those who hurt us, peace to all filled with hate, hope to those burdened by despair.

***Teach us to understand all we read and hear, God in Community, Holy in One.***

The seeds of grace, hope, joy, and love are planted deep with us, so they can bear fruit in our lives. But we resist staying connected to the Vine, thinking we can flourish on our own. Let us confess our sins, so we can once more feel God abiding deep within us. Please join me as we pray, saying,

***Mother of Compassion: called to be one body, we fragment ourselves into a million selfish pieces; your children of love, we insist on the right to despise our sisters and brothers; though your Perfect Love was broken for us, we are afraid to give of ourselves to the world.***

Abide in us, Vine Grower. Forgive us of our sins, so we may live boldly, love fearlessly, and proclaim unceasingly that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior.

### AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

### AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Do you feel it – there, deep down in your hearts? God's love is alive, beating, breathing – in you!

***Because God abides in us, we can live for others, allowing God's love to bear fruit in us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.***

\* **RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE:** *Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!*

*Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burdens down. (Repeat)*

*I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down. (Repeat)*

*Feel like shouting, "Hallelujah!" Since I laid my burdens down. (Repeat)*

TRADITIONAL

### AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

**OFFERTORY:** *In Times Like These*

R. JONES / ARR. BOCK

## \* A DOXOLOGY:

*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

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG (@ HEART) / MOMENT FOR MISSION

THE WORD IN MUSIC

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *How to Be A Branch*

Text: John 15:1-8

REV. JOHNSON

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1313

\* HYMN OF PREPARATION: *In Remembrance of Me* (see page 5)

COURTNEY / RED

## SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

May the God of searches be with you.

***And also with you.***

Bring your hearts to the One who loves you.

***We offer them so God may plant fruit-bearing seeds in them.***

Lift songs of praise to our God.

***We will join our hearts and voices in proclaiming, "God has done it!"***

"Get up," you cried to your Word and Spirit, "and go down the wilderness road to chaos." And so they went . . .

With those who seem to intuit your hearts, with those seeking to understand your hopes, we lift our songs of thanksgiving to you.

***Holy, holy, holy are you, God of all people. All creation bears fruit in glorifying you. Hosanna in the highest!******Blessed is the One who comes to abide in us. Hosanna in the highest!***

Love is your language of holiness, Branch weaving God, and Jesus Christ, our Savior is the true Vine of your heart . . . As we seek to abide in Jesus, as we long to bear fruit in the kingdom, we speak of the mystery known as faith:

***Christ died, that we might live through him; Christ was raised, that he might live through you; Christ will come, that all might live through eternity with you.***

Abide in us at this Table, as you pour out your Spirit on the gifts of the bread and cup, and on your children gathered in this place . . . Then, when we no longer sleep in death, but are gathered around your Table with our sisters and brothers of all time and places, we will join in singing with one voice and heart, and praying as you have taught us:

***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.***

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal realm. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

\* **HYMN OF RESPONSE:** *Let Us Build a House* (see below)

MARTY HAUGEN

\* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

\* **POSTLUDE:** *The Joy of the Lord*

G. SEWELL

\* *Please stand in body or spirit.*

### 301 Let Us Build a House

All Are Welcome

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)  
C7 F C F B<sup>b</sup> C Dm

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can  
2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are  
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,  
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the  
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)  
F C F Dm7 Gm C

safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell  
strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek  
wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground  
wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,  
vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)  
Gm C7 B<sup>b</sup> F Am Dm

how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the  
as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)  
Gm C F B<sup>b</sup>

vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the  
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as  
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we  
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us  
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) *Retrain* (Em) (Bm)  
F B<sup>b</sup> A7 Dm Gm Dm

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
one we claim the faith of Je - sus:  
share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;  
bring an end to fear and dan - ger:  
house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)  
Am Gm F Gm C7 F B<sup>b</sup> F

all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

# 521 In Remembrance of Me

Capo 3: (G)

(Bm) (C) (D7)  
B $\flat$  Dm F7

1 In re-mem-branch of me, eat this bread. In re-  
2 In re-mem-branch of me, heal the sick. In re-

(C) (Am) (D) (D7) (Em)  
E $\flat$  Cm F F7 Gm

mem-branch of me, drink this wine. In re-mem-branch of  
mem-branch of me, feed the poor. In re-mem-branch of

(C) (F) (D) (G) (Bm)  
E $\flat$  A $\flat$  F B $\flat$  Dm

me, pray for the time when God's own will is  
me, o - pen the door and let your neigh - bors

1 (C) (D7) (C) (D7) (G)  
E $\flat$  F7 E $\flat$  F7 B $\flat$

done. in, let them in.

(E $\flat$ ) (G) (E $\flat$ )  
G $\flat$  B $\flat$  G $\flat$

Take, eat, and be com - fort - ed; drink and re-

(Cm) (G) (Em) (D)  
E $\flat$ m B $\flat$  Cm F

mem - ber too, that this is my bod - y and

(C) (G) (A) (A7) (D7sus) (D7)  
E $\flat$  B $\flat$  C C7 F7sus F7

pre - cious blood shed for you, shed for you.

(G) (Bm) (C) (D7)  
B $\flat$  Dm E $\flat$  F7

3 In re-mem-branch of me, search for truth. In re-

(C) (Am) (D) (D7) (Em)  
E $\flat$  Cm F F7 Gm

mem-branch of me, al-ways love. In re-mem-branch of

(C) (F) (D) (G) (D7sus) (D7)  
E $\flat$  A $\flat$  F B $\flat$  F7sus F7

me, don't look a-bove, but in your heart, look for

(G) (D7sus) (D7) (G)  
B $\flat$  F7sus F7 B $\flat$

God. Do this in re-mem-branch of me.



# ***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 guest 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](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org); on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](http://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 can 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](http://www.buzzsprout.com/9198).

Resources used in this morning’s worship:

- *Homiletics Online* website ([www.homileticsonline.com](http://www.homileticsonline.com))
- *The Text This Week* website ([www.textweek.com](http://www.textweek.com))

**Today is a Fifth Sunday**, so, as is our custom, our worship will be a bit less formal. It is also **casual dress Sunday**. May God’s Spirit fill your hearts as we stretch ourselves to worship in new and creative ways.

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 Elder: Jean Payne and Sandy Cook)

We are currently asking for **donations of eyeglasses** (and reading glasses) that are no longer of use to use. These will be donated to Salem Presbytery’s medical mission trip to Chiapas, Mexico in June. The basket for donations can be found on the table in the Welcome Center.

**ATTENTION NON-COMPUTER USERS:** We realize that there are some in our congregation who do not use computers, and thus miss out on emails and other correspondence regarding prayer requests and other information. If you will let

Joy know in the office, she will put you on a list to call whenever one of these emails goes out. The office number is 336.227.4041.

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

Bill Faucette	Diane Miller	John & Ann Sutton
Faye Campbell	Jack Cook	Peter Slater
Frances Nolan	Polly & Dick Wilson	Joey Leake
Layla Benoklen	Teresa Wilborn	Shannon Russell
Ida Whitney	Tiffany Tauchren	Mary Moore
Rachel Poteat	Jean Berry	Barbara Cousins
Jeremy Harden	Christy Lutterloh	Pat Kennedy
Anne McDaniels	Eleanor Thompson	Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Mike Sutton	Nancy Sutton	Pete Campbell
Steward Dillard	Norma Proctor	Ben Johnson
Shelvia Russell	Family of Celeste Bayliff Agner	Ruth Younts
Ruby Martin		Diane Bullis

**TEACH Ministry:** (Lead Elders: Brandon Troxler and Karen Maxwell)

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.

**Young at Heart Class** (Young at Heart Classroom – across from pastor's office)

Using the *Uniform Series*, this class engages in lively discussions pertaining to the biblically based curriculum. The class is taught by a very capable team of teachers.

**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 Glenn Patterson)

The **Scholarship Committee** wants to remind everyone that the deadline for applying for post-high school scholarship funds is coming up on **April 30<sup>th</sup>**. Application forms can be found in the mailboxes across from the church office. Please see Ron Osborne if you have any questions.

The Session has called for a **meeting of "Bethany Presbyterian Church of Graham, North Carolina, Inc."** to be held immediately following worship this morning.

Elders of the Month for April are **Ron Osborne** and **Brandon Troxler**.

## This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- **Fifth Sundays @ Bethany**
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship / Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
- 12:00 – Meeting of the Corporation

Tuesday, the 1<sup>st</sup>:

- 7:00 – Spring Book Study, *Jesus for President*

Wednesday, the 2<sup>nd</sup>:

- 7:00 – Choir Practice

Sunday, the 6<sup>th</sup>:

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

### Session

**Moderator:** Rev. John W. Johnson

**Clerk:** Rick Purcell

**Treasurer:** Ron Osborne

### Class of 2018:

Glenn Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Brandon Troxler

### Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell

Ron Osborne

Jean Payne

### Class of 2020:

Chip Allen

Sandy Cook

Karen Maxwell

# bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



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### Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – [pastor@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@bethanypreschurch.org)

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – [music@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:music@bethanypreschurch.org)

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – [office@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:office@bethanypreschurch.org)

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – [finance@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:finance@bethanypreschurch.org)

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