



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

April 30, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.

Third Sunday of Easter



WHAT KIND OF HOUSE WILL YOU BUILD FOR ME?

ACTS 7

*“Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool.
‘What kind of house will you build for me,’ says the Lord, ‘or where is my resting place?
Didn’t I make all these things with my own hand?’”*
Acts 7:49 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Holy Giver and Receiver of life, Your martyr, Stephen, shined with the light of your Holy Spirit. When his opponents took his life, he offered up his spirit to you, and prayed mercy for theirs. Make Stephen an example of faith and courage for all your followers, for the sake of the one who brought light and life to this world, Jesus Christ. Amen.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Arise to Life*

E. BROUGHTON

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.)

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

749 **Come! Live in the Light!**
We Are Called

1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that

joy and the love of the Lord! We are called
 mer - cy to all those in fear! We are called
 great day when all will be one! God will reign,

to be light for the king - dom, to live in the
 to be hope for the hope - less so ha - tred and
 and we'll walk with each oth - er as sis - ters and

free - dom of the cit - y of God.
 vio - lence will be no more.
 broth - ers u - nit - ed in love.

Refrain

We are called to act with jus - tice; we are called to
 love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -
 oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

You Are My Strength When I Am Weak (see insert)

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!
 (Repeat)*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

We are God's household, crafted by the Architect of creation:

our hearts a shelter for the outcast; our hands open to the stranger.

We are God's people, created in the divine image:

to tell others of God's love, to offer mercy as freely as we have received it.

We are God's children, called to give of ourselves:

chosen to serve the lost and lonely, gifted to minister to a hurting world.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

* HYMN OF PRAISE #379: *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

SOLID ROCK

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Our Way: you call us to celebrate your peace in a world which worships war; to celebrate your freedom in the face of oppression; to celebrate the seed of faith planted in the doubts of our hearts.

Our Life: you would have us celebrate the safe ground of hope emerging from the flood of our tears; celebrate those who love us in the midst of hurt and hatred; celebrate our salvation as we struggle with sin.

Our Truth: you teach us to celebrate our new life in the gift of the Risen Lord; to celebrate the grace of your heart which melts our fears; to celebrate that all our moments are cradled in your hands.

Our Way, our Truth, our Life, we lift our prayers to you.

Considered too rough for their smooth plans, the builders cast out the Stone they needed. But God builds salvation on the One who is the foundation of all hope. Let us confess our sins to God and one another, trusting we will not be put to shame.

Hear the brokenness of our lives, Precious God. We cover our ears so we cannot hear the cries of those in need, or you urging us to respond. We rush together to defend every issue that matters to us, but quickly disperse when you would call us to be your holy people. We shout as loud as we can to cheer on our sports teams, but can manage only whispers when it comes to sharing the good news.

Forgive us, our Eternal Guide, and do not hold our sins against us. We lay the garments of our foolishness at your feet, so you might clothe us in grace and hope. We would feed on the spiritual food which flows from your heart so we might be strong enough to follow Jesus as he leads us in the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

We are no longer alone - we are God's Beloved. We are not of this world, but residents of God's Kingdom. We, who once had no hope, have been filled with forgiveness.

Each one of us, all of us, have received God's mercy in Christ. Forgiven, redeemed, made whole - we are a people made one in faith. Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

TRADITIONAL

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)

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *There is a Fountain*

ARR. G. DAVIDSON

* THE DOXOLOGY (WITH ALLELUIAS)

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS 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: *Rise Again*

DALLAS HOLM

Go ahead, drive the nails in My hands; / Laugh at me, where you stand.

Go ahead, and say it isn't Me; The day will come, when you will see.

'Cause I'll rise, again, / Ain't no power on earth can tie Me down!

Yes, I'll rise, again, / Death can't keep Me in the ground.

Go ahead, and mock My name; / My love for you is still the same.

Go ahead, and bury Me; / But very soon, I will be free!

'Cause I'll rise, again / Ain't no power on earth can keep Me down!

Yes, I'll rise, again; / Death can't keep Me in the ground.

Go ahead, and say I'm dead and gone, / But you will see that you were wrong.

Go ahead, try to hide the Son; / But all will see that I'm the One!

'Cause I'll come again! / Ain't no power on earth can keep me back!

Yes, I'll come again; / Come to take My people back.

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG (@ HEART)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *Open Our Eyes, Lord*

ROBERT CULL

Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus, to reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.

Open our ears, Lord; and help us to listen. Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus.

THE SPOKEN WORD

A Reading from Acts 7:44-60

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1333

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON: *WHAT KIND OF HOUSE WILL YOU BUILD FOR ME?*

REV. JOHNSON

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER

May the God of every way be with you.

And also with you.

Lift your hearts to the One who is the Truth for God's own people.

We offer them to the One who warms them with love.

Sing praises to God, who is our Life.

Glad songs are offered to the One who provides shelter for us.

You made a way through chaos, Constructing God, the Word echoing on mountaintops and whispering in valleys . . . With those who have nothing and with those who give everything away, we lift our voices to you:

Holy, holy, holy are you, O God. All creation kneels down to worship you. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who shows us the Truth. Hosanna in the highest!

You shape a safe place for us, Imaginative God, and send your Child, Jesus, to show us the Way . . . Even as we celebrate the Life which was his, as we claim the Truth that all are one with you, we take refuge in that mystery called faith:

Christ died, trusting in God's promises; God raised him from the dead, promising the same for us; Christ will come, fulfilling all the promises of God.

Once, we were nobodies, alone and hopeless, but by your mercy, Living God, we are now a family . . . And when the Way leads us home to you, when your Life gathers us with our sisters and brothers around the Table which is prepared by your Truth, we will sing glad songs of praise to you forever, and pray as Christ taught us:

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the blessings of the One who is the Way be with us in the days to come.

May God guide our feet wherever we go.

May the blessings of Jesus who is our Life be with us in the days to come.

May he lead us by the hand to those who are our sisters and brothers in need.

May the blessings of the Spirit of Truth be with us in the days to come.

May we journey with the Spirit to that way which is everlasting.

LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

* **CLOSING HYMN:** *Let Us Build a House* (see insert)

LANCASHIRE

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *Nothing But the Blood*

R. LOWRY / ARR. T. BIRCHWOOD

* *Those who are able may 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. 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).

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, or at www.buzzsprout.com/9198.

Our **Fifth Sunday worship** this morning is a bit more informal, as we explore new ways of worshipping our risen and living Lord! Our worship includes the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, which we will receive by intinction. As you are directed, please come forward by the middle aisle to the serving elders, tear off a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, and partake, returning to your seat by the side aisle. Anyone unable to come forward will be served at their seat.

John will be taking a few days off next weekend, so we are pleased to welcome to the pulpit as guest preacher, Rev. Sam Jenkins. Please extend to Sam a warm Bethany welcome!

On the last Sunday in January we marked the **Kickoff of our 125th Anniversary Celebration**. Our theme scripture passage for the celebration is Isaiah 40:28-31, **Growing Stronger – Growing Deeper – Reaching Higher**. Mark your calendars for our other celebration events:

- **Sunday, May 28th** – Rev. Norman Whitney, preaching / Luncheon following worship
- **Saturday, September 23rd** – Concert by renowned artist, **David LaMotte** (www.davidlamotte.com)
- **Sunday, September 24th** – Culmination of anniversary celebration / **Rev. J. Herbert Nelson**, preaching (Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA)) / **David LaMotte** providing music / Anniversary luncheon following worship

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.

To the parents of young children: Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel that you must suppress those wiggles in God's house. **Please note that a professionally staffed nursery is available during the worship hour.** Here are some hints to make worship with your children more rewarding:

- Consider sitting towards the front where it is easier for little ones to engage. On the second pew nearest the choir loft, there are activities for children of all ages to keep busy with during the service.
- Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, musicians, and leaders.
- Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behavior by mimicking you.
- If you have to leave the sanctuary with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, “Let the children come to me!”
- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.
- **To adult worshippers:** The presence of children is a gift to the church and they are a reminder that our church is growing! Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elders: Jean Payne and Sherrie Moore)

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	Harold Baldwin
Mike Sutton	Nancy Sutton	Duffy Strigo
Steward Dillard	Infant Sadie Ruth Majors	Norma Proctor
Donna Mitchell-Ayers	Ben Johnson	Gloria Carden Woods
	Family of Sandy Cook	

Each week **Salem Presbytery** lists churches and other ministries that we are to lift up in prayer that week. A complete list can be viewed online at the presbytery website: www.salempresbytery.org. On the prayer list for this week are: **Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian, Chapel Hill; Oakland Presbyterian, Statesville; Rick Purcell, Chaplain, Graham Police Department.** Please keep these churches and ministries in your prayers this week.

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.

Seeker's Class (Church Office)

The Seeker's Class is currently using the Wired Word curriculum, looking at current events as they relate to our faith.

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, Ron Kimrey, and Glenn Patterson)

Elders of the Month for April are **Sherrie Moore and Ron Osborne.**

The congregation has been mailed a letter soliciting donations for replacement of our 40-some-year-old boiler! We are hoping that it will make it through the winter, so this work can be completed in the spring. Please see Ron Kimrey if you have any questions. And thanks in advance for your generosity.

The **Scholarship Committee** reminds those interested that now is the time for applications to receive scholarships for college/graduate school. Applications can be obtained from the church office, and **the deadline for applying is today, April 30th**. Please see Ron Osborne if you have any questions.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- **5th Sundays @ Bethany**
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Monday, the 1st:

- 7:00 – Circle #4

Wednesday, the 3rd:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 7th:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship / guest preacher Rev. Sam Jenkins

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Rick Purcell

Treasurer: Ron Osborne

Class of 2017:

Ron Kimrey
Karen Maxwell
Sherrie Moore

Class of 2018:

Glenn Patterson
Nancy Purcell
Brandon Troxler

Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell
Ron Osborne
Jean Payne

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love learn serve



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