



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina
www.bethanypreschurch.org
www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

April 30, 2023 – 11:00 am
Fourth Sunday of Easter



"Near miss???", Airwolfhound

“As they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Appoint Barnabas and Saul to the work I have called them to undertake.” After they fasted and prayed, they laid their hands on these two and sent them off.

Acts 13:2-3 (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 and Chris Polhill, Fire and Bread: Resources for Easter Day to Trinity Sunday (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2006); and Ruth Burgess, Summer: Liturgical Resources for May, June and July including Eastertide and Pentecost (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2020).

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Near the Cross*

FRANKLIN RITTER/TUNE: WILLIAM H. DOANE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN #420:** *God of Grace and God of Glory*

HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK

God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy power;
Crown thine ancient church's story;
Bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness;
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Set out feet on lofty places;
Gird our lives that they may be Armored
with all Christ like graces,
Pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
That we fail not them nor Thee!
That we fail not them nor Thee!

Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore.
Let the gift of thy salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.

***OPENING SENTENCES**

"OPENING AND CLOSING RESPONSES FOR EASTERTIDE," RUTH BURGESS

Children of God
this is what we are

People of God
this is who we are

Give thanks to God, for God is good,
the love of God is now and for ever

Let us worship our God.

***SONG OF ADORATION #243** (*Glory to God*): *Be Not Afraid* (sung 2x)

TAIZE COMMUNITY

Be not afraid; sing out for joy!
Christ is risen, alleluia!
Be not afraid; sing out for joy!
Christ is risen, alleluia!

LITANY OF PRAISE

"GOD HAS MADE LAUGHTER FOR US," DAVID COLEMAN

Christ is risen; He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Risen in quiet and mysterious darkness before the chorus of the dawn.
Alleluia, Christ is risen! ***He is risen indeed!***

Risen with glory and grace in reserve, and authority beyond measure.
Alleluia, Christ is risen! ***He is risen indeed!***

Risen to prove violence is no solution; to offer us peace and life in all its fullness.
Alleluia, Christ is risen! ***He is risen indeed!***

For God has taken into his own flesh the sin of the world.
The last laugh is God's laugh; God has the last laugh:
For freedom comes beyond the cross,
for peace comes beyond the violence,
for friendship comes beyond the betrayal.
For life comes beyond the crushing of life.

The first laugh and the last laugh are God's.
And God has made laughter for us.
Alleluia, Christ is risen! ***He is risen indeed!***

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

MATTHEW 10:40-42

PEW BIBLE, 1182

ACTS 13:1-3; 14:8-18

PEW BIBLE, 1342;1345

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF OUR PLEDGES

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY #428:** *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

WILLIAM WALSHAM HOW

We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

***BLESSING OUR GIFTS**

***HYMN OF THE DAY #439:** *In Christ There is No East or West*

JOHN OXENHAM

In Christ there is no east or west,
In Him no south or north;
But one great fellowship of love
Throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
Their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord,
Close-binding humankind.

Join hands, disciples of the faith,
Whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
Are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west,
In Him meet south and north;
All Christly souls are one in Him
Throughout the whole wide earth.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"GATES AND BREAD," RUTH BURGESS

You said you were like
all sorts of things, Jesus:
gates and bread,

and you were -
you are.

When we've reckoned we've got you all sorted,
sorted and understood,
you smile at us
and give us another picture,
tell us another story,
show us another way.

Live in our lives, Jesus:
be who you are,
who you will be
in us.

Silent prayer

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

I proclaim to you in the name of our risen Lord that:

You are enough.

You are forgiven.

You are loved.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE: *He is Lord* (Choir will sing first, then congregation)

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: *Via Dolorosa*

Soloist: Alondra Mendez-Davis

BILLY SPRAGUE & NIES BOROP

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Missed Understandings"*

REV. PHILLIPS

EASTERTIDE PRAYER

"VISION," ROSIE MILES

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 #441:** *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*

TIMOTHY DWIGHT

I love Thy kingdom, Lord,
The house of Thine abode,
The church our blessed Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

I love Thy church, O God;
Her walls before Thee stand,
Dear as the apple of Thine eye,
And graven on Thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall,
For her my prayers ascend;
To her my cares and toils be given,
Till toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy
I prize her heavenly ways,
Her sweet communion, solemn vows,
Her hymns of love and praise.

Sure as Thy truth shall last,
To Zion shall be given
The brightest glories earth can yield
And brighter bliss of Heaven.

***SENDING**

"OPENING AND CLOSING RESPONSES FOR EASTERTIDE," RUTH BURGESS

Holy and just
make us like Jesus

Ready to take risks
make us like Jesus

Willing to weep
make us like Jesus

Aware that we're loved
make us like Jesus

When people meet us
may they meet God in us

So be it, Holy Spirit.
Amen

CHORAL BLESSING: *Lead Me, Lord*

SAMUEL WESLEY

POSTLUDE: *Sometime a Light Surprises*

WILLIAM BARNETT

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Ongoing

Stations of the Cross – All day – here in the Recreation Area

We are excited to offer our Recreation Area as a space for the community for prayerful reflection. Our 15 stations (including a final station for the Resurrection) will utilize ecumenical meditations and prayers from the Iona Community.

May 2nd 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.

May 6th Make a Gift for Mom

Shiloh Presbyterian Church has invited us to come make a gift for Mom. It will be at 11:00am at the church on 2638 Grand Oaks Blvd., Burlington.

May 19th Movie Night

Shiloh Presbyterian Church has invited us to join them for Movie Night. The movie “Jesus Revolution” will start at 7:00pm and popcorn and drinks are provided.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, April 30th - Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

Wednesday, May 3rd

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, 7th - Fifth Sunday of Easter and Communion

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

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

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Class of 2023:

Chip Allen
Randy Cousins
Shelby Smith

Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell
Kim Snyder
Tracey Troxler

Class of 2025:

Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Tina Patterson
Nancy Purcell

Staff

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