



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

May 15, 2022 – 11:00 am

Fifth Sunday of Easter



"This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other."
John 13:35 (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!

PRELUDE: *O Perfect Love*

JOSEPH BARNBY/ ARR. BY LOIS SMITH

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*OPENING SENTENCES

Alleluia! Christ is alive; let all the people praise him.

Let all creation sing with joy. Alleluia!

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Surprising God, in the resurrection of Jesus Christ you make all things new. Long ago you called your church to a love beyond all social and cultural differences and gave them the gift of your Holy Spirit to open their hearts to enact such love.

Give us that same spirit of openness, that we too might discern new directions in our day for your dream to reconcile and heal all creation.

In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit,
Let us find that second rest;
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

LITANY FOR EASTER

Our Eastertide litany will be spoken with a sung congregational response:

HYMN 591 *"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!" (Glory to God)*

Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

SUNG RESPONSE: *Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

This is the good news which we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved:

SUNG RESPONSE: *Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

That Christ died for our sins, and was buried,
and rose again on the third day.

SUNG RESPONSE: *Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

He appeared to Mary, and to Peter, and to the twelve,
and to many faithful witnesses.

SUNG RESPONSE: *Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

At last he came to us, that we might believe
and proclaim this good news to the world.

SUNG RESPONSE: *Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

pause

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

HYMN 591 *"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!" (Glory to God)*

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word. Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 148

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 780

JOHN 13:31-35

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1312

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

The Spirit of God helps us in our weakness, interceding with sighs too deep for words. Let us come together to tell the truth about ourselves.

God of mercy,

your command to love one another across all differences opens us to new horizons,

yet we often respond with fear and judgment that hinders your goal for humanity.

Forgive our sins, we pray, and give us a true repentance that leads to life for all creation.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

God's promises are trustworthy and true; your sins are forgiven.

Be at peace to serve the Lord, and may you always be known by your love.

Thanks be to God.

***RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE:** *He is Lord*

STEVE VEST

He is Lord, He is Lord!
He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!
Ev'ry knee shall bow, ev'ry tongue confess
That Jesus Christ is Lord.

BLESSING OUR GIFTS

***DOXOLOGY #592:** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

THOMAS KEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Hymn of the Day 335:** *The Gift of Love*

Hal Hopson

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
And have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain;
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
And striving so my love profess,
But not be given by love within,
The profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
By this we worship and are freed.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *We Need You, Lord*

NANCY PRICE/DON BESIG

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Is That All?"*

RICK PURCELL, CRE/CLP

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

***CLOSING HYMN #300 (GLORY TO GOD):** *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love*

PETER SCHOLTES

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they will know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;

and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land :

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they will know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
we will work with each other, we will work side by side;
and we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they will know we are Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they will know we are Christians by our love.

***SENDING**

Jesus has loved us so that we may love others.
Go forth in peace to love and serve the Lord.

May God who has made you a new creation
give you the grace to grow in faith, hope, love, and justice.

Amen.

POSTLUDE: *Carry His Love With You*

ADAM MASON

** Please stand in body or spirit.*

Hymn Story

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Charles Wesley wrote something like six thousand hymns during his lifetime. He spent much of his life on horseback traveling from church to church, so you might wonder how he accomplished this. A part of the answer is found in the fact that he was naturally gifted — poetry welled up in him, allowing him to express his deep faith through hymns. Another part of the answer is that he organized himself for his task. He developed a kind of shorthand so that he could quickly jot down ideas as they came to him. He carried note cards in his pocket so that he could record his thoughts even while riding a horse. When he reached his destination, he would transform his rough notes into finished verse.

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” is one of Wesley’s greatest hymns. The hymn is really a prayer — a prayer to Jesus, who is “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.” It invites Jesus to make his dwelling in us — to visit us with his salvation — to enter our hearts. It invites him to take away our love of sinning — to set our hearts at liberty. It concludes by asking Jesus to finish his new creation (we are his new creation) so that we might be pure and spotless — perfectly restored — ready for heaven.

As you sing this hymn, keep in mind that it is a prayer — that you are asking God to dwell in you — to visit you with his salvation — to enter your heart.

— Copyright 2006, Richard Niell Donovan



Our Faith Community @ Work

WORSHIP Ministry: (Lead Elders: Helen Brown and Karen Maxwell)

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.**

A Note About the Offering: As we have returned to worship as the pandemic has been becoming less and less a threat, we have continued the practice of not passing the offering plates at the time of the offering during our service, thus decreasing the threat of spreading germs. Instead, you are invited to make your contribution in one of four ways: drop it in the offering plate that is located at the narthex door (before worship) and in the narthex (following worship); mail it in to the church; drop it off at the church in person; or, use our quick and secure online giving platform. This can be accessed through our website, or by scanning the QR code on the last page of this bulletin. Thanks for your generosity and cooperation.

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elders: Tina Patterson and Kim Snyder)

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

Bethany Members

Christopher Bagley
Sylvia Donley
Pat Kennedy
Joyce & Norman Mize
Nancy Sutton

Katherine Bayliff
Henry Flythe
Ruby Martin
Shelvia Russell

Family of Barbara Cousins
Judy & Darrell Holmes
Laura Mitchell-Ayers
Mike Sutton
Ida Whitney

Friends of Bethany

Carol Brooks
Bill Faucette
Grace Johnson
Anne McDaniels
Shannon Russell
Tiffany Tauchren
Teresa Wilborn
Frank Wrenn

Janie Holt Clapp
Gwyn & Cindy Ingle
Christy Lutterloh
Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Alex Thomas
Deborah & Larry

Jack Cook
Ben Johnson
Gaynell McCollum
Norma Proctor
Ann Sutton
Randy Thompson
Cindy Uzzo
Don Burenhiede

TEACH Ministry: (Lead Elders: Tracey Troxler and Shelby Smith)

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.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

Sunday, May 15th :- Fifth Sunday of Easter

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (will return soon)
- 11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Wednesday, May 18th

- 6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, May 22nd – Sixth Sunday of Easter

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (will return soon)
- 11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

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love learn serve



Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

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Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp
Helen Brown
Tina Patterson

Class of 2023:

Chip Allen
Randy Cousins
Shelby Smith

Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell
Kim Snyder
Tracey Troxler

Staff

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Jon Phillips – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org

Chaplain: Rick Purcell – chaplain@bethanypreschurch.org

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – music@bethanypreschurch.org

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – admin@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

Scan this QR code for fast, safe, and reliable online giving:



Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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