



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

May 2, 2021 – 11:00 am

Fifth Sunday of Easter



*“Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down.
His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”
Matthew 5:1-2, 9 (NIV)*

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.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *O That Will Be Glory*

GERALD PETERSON / C. H. GABRIEL

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 a socially-distanced peace of Christ with your neighbor.)

* **GATHERING SONG:** *God Welcomes All*

THEMBA AMEN / JOHN BELL

*God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God’s love is strong and it never ends.*

* 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:** *Here in This Place (Gather Us In)*

GATHER US IN / MARTY HAUGEN

*Here in this place the new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.*

*Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*We are the young; our lives are a mystery. We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.*

*Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.*

*Here we will take the wine and the water; here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.*

*Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.*

*Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away:
here in this place the new light is shining; now is the kingdom, and now is the day.*

*Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 5:1-11 (NIV)

Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1173

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Teach us to love one another with that passion which comes from your overflowing heart, 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, 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, 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.

Merciful God, in Jesus, our risen Lord, we have seen your glory. Yet our sinfulness often blocks out the light of Christ. We are quick to accuse and slow to confess. We find faults easily in others, while ignoring our own shortcomings. We have squandered your gifts.

We have turned from your ways. We have ignored your Word. Have mercy on us, compassionate God. Pour out your Holy Spirit on our sinful lives. Wash us with your love and cleanse us with your grace, that day by day we might move closer to the people you would have us be.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

The resurrection of Jesus shows us the grace of God is stronger than death and the love of God has no boundary. This is good news!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen!

* RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE #355: *Hear the Good News of Salvation*

NETTLETON

*Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.
Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.*

Jesus Christ, how much I love You! Jesus Christ, You save from sin!

How I love You! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.

*** SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE**

FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

As the people of God gathered in these places, who are we?

We are a community of believers, called by God to WORSHIP, SERVE, TEACH, and SUPPORT.

With the whole church, let us say what we believe.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

*** A DOXOLOGY:**

BEACH SPRING

*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**

*** HYMN OF THE DAY #372: *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian***

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

*Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.*

*Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.*

*Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.*

*Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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: *Nearer My God to Thee*

LOWELL MASON / ARR. LANI SMITH

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***You Are Blessed: A Child of God***

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

*** CLOSING HYMN: *For Everyone Born* (see page 5)**

SHIRLEY ERENA MURRAY

* **SENDING**

Go now, in the love of our God.

We will live for others through our God.

Go now, in the grace of Jesus.

We will forgive others, just as we have been forgiven.

Go now, in the community of the Spirit.

We will serve others in every need, in every place, in every heart.

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *Carry His Love With You*

ADAM MASON

* *Please stand in body or spirit.*

769 For Everyone Born

E *Leader or All* A2

1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,

E A2 Bsus B

for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,

F#m7 E/G# A2 Bsus

a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,

E Bsus E Bsus

for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
 for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,
 for young and for old, the right to be - long,
 for just and un - just, a new way to live,
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

Refrain B *All* E E/G# A2 Bsus B

and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and

E E/G# A2 Bsus B

joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,

C#m C#m/B A2

God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,

Bsus B (E) *Fine* A2 E Bsus B

jus - tice and joy!



Our Faith Community @ Work

WORSHIP Ministry: (Lead Elders: Nancy Purcell and Helen Brown)

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.**

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. A **Video Recording** of our Live Stream will be available on our Facebook page and on our website.

Resources used in today’s worship:

- *Feasting on the Word* Commentary
- *The New Daily Study Bible Series* Commentary
- *Ministry Matters* online resource (www.ministrymatters.com)
- *Presbyterian Outlook* Liturgical Resources
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)

We rejoice that we can now worship together in our beautiful sanctuary! Here are some guidelines to follow to ensure the health and safety of our congregation:

- **Masks must be worn at all times.**
- Please do not sit in any pews that have been blocked off. This is to make sure that social-distancing guidelines are being followed.
- Bulletins are available at the doors. They will not be distributed but you may pick one up as you wish.
- The offering will not be collected but offering plates are available in the narthex. You may place your offering in the plates on your way out, or you may follow the QR code below to give online.
- Please refrain from physical interaction during our “meet and greet” time. Waves and virtual hugs are our new normal - at least for awhile!
- Although we normally encourage singing hymns with gusto, that might not be the wisest thing to do right now. Either sing softly through your mask, or hum.
- John will be at the door to greet following the service, but will not shake hands or hug . . . just an elbow bump and the knowledge that he’s smiling beneath the mask!

As we worship in this Eastertide, John will offer a new six-week Sermon Series focusing on The Beatitudes in the fifth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. Here are the themes for the series:

- April 11th: *You Are Blessed: The Poor in Spirit*
- April 18th: *You Are Blessed: The Mourners and the Meek*
- April 25th: *You Are Blessed: A Hunger for Righteousness*
- **May 2nd: You Are Blessed: A Child of God**
- May 9th: *You Are Blessed: Persecuted*
- May 16th: *You Are Blessed: Rejoice and Be Glad!*

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elders: Randy Cousins and Tina Patterson)

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

Bill Faucette	Diane Miller	John & Ann Sutton
Jack Cook	Peter Slater	Ruby Martin
Joan Richardson	Joey Leake	Teresa Wilborn
Shannon Russell	Ida Whitney	Tiffany Tauchren
Katherine Turner	Jean Berry	Barbara Cousins
Jeremy Harden	Christy Lutterloh	Pat Kennedy
Anne McDaniels	Eleanor Thompson	Mike Sutton
Alex Thomas	Nancy Sutton	Ritchie Fishburne
Stewart Dillard	Norma Proctor	Ben Johnson
Shelvia Russell	Christopher Bagley	Grace Johnson
Carol Brooks	Randy Thompson	Frank Wrenn
Janie Holt Clapp	Penny Rice (sister of Carolyn Thompson)	Sylvia Donley
Linda Abplanalp		Joyce & Norman Mize

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.

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.

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: Chip Allen, Ben Russell, and Bill Abplanalp)

Elders of the Month for May are **Helen Brown** and **Ben Russell**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (as scheduled)
- 11:00 – Worship

Monday, the 3rd:

- 7:00 – Spring Bible Study

Sunday, the 9th:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (as scheduled)
- 11:00 – Worship

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell

Ben Russell

Tracey Troxler

Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp

Helen Brown

Tina Patterson

Class of 2023:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Shelby Smith

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love learn serve



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Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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