



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

May 3, 2020 – 11:00 am

Fourth Sunday of Easter



“So Jesus spoke again, “I assure you that I am the gate of the sheep.

All who came before me were thieves and outlaws, but the sheep didn’t listen to them.

I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture.”

John 10:7-9 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Generous God, thank you for the gift of this new day. Help me to watch for your signs and wonders in the world today, and fill my heart with gladness and generosity, that I may generate good will wherever I go. Amen. - Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1: Advent through Pentecost (p. 151). Westminster John Knox Press. Kindle Edition. - Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1: Advent through Pentecost (p. 147). Westminster John Knox Press. Kindle Edition (adapted)

PRELUDE:

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.)

* CALL TO WORSHIP

In the laughter of children, we hear the voice of the Gate of the Way, and find our way home.

In the lap of a parent, God’s compassion cradles us in the still waters of love.

The Shepherd of our lives leads us through that door into life with him forever.

We are baptized with living waters which refresh us, restoring us to follow Jesus all our days.

The Holy Spirit, Keeper of truth, is the Light which guides us through every shadowed moment.

The Breath of life stills our worries and fears, as we are lead to that peaceful place of God’s heart.

* OPENING HYMN #357: O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

MARYTON

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

JOHN 10:1-10

Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1305

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Buoyed by your living waters, we are at peace in seas of stress and success;

detoured onto those walkways leading to your joy, we find our way out of mazes of meetings and deadlines;

nourished at your picnic in that garden of grace, our shredded souls are anointed by your healing;

you slow us down just enough, as we try to escape the very lives we think we want, so goodness and mercy can catch up with us and carry us into your heart.

Day by day, God would lead us to the places of hope and healing, while moment by moment, we continue to follow sin down all the wrong paths. Let us confess our lives, as we draw near to the One who would restore us to wholeness.

The wrong paths to foolish lives and repeated mistakes? We know all too well where they are, Gate of our lives. Stirring up the waters with trouble comes all too easy to us, we confess. And locking the doors of our hearts so we don't have to love others is second nature to us.

Forgive us, our Goodness and Mercy. May our hearts overflow with hope for others, as you anoint us with healing oil. May we share from our abundance with all who hunger for life. May we follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to the places of service and life with you forever.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Our Comforter leads us to that place where God's Table is spread with forgiveness and overflowing with grace. Here, we are called to life and love.

We will live as God's people: forgiven to serve, blessed to share, loved so we might care. Thanks be to God. Amen.

* SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

THE APOSTLES' CREED

As the people of God gathered in this place, 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. Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* HYMN OF THE DAY #171: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

ST. COLUMBA

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 PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *The Gatekeeper*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* **CLOSING HYMN #387:** *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

BRADBURY

* **SENDING**

Day by day, God will lead us:

to those pools of peace where we can gather with our friends and strangers.

Day by day, Jesus will call us:

to give ourselves in service, to anoint others with hope.

Day by day, the Spirit shows us:

the people we might be, the community we might become.

* **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

* *Please 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 (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).

Obviously, due to the ongoing health crisis surrounding the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, we are not worshipping in person at this point in time, but rather gathering virtually using the Zoom meeting platform. Each week the congregation will be emailed a link by which everyone can join the meeting using their computer, laptop, smartphone, or tablet. John will lead worship in this manner, and congregants are invited to participate as they are able. For those who are unable to connect via Zoom, we are also hoping to be on Facebook Live as well. We are still trying to work out some glitches in that.

For those unable to get the link via email, it will also be on our Facebook page, and on our website.

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 Zoom worship will be available on our Facebook page and on our website.

Resources used in today's worship:

- *Feasting on the Word* worship resources
- *When We Gather* worship resource
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)

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 | Shirley Lane |
| Teresa Wilborn | Shannon Russell | Ida Whitney |
| Tiffany Tauchren | Mary Moore | Katherine Turner |
| 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 |
| Alex Thomas | Family of Katherine Bayliff | Robert Sykes |
| Randy Thompson | Glenn Thompson | Ritchie Fishburne |
| Frederica Beatty | Carol Brooks | Janie Holt Clapp |
| Christopher Bagley | Lou Crutchfield | Jean Payne |

TEACH Ministry: (Lead Elders: Karen Maxwell and Tracey Troxler)

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. (Classes will resume when we return to having church in person!)

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 **Karen Maxwell** and **Nancy Purcell**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 11:00 – Worship Online

Wednesday, the 6th:

- 7:00 – Choir Practice (not meeting)

Sunday, the 10th:

- 11:00 – Worship Online

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Karen Maxwell

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2020:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Karen Maxwell

Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell

Ben Russell

Tracey Troxler

Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp

Helen Brown

Tina Patterson

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love learn serve



1500 S. Main Street
Graham, NC 27215

www.bethanypreschurch.org

336.227.4041

Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org

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

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

Elder Emeritus: Bobby Peele

Elder Emeritus: Don Boggs

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Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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