



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

May 3, 2026 – 11:00 am

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Communion



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!

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *What A Friend*

TOM BIRCHWOOD

WELCOME

***OPENING HYMN #442:** *The Church's One Foundation*

SAMUEL J. STONE

The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation By water and the word.
From heaven He came and sought her To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation, Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, With every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder This world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed,

Yet saints their watch are keeping;
Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation, And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious Shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly, May live eternally.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

(BASED ON PSALM 31:1-5, 14-15)

Our God refuses to shame us. God's justice delivers us.

Praise God, in whom we seek shelter and guidance!

Our God listens to us. God rescues us from danger.

Praise God, in whom we seek shelter and guidance!

Our God renews our spirits. God is always faithful.

Praise God, in whom we seek shelter and guidance!

We trust our God. Let us worship God, whom we call ours.

Praise God, in whom we seek shelter and guidance!

GATHERING PRAYER

(ACTS 7, PSALM 31, JOHN 14)

Faithful God, you are our refuge and our strength, a mighty fortress in a world of chaos and turmoil.

Protect us, but also encourage us to be brave.

Strengthen us to face this world and to make it a better place.

Inspire our worship, that in time we may deepen our faith and place our trust in you. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(APOSTLE CREED)

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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.

*HYMN OF THE DAY #513: *Let Us Break Bread Together*

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees;)

Let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees.)

When I fall on my knees, With my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)

Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees;)
Let us drink wine together on our knees. (on our knees.)
When I fall on my knees, With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)

Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees;)
Let us praise God together on our knees. (on our knees.)
When I fall on my knees, With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

God of compassionate mercy, your grace and love extend to all people. We are called to forgive others, as you forgive us. Far too often, however, we wield forgiveness like a weapon. We see others doing wrong and feel haughty when we grant them grace. We call out the sins of the powerful but fail to notice our own power. We become narrow in our quest for truth, and ignore other people, in other rooms, crying out for your justice. Help us search ourselves and seek forgiveness from those we have made beg us for mercy. Connect us to others and guide us to share power and grace as we follow you.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Jesus promised his followers there are many rooms in a world filled with God's justice. When we speak truth to our own power, we make room for God's just world. This is the good news: God raised Jesus and made room for us, calling us to live out of God's forgiveness by making sure there is room for all. Alleluia, Amen!

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Your Word, O God, is a source of refuge and guidance. Lead us, and inspire our hearts and souls as we engage holy Scripture with our minds and spirits. Amen.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16

PEW BIBLE, 685

JOHN 14:1-14

PEW BIBLE, 1312

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Because He Lives*

JACK SCHRADER

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"What is the Meaning of Satisfaction?"*

RICK PURCELL, CRE

THE LORD'S SUPPER

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper today by inviting everyone who wants to participate up front to receive the bread and cup (we use gluten free bread and grape juice). If you are more comfortable remaining seated but would like to participate, raise your hand and we will come to your seat to serve you. We believe that Jesus invites everyone forward to his table to "taste and see," and so we proclaim that all are welcome to participate.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

AN OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY: *Gather Us In*

ARR. MARK HAYES

***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.

*BLESSING OUR GIFTS

***CLOSING HYMN # 527:** *Near to the Heart of God*

CLELAND BOYD MCAFEE

There is a place of quiet rest,
Near to the heart of God,
A place where sin cannot molest,
Near to the heart of God.

Refrain

O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
Sent from the heart of God,
Hold us, who wait before Thee,
Near to the heart of God.

There is a place of comfort sweet,
Near to the heart of God,
A place where we our Savior meet,
Near to the heart of God. **(Refrain)**

There is a place of full release,
Near to the heart of God,
A place where all is joy and peace,
Near to the heart of God. **(Refrain)**

*SENDING

POSTLUDE: *The Abundant Life*

GARRETT PARKER

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sundays, 9:45am Bible Study – Evie C. Marshall Room

Wednesdays, 10:00am Bethany Exercise Class - Evie C. Marshall Room

Exercise classes will start back after the first of the year on Wednesdays at 10:00am in the Evie C. Marshall classroom. Come join us for fun and fellowship.

Tuesday, May 5th 10:30am The Women of Bethany Church Gathering

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, May 5th at 10:30am. in the Evie C. Marshall classroom.

Tuesday, May 5th Alamance Co. Mobile Library

The Alamance County Public Libraries mobile library will be at Bethany on the first Tuesday of each month. The 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.

S.A.F.E. (Southern Alamance Family Empowerment)

How can we help S.A.F.E. for during the **month of May**? They are asking for **Soup, and Peanut Butter and Jelly**

S.A.F.E. will be closed the 1st and 5th Saturday of the Month.
Consider donating your paper bags.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, May 3rd - 5th Sunday of Easter - Communion & Pennies for Hunger

9:45 – Bible Study - Evie C. Marshall classroom

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

Wednesday, May 6th

10:00 – Exercise class

7:00 pm – Choir Practice

Sunday, May 10th - 6th Sunday of Easter

9:45 – Bible Study - Evie C. Marshall classroom

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

Session

Moderator: Rick Purcell, CRE

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2026:

Chip Allen

Jean Payne

Ben Russell

Class of 2027:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Brandon Troxler

Class of 2028:

Helen Brown

Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Nancy Purcell

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Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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