



## Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

[www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org)

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May 7, 2023 – 11:00 am

*Fifth Sunday of Easter*

*Communion Sunday*



"Paul the Apostle. Detail of the mosaic in the Basilica of San Vitale, Ravenna, Italy (c. 6th century)."  
Photo by Luca Sartoni, 2014

First of all, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because the news about your faithfulness is being spread throughout the whole world. Romans 1:8 (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 Christ Polhill, Eggs and Ashes: Practical and Liturgical Resources for Lent and Holy Week (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2004) ; 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:** *Carry His Love With You*

ADAM MASON

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #138:** *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*

REGINALD HEBER

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinfulness Thy glory may not see,  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee  
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

**\*OPENING SENTENCES**

"WHEN FLOWERS BLOOM," LIZ DELAFIELD

When flowers bloom in the desert,  
Christ is risen. ***Alleluia, Alleluia!***

When enemies sit around tables and talk about peace,  
Christ is risen. ***Alleluia, Alleluia!***

When people stand up for what is right in the face of great evil,  
Christ is risen. ***Alleluia, Alleluia!***

When, despite hardship and struggle, people sing and dance,  
Christ is risen. ***Alleluia, Alleluia!***

When prison bars are shattered  
by the cry of "Freedom!,"  
Christ is risen. ***Alleluia, Alleluia!***

When in our wounded and broken world,  
life triumphs over death, peace over war, hope over fear,  
freedom over captivity, love over hate,  
Christ is risen. ***He is risen indeed.***  
***Alleluia, Alleluia!***

Let us worship our God.

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

TAIZÉ COMMUNITY

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

# 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

**MATTHEW 9:10-13**

PEW BIBLE, 1179

**ROMANS 1:1-17**

PEW BIBLE, 1368

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 #507:** *I Come with Joy*

BRIAN WREN

I come with joy to meet my Lord,  
Forgiven, loved, and free,  
In awe and wonder to recall  
His life laid down for me,  
His life laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near  
To find, as all are fed,  
The new community of love  
In Christ's communion bread,  
In Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,  
Each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one,  
And strangers now are friends,  
And strangers now are friends.

And thus with joy we meet our Lord.  
His presence, always near,  
Is in such friendship better known:  
We see and praise Him here,  
We see and praise Him here.

Together met, together bound  
We'll go our different ways,  
And as His people in the world,  
We'll live and speak His praise,  
We'll live and speak His praise.

## TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"PRAYER OF CONFESSION," MARION BROWN & NEIL PAYNTER

Friends, let us come together to tell the truth about ourselves.  
Please pray with me:

*Dear God, we confess how difficult it is for us  
to accept your invitation:*

*Self-absorbed and busy following our own agendas.  
Tied up with all our engagements, demands, responsibilities, promises, regrets...*

*We confess that we are afraid and anxious,  
that we can't sit still with ourselves –*

*or sit down with others who are different and  
who do not like the same things.*

*And we admit  
how difficult it is for us to truly, honestly  
taste and swallow this world:*

*with its rich experiences of sweet and sour,  
sorrow and joy;*

*to live openly and hopefully –  
to trust in your grace and believe in resurrection.*

*Lord God,  
help us to say yes to the feast you have prepared for all  
to taste and share.*

*Help us to choose life in all its fullness  
over substitutes that leave us sick and tired,  
empty and wanting. Amen.*

*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:** *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

LOWELL MASON/ARR. BY FRED BOCK

**THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

**Sermon:** *"Romerbrief 1"*

REV. PHILLIPS

## SACRAMENT OF 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**

"EASTER CELEBRATION FROM HOLY ROOD HOUSE," ELIZABETH BAXTER

Gather around this resurrection table where all are welcomed and the good earth is affirmed.  
From her generosity, we bring these gifts of bread and wine.

***Witness to hope, we participate in Christ's liberation.***

**GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Be still  
and know that I am God.  
***We are still in your presence  
you are still with us.***

In Christ you accompany us,  
embodied among us,  
sharing our birthing  
our living  
our dying  
***sharing our dreams of hope and liberation,  
offering us new life  
and the shattering  
of the tomb.***

In Christ  
you appear as the host  
at the ebbing and the flowing of our lives  
***you beckon us to share your hospitality,***

***your challenge of love.***

In Christ  
you sit as the guest  
at the table of the stranger  
***you bless us with your presence,  
your awakening of love.***

In Christ  
you stand among us  
as host and guest at the heart of this community  
***you share with us your vulnerability,  
your unwrapping of love.***

As hosts with Christ,  
we bless this bread...

...and nature's turn of hand.

*Restore and heal  
all that is wounded*

*be present  
in the stillness  
of the waiting*

*roll back the stone  
of prejudice  
and fear*

*release the signs  
of spring.*

*you remake us*

*by transforming pain  
you heal us –*

*your passionate energy  
empowers us.*

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We gently break this bread  
of fragile life  
*our breaking down  
becomes our breaking through.*

As we eat this living bread  
and drink the new wine of resurrection,  
let us celebrate the cosmic Christ,  
our liberator and sustainer

*with divine tenderness  
you remake us*

*by transforming pain  
you heal us –*

*your passionate energy  
empowers us.*

## COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God  
source of our life  
bless with boldness  
caress with care

Christ  
Wisdom of God  
bless with boldness  
caress with care

Spirit  
midwife of new beginnings  
bless with boldness  
caress with care. Amen.

**\*CLOSING HYMN #538:** *Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing*

JOHN FAWCETT

Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing;  
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
Let us each, Thy love possessing,  
Triumph in redeeming grace.  
O refresh us, O refresh us,  
Traveling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration  
For Thy gospel's joyful sound;  
May the fruits of Thy salvation  
In our hearts and lives abound.  
Ever faithful, Ever faithful  
To the truth may we be found.

So that when Thy love shall call us,  
Savior, from the world away,  
Let no fear of death appall us,  
Glad Thy summons to obey.  
May we ever, May we ever  
Reign with Thee in endless day.

**\*SENDING**

"A BLESSING," CHRIS POLHILL

The power of the Creator who brings life out of death,  
be in this place.  
The risen Christ be your constant companion.  
The healing embrace of the Holy Spirit encircle you  
so that you see resurrection ever about you.

**CHORAL BLESSING:** *Lead Me, Lord*

SAMUEL WESLEY

**POSTLUDE:** *High Praise*

RACHEL SAWYER

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*\* Please stand in body or spirit.*

## This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> - Fifth Sunday of Easter and Communion

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

Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> - Sixth Sunday of Easter – Mother's Day

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:

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### Class of 2025:

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Tina Patterson

Nancy Purcell

### Staff

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