



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschur.ch.org

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May 8, 2022 – 11:00 am

Fourth Sunday of Easter



"Paul in Prison" - Rembrandt, 1627

They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your entire household."
Acts 16:31 (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: *Sweet Song of Peace*

ROBERT J. HUGHES / TUNE: CINCINNATI

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*OPENING SENTENCES

The Lamb of God will be our shepherd;
he will guide us to the water of life.

Rev. 7:17

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Almighty God, you sent Jesus, our good shepherd, to gather us together: May we not wander from his flock, but follow wherever he leads us, listening for his voice and staying near him, until we are safely in your fold, to live with you forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. ***Amen.***

***OPENING HYMN #253:** *I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath*

ISAAC WATTS

I'll praise my Maker while I've breath;
And when my voice is lost in death,
Praise shall employ my nobler powers.
My days of praise shall ne'er be past
While life, and thought, and being last,
Or immortality endures.

How happy they whose hopes rely
On Israel's God who made the sky,
And earth and seas with all their train;
Whose truth for ever stands secure,
Who saves the oppressed and feeds the poor,
And none shall find God's promise vain.

The Lord pours eyesight on the blind;
The Lord supports the fainting mind
And send the laboring sons science peace.
God helps the stranger in distress,
The widowed and the parentless,
And grants the prisoner sweet release.

I'll praise my Maker while I've breath;
And when my voice is lost in death,
Praise shall employ my nobler powers.
My days of praise shall ne'er be past
While life and thought and being last,
Or immortality endures.

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

LUKE 6:8-10, 22-23

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1252, 1253

ACTS 16:16-34

PEW BIBLE, PAGES 1348

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"God of the Elements," Ruth Burgess

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 the elements
bless us with resurrection.***

***Burn away in us
what needs to go.***

***Wash us clean
and clear and holy.***

***Blow us round
with warmth and wonder.***

***Root us deeply each day
in love and justice.***

***God of the elements
bless us with resurrection.***

A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYER

"A Prayer for Mothers and Those Who Wish to Mother" by Rev. Denise Anderson

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

"In You I Love and Glory," Ruth Burgess

I will put my hand
in your hand
because I trust you.

*I will live my life
your way:
through hope
and through justice.*

Whatever heaven is
I will go there
with you.

*You are my birth
my life
my death
and my resurrection.*

In you,
O God,
I love
and glory.

***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 #661:** *His Eye is on the Sparrow (Glory to God)*

CIVILLA DURFEE MARTIN

Why should I feel discouraged?
Why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely
and long for heaven and home,
when Jesus is my portion?
My constant friend is he:
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me.

Refrain

I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free,
for his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me.

"Let not your heart be troubled,"
his tender word I hear,
and resting on his goodness,
I lose my doubts and fears;
though by the path he leadeth
but one step I may see:
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me. **[Refrain]**

Whenever I am tempted,
whenever clouds arise,
when song gives place to sighing,
when hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to him,
from care he sets me free:
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me. **[Refrain]**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *My Lord, What a Morning*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Breaking Chains"*

REV. PHILLIPS

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

***CLOSING HYMN #555:** *Now Thank We All Our God*

MARTIN RINCKART

Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom this world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers' arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplexed,

And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God,
Who reigns in highest heaven,
To Father and to Son
And Spirit now be given.
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore,
The God who was, and is,
And shall be evermore.

***SENDING**

1 John 4:13-16

Beloved children, may the love
of the holy triune God –
Parent, Child, and Holy Spirit –
abide with you forever. *Alleluia!*
Come, Lord Jesus!
Amen.

POSTLUDE: *How Firm a Foundation*

PATRICIA LOU HARRIS/TUNE: FOUNDATION

* *Please stand in body or spirit.*

Hymn Story

“His Eye Is on the Sparrow”

Marriages tend to work especially well when husband and wife have shared interests—and even more so if their shared interests have a creative bent. That was the case for Walter Stillman Martin (1862-1935) and his wife, Civilla (1866-1948). They had been drawn to each other, in large measure, because of their shared interest in music and their shared faith.

That turned out to be a blessing for the church, because the Martins wrote a number of hymns, some of which became quite well known. “His Eye Is on the Sparrow” is one of those. “God Will Take Care of You” is another. Civilla wrote the words, and Walter set her words to music. Jesus’ words provide the background for this hymn. He said:

“Aren’t two sparrows sold for a penny? Not one of them falls on the ground apart from your Father’s will, but the very hairs of your head are all numbered.
Therefore don’t be afraid. You are of more value than many sparrows.”
(Matthew 10:29-31)

But the immediate inspiration came from a woman with a chronic illness. Civilla visited her, and was struck by the difficulties that were such a regular part of the woman’s life. Civilla asked her if she ever got discouraged. The woman responded with a question of her own, “How could I be discouraged?” She said that she knew that God loves every sparrow, and felt certain that God loved her—and would take care of her.

Inspired by the woman’s faith, Civilla went home and wrote this song.

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A PRAYER FOR MOTHERS AND THOSE WHO WISH TO MOTHER
Rev. Denise Anderson, co-moderator of the 222nd General Assembly

Holy One, who gathers us as a mother bear gathers her cubs,

We give thanks for your goodness and mercy toward us. We are grateful for your lovingkindness and care for your children through the ages. We thank you for your protection and correction. And we thank you that we of all genders, ethnicities, and racializations bear the imprint of your caring nature.

In culture and in the church, we celebrate and give thanks for mothers — mothers who reflect your incessant care and teaching. We are grateful for their role in our lives and ask that you sustain in these difficult times all who mother. For those who try to keep their children safe, educated, and engaged in new ways, we ask for energy and imagination to do that work. For those who have always had to mother in difficult circumstances, we ask for provision.

We also acknowledge that for many of us, the concept of “mothering” is painful to consider. Our mothers may have been absent physically or functionally. Some of us have experienced the untimely death of or abandonment by a mother, and we continue to grieve their absence. For some of us, the mothers in our lives were abusive or neglectful. We ask for your grace in grief and your care for hearts that are hurting.

We lift those mothers who have lost children. Some to perinatal loss. Some to illness. Some to violence. We ask for your arms of comfort to surround those mothers in their loss. We give thanks for the strength of mothers who continue to advocate and fight for their children and everyone else’s child. We ask for their prophetic voices to be lifted in the public square and that their continued labor not be in vain.

We remember those who wish to mother. We ask that you would soothe hearts that are in agony, longing to build the family for which they have dreamed and to which you have called them.

And God, we give thanks that not everyone wants to mother. Many instead chose to contribute to our common life in other impactful ways. We thank you for those who inspire, who give, who love, who teach, who nurture, who challenge, and who make the world better in myriad ways. We thank you for those who step in as chosen family to people without access to their families of birth. We thank you for those who adopt others, whether formally or informally. We remember Jesus’ admonition that whoever does the will of God is his mother, brother, sister, sibling. Help us, O God, to be your family in all the ways you have imagined for us.

In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, brother to us all,

Amen.



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
Christy Lutterloh
Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Tiffany Tauchren
Teresa Wilborn
Frank Wrenn

Janie Holt Clapp
Ben Johnson
Gaynell McCollum
Norma Proctor

Alex Thomas
Deborah & Larry

Jack Cook
Grace Johnson
Anne McDaniels
Shannon Russell
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 8th :- Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

Wednesday, May 11th

- 6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, May 15th :- Fifth Sunday of Easter

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (will return soon)
- 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 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

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