



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

May 9, 2021 – 11:00 am

Sixth Sunday of Easter



*"And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*

Matthew 5:1-2, 10 (NKJV)

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: *I Surrender All*

JUDSON W. VAN DE VENTER

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: *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship* (stanzas 1 & 4)

HOLY MANNA

*Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God.
Will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the word?
All is vain unless the Spirit of the holy One comes down.
Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.
Let us love our God supremely; let us love each other, too.
Let us love and pray for sinners till our God makes all things new.
Christ will call us home to heaven; at his table we'll sit down.
Christ will gird himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to worship the One who crafted creation out of chaos,
our cries of joy join the anthems of the universe.

We gather to lift our praise to the God who gives us voice,
we bring the songs which have echoed in our hearts all week long.

We gather as the children of God, our joy unbroken in God's love.

Young and old, tone deaf and perfect-pitched lift the new, new songs of faith.

* OPENING HYMN #492: *Baptized in Water*

BUNESSAN

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;
heirs of salvation, trusting the promise,
faithfully now God's praises we sing.*

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our King;
one with his rising, freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praises we sing.*

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our King;
born of the Spirit, we are God's children;
joyfully now God's praises we sing.*

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 5:1-12 (NKJV)

Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1173

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

You raise your hand and gently begin the concerto of creation: birds carry the melody while stars keep the beat; mountains dance in merriment and little children clap their hands with joy. Creation's Composer, our new songs are lifted to you.

The old, old song is made new in our hearts: Christ is Risen! Sing Alleluia! You invite us to sing to a world deafened by despair and haunted by the tunes of fear. Lord of the Dance, our new songs are lifted to you.

Believing we cannot carry a tune, we hesitate to join in the chorus of praise sung by all creation. So, you softly and gently hum the melody in our hearts until they burst with you, raising a rousing chorus of Amazing Grace. Music-making Spirit, our new songs are lifted to you.

Every song, old and new, is offered to you, God in Community, Holy in One, even as we pray.

Beautiful music, every note perfect, joining together in graceful harmony - this is what we imagine our lives to be. Yet our love is flat, our anger often sharp. Let us confess how we struggle to keep the measured beat of God's life-giving melody in our lives.

Joy-giving God, we know who we are: people who hear the harmony of your grace and love in our souls, but sing off-key so often. We want to learn new songs, but those haunting tunes of our past mistakes run through our heads. We long to make a joyful noise to you, but the hurts inflicted on us, and the pain we have caused others, silence our voices.

Sing to us, Conductor of Grace: sing of your forgiveness, your hope, your love for us. Strike a chord of humility in our hearts so our eyes could see all you have done for us; and in seeing, we might believe how much you love us; and in believing, we would echo that new song of hope and life composed through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Listen to the melody of the good news: Christ is risen, bringing joy into the world. The One who was dead now lives, and wraps us in the delight of life forever with our God.

Now, our dirges have turned to joy; our requiem has been rearranged as a hymn of hope; our laments are lost in a cantata of praise. Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! 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. To whom do we belong?

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

In whom do we trust?

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

In what do we rejoice?

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

* A DOXOLOGY: *We Lift Our Voices*

OFFERING

*We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives;
they are yours: we are an offering.*

*All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.*

*We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering; we are an offering.*

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* HYMN OF THE DAY #298: *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

IN BABILONE

*There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.
For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.*

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: *Majesty*

JACK W. HAYFORD (D. TORRANS)

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *You Are Blessed: Persecuted*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN: *Will You Come and Follow Me*

KELVINGROVE

*“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”*

*“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?”*

*“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”*

*“Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”*

*Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.*

* SENDING

As God has loved us,
so we will go to love those despised by the world.
As Jesus has forgiven us,
we will go to forgive everyone who has hurt us and to bring healing into their brokenness.
As the Spirit calls us 'friends,'
so we will go to befriend the outcasts, the lonely, and the lost of our society.

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE: *Standing on the Promises*

R. KELSO CARTER

* *Please stand in body or spirit.*



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 **Live Stream** and a **Video Recording** of our Live Stream are 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 is offering a 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 for Righteousness’ Sake**
- May 16th: *You Are Blessed: Rejoice and Be Glad!*

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

Send a Scout to Camp! Troop 9 is offering the opportunity for Bethany Presbyterian Church Members to “Send a Scout to Camp.” The Cost of Summer Camp is \$300. Your sponsorship will help send a Scout to Summer Camp 2021. For a Full \$300 Donation, the Scout you Sponsor will send you 2 letters from Camp, as well as photo(s). Partial donations will also be accepted. You are welcome to send sponsorship’s to Troop 9, 1407 E. Gilbreath St., Graham NC., 27253. Thank you.

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 10th:

- 7:00 – Spring Bible Study

Sunday, the 16th:

- 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

bethany presbyterian

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

Scan this QR code for fast, safe, and reliable online giving:



Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS BULLETIN IN THE BASKETS PROVIDED AT THE DOORS.