



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

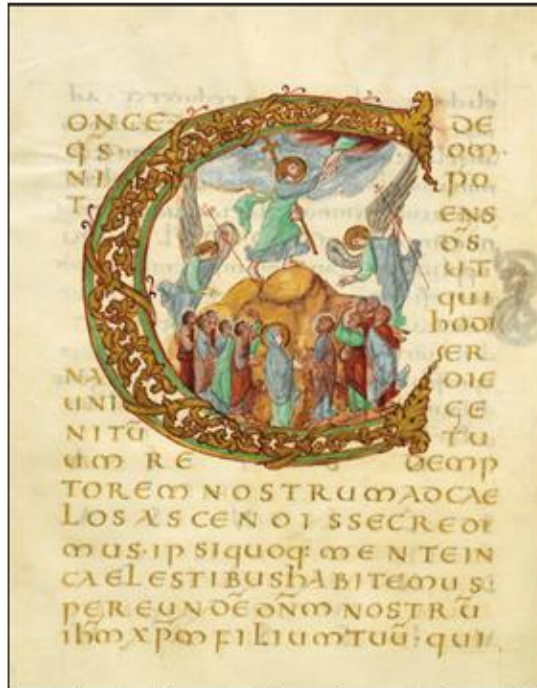
[www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org)

[www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian)

May 12, 2024 – 11:00 am

*Seventh Sunday of Easter*

*Ascension of the Lord*



"Sacramentaire de Drogon, Metz, France" circa 850 CE.

*Death has been swallowed up by a victory  
Where is your victory, Death?  
Where is your sting, Death?*

1 Corinthians 15:55 (Common English Bible)

## 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, Fire and Bread: Resources for Easter Day to Trinity Sunday, (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2006), and LiturgyLink, <https://www.liturgylink.net>.*

### TRINITY CHIMES

**PRELUDE:** *Come, Thou Almighty King*

GERALD PETERSON/TUNE: ITALIAN HYMN BY FELICE DE GIARDINA

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*OPENING HYMN #150: *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

CHRISTIAN HENRY BATEMAN

Come, Christians, join to sing  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Loud praise to Christ our King;  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Let all, with heart and voice,  
Before His throne rejoice;  
Praise is His gracious choice;  
Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high;  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Let praises fill the sky;  
Alleluia! Amen!  
He is our guide and friend;  
To us He'll condescend;  
His love shall never end;  
Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again;  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Life shall not end the strain;  
Alleluia! Amen!  
On heaven's blissful shore  
His goodness we'll adore,  
Singing forevermore,  
"Alleluia! Amen!"

### \*OPENING SENTENCES

"FOR ASCENSION DAY," RUTH BURGESS

What are you doing here?  
***We are looking for Jesus***

What are you doing here?  
***We have questions to ask***

What are you doing here?  
***We seek hope; we seek healing***

What are you doing here?  
***We have heard God calling our names***

Let us worship our God.

## GATHERING PRAYER

"HELP US TO SEE," THOM SHUMAN

We look for you,  
straining our eyes  
into the far country,  
Lord.  
but our vision is disrupted  
by the least, the lost,  
the littlest, the last,  
among us.

We wander the streets  
yearning to find you,  
calling your name,

Gone...

But you are still here,

but it is only

Help us to see.  
**Amen.**

a single mother who turns  
and wearily smiles,

We race after you,  
trying to catch up,  
and turning the corner  
finding only  
a homeless family  
in our path.

a street person  
who whispers "hello,"

a little girl who pirouettes  
and takes our hand.

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

### A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God Most High, reigning in glory,  
send down your Spirit of wisdom  
to shine in your heavenly Word,  
so that we may worship you with joy,  
continually blessing your name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

**MARK 12:26-27A**

PEW BIBLE, 1234

**1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-26; 51-57**

PEW BIBLE, 1401;1403

The Word of the Lord.  
***Thanks be to God.***

### AN OFFERING OF OUR PLEDGES

#### OFFERTORY

**\*DOXOLOGY #593:** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

THOMAS KEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

**\*BLESSING OUR GIFTS**

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 with.

All the sins I have committed To my Savior now I bring.  
I bow down with tears of anguish;  
Christ forgives and so I sing:  
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 with.

### TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"A GOSPEL DIFFICULT TO PRACTICE," THOM SHUMAN

Called to proclaim repentance, we are reluctant to look at our own failings.  
Invited to witness to God's loving forgiveness of sins, we would rather not speak aloud of our own.  
Let us trust in the One who offers us hope and healing, as we pray together, saying,

***You call us to proclaim a gospel we find difficult to practice, God Most High.  
We watch our clocks to make sure we spend more time with ourselves than with you.  
We are hesitant to witness to your power from on high, as we are uncertain of your presence in our lives.  
Forgive us, God of Light. Fill us with the healing presence of your Spirit,  
that we may proclaim your good news, as we participate in the life and suffering of our world,  
as did your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.***

*silence*

### AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Choosing to set aside judgment, God gives us justice;  
choosing to let go of punishment, God fills us with peace;  
choosing to release anger, God's steadfast love rests upon us.  
***Forgiven, redeemed, restored – we will tell everyone,  
through the lives we lead, what God has done for us.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.***

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE: *He is Lord*

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: *Rejoice, the Lord is King*

EDWARD BROUGHTON BASED ON JOHN DARWELL'S 148<sup>TH</sup>

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Going Home"*

REV. PHILLIPS

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH – PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

*We affirm our faith in worship as a response to the hearing of the Word of God proclaimed. Our affirmations of faith often come from the historic creeds and confessions of our denomination's Book of Confessions. If you'd like to learn more about our creeds and confessions, we have a video series "Know Your Confessions" by Pastor Jon that you can find on our YouTube page ( direct shortened link here - <http://tiny.cc/z62qxz> )*

*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.*

*We trust in God the Holy Spirit*

*everywhere the giver and renewer of life.*

*The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,  
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,  
and binds us together with all believers  
in the one body of Christ, the Church.*

*The same Spirit*

*who inspired the prophets and apostles  
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
engages us through the Word proclaimed,  
claims us in the waters of baptism,  
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.*

*In a broken and fearful world*

*the Spirit gives us courage  
to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.*

*In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,*

*we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"*

*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 be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

"A PRAYER OF MOTHER'S DAY," LINDA LEBRON

## 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.*

**\*CLOSING HYMN #142:** *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*

OLIVER HOLDEN

All hail the power of Jesus' Name!  
Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem,  
And crown Him Lord of all!  
Bring forth the royal diadem,  
And crown Him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,  
Ye ransomed from the fall,  
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,  
And crown Him Lord of all!  
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,  
And crown Him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe,  
On this terrestrial ball,  
To Him all majesty ascribe,  
And crown Him Lord of all!  
To Him all majesty ascribe,  
And crown Him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng  
We at His feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song,  
And crown Him Lord of all!  
We'll join the everlasting song,  
And crown Him Lord of all!

**\*SENDING**

"FOR ASCENSION DAY," RUTH BURGESS

We go in hope  
*To live the good news*

We go in wonder  
*To live the good news*

We go in joy  
*To live the good news*

We go in the name of Jesus  
*In the Spirit's wisdom and in the friendship of God.*

*Amen*

**POSTLUDE:** *Unto All the World*

CHRISTOPHER NEAL

*\* Please stand in body or spirit.*



# Our Faith Community @ Work

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### **Calling all Graduates! – Celebrating our Graduates in worship, Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>**

Are you or is a member of your family celebrating a graduation this year? Whether you're graduating preschool, high school, college, trade school, a professional program, doctoral work, or anything in between, please let us know so we can name and celebrate you/them during our liturgy to celebrate graduates that we will have on Trinity Sunday (May 26<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day weekend).

### **Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> Yard Sale – Details to be announced**

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

S.A.F.E.'s donation request for May is Peanut and Jelly. If you have extra plastic and paper bags, please consider donating them.

### **Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> Alamance Co. Mobile Library**

The Alamance County Public Libraries 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

## **INVITATION TO SCOUT SUMMER PROGRAM**

All youth ages 5-11 years old are invited to attend our Scout Summer Program.

- June 15<sup>th</sup> Hike at Lake Michael
- June 26 Science STEM Slam
- July 20<sup>th</sup> Hike at Jaycee Trail Reidsville
- Aug 17<sup>th</sup> Hike at Bur-Mil Park Greensboro
- August End of Summer Pool Party

For more information contact:

Jeff Benes

Committee Chair Cub Pack 9

(336) 675-9086 cell

[benes.nc@att.net](mailto:benes.nc@att.net)

## This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>      Seventh Sunday of Easter  
11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Wednesday, May 15<sup>h</sup>  
6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>      Pentecost  
11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

# bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



### Session

**Moderator:** Rev. Jon Phillips

**Clerk:** Randy Cousins

**Treasurer:** Glenn Patterson

1500 S. Main Street  
Graham, NC 27253

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

336.227.4041

### Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Tracey Troxler

### Class of 2025:

Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Tina Patterson

Nancy Purcell

### Class of 2026:

Chip Allen

Jean Payne

Ben Russell

### Staff

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Jon Phillips – [pastor@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@bethanypreschurch.org)

Chaplain: Rick Purcell – [chaplain@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:chaplain@bethanypreschurch.org)

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – [music@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:music@bethanypreschurch.org)

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – [admin@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:admin@bethanypreschurch.org)

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – [finance@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto: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.**