



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

May 16, 2021 – 11:00 am

Seventh Sunday of Easter



The Beatitudes

Rejoice

and be

Glad

“When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said: You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don’t like it, I do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company.”
Matthew 5:1-2, 12 (The Message)

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: *Journey Home*

PATRICIA LOU HARRIS

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:** *Thy Word Is a Lamp Unto My Feet*

AMY GRANT

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*

*When I feel afraid, and I think I’ve lost my way, still you’re there right beside me.
Nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.*

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

From comfortable pews, from office chairs, from recliners in front of TVs:

God gathers us in, giving us the words with which to proclaim the gospel.

At kitchen sinks, at laptops and blackboards, at nursing stations:

Christ calls us to share in serving all creation.

In communities gathered to pray, in memories of those who served, in families grilling in the backyard:

The Holy Spirit fills us with God's joy. Let us worship God!

* OPENING HYMN #260: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

EIN' FESTE BURG

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.

Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.

For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe.

His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

*Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.*

Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he.

Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.

*And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.*

The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him.

His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure. One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth.

The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.

Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also.

The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still. His kingdom is forever.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 5:1-12 (THE MESSAGE)

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1173

Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

We do not notice, Holy God, but you give us: time, so we can think about your Word; silence, so it may fill our emptiness; wisdom, so we may know the path to walk.

We do not notice, Risen Christ, how you have not given just a piece of yourself, or a portion of your grace, but all of who you are: for us - and yet, you regard US as God's amazing gift to you!

We do not notice, Nourishing Spirit, how you remove our fears, simply by sitting with us and holding our hearts; or how you swirl around us, pulling us deeper and deeper into love, grace and peace, until we find ourselves rooted forever in the One who watches over us forever.

God in Community, Holy in One, hear us as we pray.

We gather as God's people, believing the promises fulfilled in Christ. We do not need to confess out of dread or fear, but in trust that God is faithful to forgive us and make us new.

How foolish we are, Calling God, to think we could be happy when we sit in seduction's comfortable seats, and scoff at your call to discipleship; or run down the easy streets of sin, rather than following Jesus; or idolize the celebrities and superstars, and not see you in those who wait on us in stores, restaurants, and sport arenas.

Forgive us, Author of Life. Keep us from our silly selfishness as we seek to become those branches children can climb on; as we hope to provide shade for fellow pilgrims; as we long to be continually nourished by the Living Water of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

We are no longer blown about in the winds of the world, we are grounded, yesterday, today, tomorrow in God's forgiveness, hope and love.

Today, tomorrow, forever: we can bear fresh fruit, sharing God's peace and joy with everyone we meet. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! 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

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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. Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

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 #411: *Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

FESTAL SONG

*Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.*

*Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captives' liberty, good tidings to the poor.*

*Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.*

*Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.*

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:

TINA PATTERSON, SOLOIST

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *You Are Blessed: Rejoice and be Glad!*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* **CLOSING HYMN #155:** *Rejoice, the Lord Is King*

DARWALL'S 148TH

*Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
God's kingdom cannot fail, Christ rules o'er earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
Rejoice in glorious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come
To glorify the saints for their eternal home:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

* **SENDING**

From the comfort of this place, to the discomfort of discipleship,

we will go to serve your people, Loving God.

Weeding community gardens which feed the hungry, tutoring children after school,

we will go to wrap others in your grace, Jesus our Brother.

Listening to the stories of the ignored, learning the language of our newest neighbors,

we will go to discover the truth you share in every moment, Spirit of Wisdom.

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

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

CHRISTOPHER NEAL

* *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:

- *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!

Just a reminder that next Sunday we will observe and celebrate **PENTECOST SUNDAY**, remembering the birth of the church and the coming of the Holy Spirit on those gathered. Remember to **WEAR RED!**

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 17th:

- 7:00 – Spring Bible Study

Sunday, the 23rd:

- **PENTECOST SUNDAY**
- 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

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love learn serve



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Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org

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Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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