



Bethany Presbyterian Church

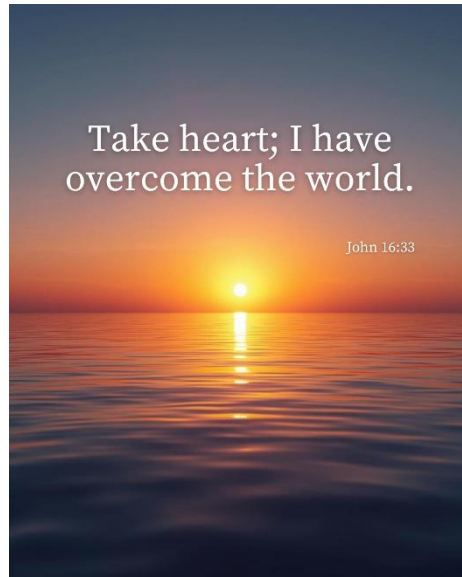
Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

May 17, 2026 – 11:00 am

Seventh Sunday of Easter



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!

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *How Firm A Foundation*

ARR. MICHAEL BURKHARDT

WELCOME

***OPENING HYMN #361:** *How Firm A Foundation*

AMERICAN FOLK MELODY

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

(PSALM 68:7-10, 32)

O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, the earth quaked,
***the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God,
the God of Israel.***

Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; you restored your heritage when it languished;
your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.
Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.

GATHERING PRAYER

(ACTS 1, LUKE 24)

God, Most High, as Christ ascended into the heavens, may our hearts ascend to you.
Open our eyes to the power of your Spirit, and open our lives to the fullness of your power,
that we may be clothed with power on high.
Help us wait patiently for the baptism of your Spirit, that we may be found worthy of your great gifts. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH)

***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.***

*HYMN OF THE DAY #464: *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

HENRY VAN DYKE

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus
Which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
Joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

Eternal God, you have loved us from generation to generation. You have shown your faithfulness more often than we can recall. The Bible tells us of your steadfast mercy. You even pray for us. Yet we live holding on to past hurts; we are not open to your new creation. We prefer the safety of what we know to the excitement of discipleship. Forgive us, we pray, and make us again as you would have us be. We make all of our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

(2 CORINTHIANS 4:14-15)

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence.

Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

Believe the promise of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

(PSALM 19:14)

May the words of my mouth, and the meditations of all of our hearts, be acceptable, even pleasing in your sight, O Lord, our strength and redeemer. Amen.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 66:8-20

PEW BIBLE, 713

JOHN 14:15-21

PEW BIBLE, 1313

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Kum Ba Yah*

RUTH SCHRAM

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Take Courage"*

RANDY COUSINS, ELDER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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.*

AN OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY: *God Leads Us Along*

TRADITIONAL

***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.

***BLESSING OUR GIFTS**

***CLOSING HYMN # 388:** *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

JOHN ERNEST BODE

O Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end;
Be Thou forever near me,
My Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle
If Thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If Thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel Thee near me!
The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
The tempting sounds I hear;
My foes are ever near me,
Around me and within;
But Jesus, draw Thou nearer,
And shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear Thee speaking
In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion,
The murmurs of self will;
O speak to reassure me,
To hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
Thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised
To all who follow Thee
That where Thou art in glory
There shall Thy servant be;
And, Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
My Master and my friend.

***SENDING**

POSTLUDE: *Postlude on Duke Street*

ARR. R. KNIGHT

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sundays, 9:45am Bible Study – Evie C. Marshall Room

Wednesdays, 10:00am Bethany Exercise Class - Evie C. Marshall Room

Exercise classes will start back after the first of the year on Wednesdays at 10:00am in the Evie C. Marshall classroom. Come join us for fun and fellowship.

Tuesday, June 2nd 10:30am The Women of Bethany Church Gathering

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, June 2nd at 10:30am. in the Evie C. Marshall classroom.

Tuesday, June 2nd Alamance Co. Mobile Library

The Alamance County Public Libraries mobile library will be at Bethany on the first Tuesday of each month. The 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.

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

How can we help S.A.F.E. for during the **month of May**? They are in most need of:

Canned Meats

Rice

Pasta

Soup

Spaghetti sauce

Spaghetti noodles

Peanut Butter and Jelly

Pet Food

S.A.F.E. will be closed the 1st and 5th Saturday of the Month.

Consider donating your paper bags.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, May 17th - 7th Sunday of Easter
9:45 – Bible Study - Evie C. Marshall classroom
11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream).

Wednesday, May 20th
10:00 – Exercise class
7:00 pm – Choir Practice

Sunday, May 24th - Pentecost
9:45 – Bible Study - Evie C. Marshall classroom
11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream).

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Session

Moderator: Rick Purcell, CRE

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2026:

Chip Allen
Jean Payne
Ben Russell

Class of 2027:

Karen Maxwell
Kim Snyder
Brandon Troxler

Class of 2028:

Helen Brown
Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Nancy Purcell

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Staff

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Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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