



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

May 23, 2021 – 11:00 am

Day of Pentecost



“When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.”

Acts 2:1-4 (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.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*

FREDERICK C. ATKINSON

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:** *We Are One in the Spirit*

PETER SCHOLTES

*We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:*

Refrain:

*And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.*

*We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;
we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: (Refrain)*

*We will work with each other; we will work side by side;
we will work with each other; we will work side by side,
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride: (Refrain)*

*All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: (Refrain)*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

With tongues of flame, the Holy Spirit descends to burn in our hearts anew.

Unite us, Holy Spirit!

Like the rush of wind, we sense God's presence blowing afresh throughout the world.

Unite us, Holy Spirit!

Across the barriers of language and culture, Christ's message of love and grace is heard.

Unite us, Holy Spirit!

Divine Advocate, we seek your guidance as we search for the Spirit of Truth.

Unite us, Holy Spirit as we celebrate the birth of the Church! Let us worship God!

* OPENING HYMN #129: *Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us*

EBENEZER

*Come, O Spirit, dwell among us; come with Pentecostal power;
give the church a stronger vision; help us face each crucial hour.*

*Built upon a firm foundation, Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone,
still the church is called to mission that God's love shall be made known.*

*We would raise our alleluias for the grace of yesteryears;
for tomorrow's unknown pathway, hear, O Lord, our humble prayers.*

*In the church's pilgrim journey you have led us all the way;
still in presence move before us, fire by night and cloud by day.*

Come, O Spirit, dwell among us; give us words of fire and flame.

Help our feeble lips to praise you, glorify your holy name.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One: what mystery!

We would sing our loud hosannas now and through eternity.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

ACTS 2:1-21 (THE MESSAGE)

Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1324

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Holy One, ignite within us a fiery passion for your mission in the world today. Warm us by the Spirit's dancing tongues of flame, that we may feel your kindling blaze within, urging us to do your greater good. Make us wholly present to experience a new birth, and awaken possibilities within us to share your love in the world.

In this love and abundance, we come to celebrate your harvest—a harvest bearing the first fruits of the Spirit within us. Show us how to use these gifts, as we listen for your truth in the gentle breeze of your Spirit.

Heavenly Father, you dwell within us in sighs too deep for words, yet we cannot hear you.

Caring Mother, you wrap us tenderly in fierce love, you give us the breath of life, yet we cannot touch you.

Brother Jesus, we yearn for your presence, we seek your abundant grace, yet we cannot feel it.

Sister Spirit, you prepare to sear our souls for your purpose, yet we allow our somber selves to intrude, shutting our minds to your power.

Remind us, we pray, that we need only trust in the giver of life to find the hope and faith you have promised.
Gather us up in the winds of your favor and carry us to ever greater heights, through Christ who loves us still.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Listen! It is not an old story, but ours. It may not happen with a might wind, but with a soft whisper. But this is our Pentecost. This is our reminder that God forgives us and fills us with all things new.

Thanks be to God! God gives us new hope in endless days of despair, new joy in never-ending moments of grief, and new life when we seem to have lost even the simple ability to breathe – this day and in all the days to come. Amen. 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.*

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES

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

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Come Down, Holy Spirit*

PAUL GERHARDT / LEE DENGLER

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***Listening for the Spirit***

REV. JOHNSON

* HYMN OF PREPARATION: *Feed Us, Lord*

GREG SCHEER

Feed Us, Lord **501**

1 Feed us, Lord. Feed us, Lord. In the bro - ken bread,
2 Quench us, Lord. Quench us, Lord. On this thirst - y ground,
3 Fill us, Lord. Fill us, Lord, with the bread and wine
4 Lead us, Lord. Lead us, Lord, nour-ished here by Christ,

be re - vealed a - gain. Come and feed our hearts, O Lord.
may your love flow down. Come and quench our hearts, O Lord.
of the ris - en Christ. Come and fill our hearts, O Lord.
giv - en strength for life. Come and lead our hearts, O Lord.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

On this day of Pentecost, may the Spirit dance with you!

May the Spirit dance with you as well!

May God's grace be poured into your hearts.

Come, Holy Spirit, to fill our hearts with love.

May God's Word become your language of praise.

Come, Holy Spirit, to teach us new songs of thanksgiving.

With a Word, you scattered chaos, creating everything imaginable . . . With those who dare to imagine your wonder, with those who wonder what is going on, we sing of the thanksgivings filling our hearts:

Holy, holy, holy are you, God who would gather us. All creation joins in praising you this day. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who sends the Advocate to us. Hosanna in the highest!

God of every moment, you alone are holy, and your Heart, Jesus, comes to bring us new life, new hopes, new spirit . . . As we come to this Table, we remember the Spirit which was poured out at our baptism, the Spirit which fills us with new hope and life, the Spirit which transforms us into faithful people, and so we share that mystery we call faith:

Jesus gave his life, entering the silence of death; Jesus was raised, as resurrection's new song was sung; Jesus will come, and so we sing as long as we can, with the breath of the Spirit filling us.

Once again, as you did so long ago, pour out your Spirit upon those gathered in this place . . . And when your Spirit comes at the end of all time and space, gather us with our sisters and brothers around the Table of grace and wonder where we will be filled with the Spirit's breath so we can sing your praises for all eternity, and pray as Christ taught us:

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God's Breath of hope has torn open the shutters of our hearts,
so that we may open them to all who long for grace and life.

Justice is the strong wind poured into us by the One who is Brother to the forgotten.

We will go into the streets of our neighborhoods to serve our sisters and brothers.

A new community is being shaped by the Holy Spirit, made up of those from every place, every tongue.

We will join hearts with those we meet, we will learn songs of joy in new languages. Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* **CLOSING HYMN:** *Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining (Shine, Jesus, Shine)*

GRAHAM KENDRICK

*Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us; set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me; shine on me.*

Refrain

Shine, Jesus, shine; fill this land with the Father's glory.

Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire.

Flow, river, flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy.

Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

*Lord, I come to your awesome presence, from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness. Search me; try me; consume all my darkness.*

Shine on me; shine on me. (Refrain)

*As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness;
ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell your story.*

Shine on me; shine on me. (Refrain)

*** SENDING**

We have heard the voice of God, who scatters us to gather the world into the community of grace and hope.

We will go to fill the emptiness of others, to bring fresh air into all the stagnant places of our neighborhoods and world.

We have heard the words of Jesus, who calls us to share the whispers of healing, of reconciliation, of renewal.

We will go to comfort those hiding in shadows, to be the breath of kindness to the ridiculed, to share in the silence of the broken and grieving.

We have heard the rush of the Spirit's wind, who would shatter our complacency, and give us voices for justice and righteousness.

We will go to sing songs of strength to the weak, to whisper words of love to those who know only hate, to shout for the renewal of all people everywhere.

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*** POSTLUDE:** *Revive Us, Again*

WILLIAM P. MACKAY

** 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:

- *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!

This morning we are recognizing and honoring three of our young people who are celebrating graduations! Please join in congratulating **Macie Smith**, graduating from Southern Alamance High School, and planning to attend the University of North Carolina; **Alex McLean**, graduating from Williams High School and planning to attend Liberty University; and **Morgan Troxler**, graduating from Elon University, and beginning her job at Elon.

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
Jack Cook
Joan Richardson
Shannon Russell
Katherine Turner
Jeremy Harden
Anne McDaniels
Alex Thomas
Stewart Dillard
Shelvia Russell
Carol Brooks
Janie Holt Clapp

Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Joey Leake
Ida Whitney
Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Christopher Bagley
Randy Thompson
Glenn Harden
Linda Abplanalp

John & Ann Sutton
Ruby Martin
Teresa Wilborn
Tiffany Tauchren
Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Mike Sutton
Ben Johnson
Grace Johnson
Frank Wrenn
Sylvia Donley
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:

- **PENTECOST SUNDAY**
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (as scheduled)
- 11:00 – Worship

Monday, the 24th:

- 7:00 – Spring Bible Study

Sunday, the 30th:

- 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



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

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