



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

May 29 2022 – 11:00 am

Ascension Sunday



"Ascension" - Mike Lewinski

Therefore, my loved ones, just as you always obey me, not just when I am present but now even more while I am away, carry out your own salvation with fear and trembling.
Philippians 2:12 (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. Know that you are loved and we are so glad you are here!

PRELUDE: *Our Christ Ascends*

TED KENDALL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*OPENING SENTENCES

We know you and we do not know you

You are mysterious and full of joy

You know us and you understand us

You are loving and full of truth

You welcome us and you live in us

You are holy and full of hope

We look for you in each other

We look for you in our midst

"Opening and Closing Responses for Ascension Day," Ruth Burgess

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascend far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

OPENING HYMN #476: *O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

ROBERT GRANT

O worship the King, all glorious above!
O gratefully sing God's power and God's love;
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space,
His chariots of heaven the deep thunderclouds form,
And bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.

The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, Thy power hath founded of old;
Hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend.

LITANY FOR ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Our Ascension of the Lord litany open and close with a sung congregational response:

HYMN 654 *"In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful" (Glory to God)*

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful;
in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God; do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with songs of joy.
Lift up your hearts. ***We lift them to the Lord.***

God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
Lift up your hearts. ***We lift them to the Lord.***

God is ruler over all the earth;
the Lord reigns on a holy throne.
Lift up your hearts. ***We lift them to the Lord.***

God put this power to work in Christ,
raising him from the dead.
Lift up your hearts. ***We lift them to the Lord.***

God has highly exalted him,
giving him the name above all names.
Lift up your hearts. ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Jesus Christ is Lord!
Glory to God in the highest.
Lift up your hearts. ***We lift them to the Lord.***

HYMN 654 *"In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful"*

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful;
in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God; do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

Most High God, we are witnesses: to the life of Jesus Christ our Lord: written in Law, promised by prophets, sung by psalmists; given in love for the world, risen from the dust of death, lifted up in heavenly glory. Let our lives proclaim Christ's life. Draw us into your presence that we may worship you always, continually blessing your name; through Jesus Christ our Savior who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

HYMN 654 *"In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful"*

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful;
in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God; do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

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

Christ has opened our minds to understand the scriptures. Hear the word of the Lord.

LUKE 6:43-45

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1254

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

PEW BIBLE, PAGES 1430

We are witnesses to these things – the good news of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ASCENSION INTERCESSIONS

"Ascension Intercessions," David Hamfleet

Hymn 635, "Sing, Praise, and Bless the Lord" after each call and response:

Hymn 635 "Sing, Praise, and Bless the Lord"

Sing, praise, and bless the Lord. Sing, praise, and bless the Lord.
Peoples! Nations! Alleluia!
Sing, praise, and bless the Lord. Sing, praise, and bless the Lord.
Peoples! Nations! Alleluia!

Let us hold before God all those whom Christ calls to follow him –
when faith is great and when faith is little;
when faith is sure and when faith clings by its fingernails;
when faith sees clearly and when faith gropes;
when faith reassures and when faith challenges;
when faith reassures and when faith challenges;
when following is easy and when following brings conflict –
both those who follow Christ with firm tread and those whose step is less steady –
that, among God's people, joys may be celebrated and tears may be shed,
all are welcomed, young and old, seeker and stranger,
God's Kingdom is both sought and lived,
and the Good news of Jesus Christ is shared and proclaimed.

Your Kingdom come.

Your will be done.

Hymn 635 "Sing, Praise, and Bless the Lord"

Sing, praise, and bless the Lord. Sing, praise, and bless the Lord.
Peoples! Nations! Alleluia!
Sing, praise, and bless the Lord. Sing, praise, and bless the Lord.
Peoples! Nations! Alleluia!

Let us hold before God all those to whom Christ offers his Kingdom:
the abused and the exploited;
the battered and the bruised;
the blind and the broken;
the deaf and the dumb;
the destitute and the dispirited;
the feeble and the forgotten;
the homeless and the hungry;
the lame and the lost;
the lonely and the unwelcome;
the outcast and the scapegoat;
the poor and the paralyzed;
the sick and the sorrowful;
the unlovely and the unloved.

silence

Your Kingdom come.

Your will be done.

Hymn 635 "Sing, Praise, and Bless the Lord"

Sing, praise, and bless the Lord. Sing, praise, and bless the Lord.
Peoples! Nations! Alleluia!
Sing, praise, and bless the Lord. Sing, praise, and bless the Lord.
Peoples! Nations! Alleluia!

Let us bring to God those conditions in which we long to see Christ reign:
where conflict is a reality and peace but a dream;
where greed is honored and generosity is mocked;
where injustice reigns and justice is trampled underfoot;
where the powerful are heard and the powerless are ignored;
where people are discriminated against because of race, creed, and gender.
Where the earth is abused;
where historic hate lives;
where honest work is derided or denied.

silence

Your Kingdom come.
Your will be done.

Hymn 635 "Sing, Praise, and Bless the Lord"

Sing, praise, and bless the Lord. Sing, praise, and bless the Lord.
Peoples! Nations! Alleluia!
Sing, praise, and bless the Lord. Sing, praise, and bless the Lord.
Peoples! Nations! Alleluia!

Give to us, O God,
***A vision of your Kingdom,
a glimpse of your glory,
an openness to your rule,
and your Spirit to guide us.
Hear us, we pray, through Christ,
the risen and ascended One. Amen.***

Hymn 635 "Sing, Praise, and Bless the Lord"

Sing, praise, and bless the Lord. Sing, praise, and bless the Lord.
Peoples! Nations! Alleluia!
Sing, praise, and bless the Lord. Sing, praise, and bless the Lord.
Peoples! Nations! Alleluia!

BLESSING OUR GIFTS

***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.

***HYMN OF THE DAY #404:** *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

THOMAS A. DORSEY

Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light:
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.

When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call,
Hold my hand lest I fall:
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Rejoice, the Lord is King*

CHARLES WESLEY

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Community Stakeholders"*

REV. PHILLIPS

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

***CLOSING HYMN:** *Come We That Love the Lord*

ISAAC WATTS

Come, we that love the Lord,
and let our joys be known.
Join in a song with sweet accord,
join in a song with sweet accord,
and thus surround the throne,
and thus surround the throne.

Refrain:

We're marching to Zion,
beautiful, beautiful Zion.
We're marching upward to Zion,
the beautiful city of God.

The hill of Zion yields
a thousand sacred sweets,
before we reach the heav'nly fields,
before we reach the heav'nly fields,
or walk the golden streets,
or walk the golden streets. **[Refrain]**

Then let our songs abound,
and ev'ry tear be dry.
We're marching thro' Immanuel's ground,
we're marching thro' Immanuel's ground,
to fairer worlds on high,
to fairer worlds on high. **[Refrain]**

***SENDING**

"Opening and Closing Responses for Ascension Day," Ruth Burgess

In the name of the Maker
We go
In the name of Jesus
We go
In the name of the Holy Spirit
We go
We go in wonder
We go in hope and love
Alleluia!

POSTLUDE: *Glory to God*

GERALD PETERSON

** Please stand in body or spirit.*

Hymn Story

O Worship the King

This hymn was written by Sir Robert Grant, a Scottish Anglican who, because of his father's association with the East India Company, was born in India in 1779. Robert's father, Charles Grant supported Wilberforce, an early and effective opponent of slavery. Both father and son served as members of Parliament and directors of the East India Company. Robert wrote this hymn in 1833, a year before being appointed Governor of Bombay, a position that he held until his death.

This hymn was inspired by a 16th century hymn by William Kethe — a hymn that was, in turn, inspired by Psalm 104. If you read Psalm 104 alongside the words of this hymn, you will find several correspondences. For instance:
— The psalm (v. 2) speaks of God as “wrapped in light as with a garment,” and the hymn speaks of God “whose robe is the light.”

— The psalm (v. 2) says, “You stretch out the heavens like a tent,” and the hymn uses the phrase, “whose canopy space.”

— The psalm (v. 3) says, “You make the clouds your chariot, you ride on the wings of the wind.” The hymn says, “His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form, and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.”

The first two verses of the hymn celebrate God's glory. The last two verses celebrate God's love and providence. God's greatness and God's loving providence—go together. God's power makes it possible for him to provide for us “frail children of dust” (v. 4.).

— Copyright 2007, [Richard Niell Donovan](#)



Our Faith Community @ Work

WORSHIP Ministry: (Lead Elders: Helen Brown and Karen Maxwell)

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.**

A Note About the Offering: As we have returned to worship as the pandemic has been becoming less and less a threat, we have continued the practice of not passing the offering plates at the time of the offering during our service, thus decreasing the threat of spreading germs. Instead, you are invited to make your contribution in one of four ways: drop it in the offering plate that is located at the narthex door (before worship) and in the narthex (following worship); mail it in to the church; drop it off at the church in person; or, use our quick and secure online giving platform. This can be accessed through our website, or by scanning the QR code on the last page of this bulletin. Thanks for your generosity and cooperation.

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elders: Tina Patterson and Kim Snyder)

Our ongoing prayer list is below. Please let the church office know if there are any changes.

Bethany Members

Christopher Bagley
Sylvia Donley
Pat Kennedy
Joyce & Norman Mize
Nancy Sutton

Katherine Bayliff
Henry Flythe
Ruby Martin
Shelvia Russell
Robert Sykes

Lou Crutchfield
Judy & Darrell Holmes
Laura Mitchell-Ayers
Mike Sutton
Ida Whitney

Friends of Bethany

Carol Brooks
Bill Faucette
Grace Johnson
Anne McDaniels
Shannon Russell
Tiffany Tauchren
Teresa Wilborn
Frank Wrenn

Janie Holt Clapp
Family of Gwyn Ingle
Christy Lutterloh
Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Alex Thomas
Deborah & Larry
Barbara Smith

Jack Cook
Ben Johnson
Gaynell McCollum
Norma Proctor
Ann Sutton
Randy Thompson
Cindy Uzzo
Don Burenhiede

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.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

Sunday, May 29th – Ascension Sunday

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (will return soon)
- 11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Wednesday, June 1st

- 6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, June 5th – Pentecost & Communion

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (will return soon)
- 11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

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Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp
Helen Brown
Tina Patterson

Class of 2023:

Chip Allen
Randy Cousins
Shelby Smith

Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell
Kim Snyder
Tracey Troxler

Staff

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Jon Phillips – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org

Chaplain: Rick Purcell – chaplain@bethanypreschurch.org

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – music@bethanypreschurch.org

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – admin@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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