



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

May 31, 2020 – 11:00 am

The Day of Pentecost



“Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.”
Acts 2:2-4 (The Message)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

“The Holy Spirit will come upon all of my servants. Again, no one is excluded. Freedom will come for all who serve; liberation and salvation are available for all who are disciples. As in that time, Joel’s words mean disciples of Jesus include all who believe in the Christ who promised the gift of the Holy Spirit, continuously adding to the church created by an awesome God. Those who believed Jesus was the Christ joined the church that day, for it was birthed by an incredible God.” - from *Feasting on the Word* commentary - Linda E. Thomas

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *He Touched Me*

W. GAITHER

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 the peace of Christ with your neighbor.)

* **GATHERING SONG #315:** *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

PENTECOST

*Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.*

*Upon the mountain, when my Lord spoke,
Out of God’s mouth came fire and smoke.
Looked all around me, it looked so fine,
Till I asked my Lord if all was mine.*

*Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.
Jordan river, chilly and cold, It chills the body but not the soul.
There is but one train upon this track:
It runs to heaven and then right back.
Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.*

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Listen, can you hear the wind?

Come, Holy Spirit; come!

Look, can you see the dancing flames?

Come, Holy Spirit; come!

Can you hear the message in a language you can understand?

Come, Holy Spirit; come!

Do you see the visions? Can you dream the dreams?

Come, Holy Spirit; come!

Come let Pentecost become real in our lives this morning. Come and worship our God who sends the Spirit to touch us and transform us into Pentecost people.

Come, Holy Spirit; come!

*** 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 call 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

Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1324

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Amazing God, you call us today, just as you called the disciples on the Day of Pentecost. You challenge and support us, revealing the brokenness of our communities; giving us the peace that our world needs. You point us to the pain of the cross, and then remind us of the joy of the resurrection.

Transform us, O God, through the power of your Holy Spirit. Help us breathe deeply of the Breath of Life. Blow through our worship and change our lives forever.

Holy Spirit, we're not sure we're ready for your awesome power to blow through our lives; we're grown comfortable with our familiar habits and our bland routines; we're afraid to give up our waking slumber and face the truth that we do not truly live.

When we cling to our ways and the safety of familiar paths, wake us up, shake us up, heat us up, and breathe your life into us. Walk with us, O God, and give us the courage to follow the way that is lit by the fire of your Spirit. On this Day of Pentecost, we pray for the audacity to ride the winds of change.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

In every breath we take, there is the Spirit;
in every word we speak, there is the Spirit;
in every heart we touch, there is the Spirit;
in every person we welcome, there is the Spirit.

In forgiveness, we are given the words to speak; the courage to reach out to others; the open heart to offer others, the breath of life to share with those around us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

* **RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE:** *Glory, Glory, Hallelujah*

TRADITIONAL

Glory, glory, hallelujah! since I laid my burden down. (Repeat)
I feel better, so much better since I laid my burden down. (Repeat)
Feel like shouting, "Hallelujah!" since I laid my burden down. (Repeat)

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *I Cast All My Cares Upon You*

K. WILLARD

* **A DOXOLOGY:** *We Lift Our Voices*

DWIGHT LILES

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.

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***Spirit Filled . . . Spirit Renewed***

REV. JOHNSON

* **HYMN OF PREPARATION #322:** *Spirit of the Living God* (sing twice)

LIVING GOD

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.
(Repeat)

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 #276: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.*

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

*Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.*

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!*

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

* **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:** *Joy Unceasing and Infinite Praise*

T. BIRCHWOOD

* *Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WORSHIP Ministry: (Lead Elders: Nancy Purcell and A. J. Campbell)

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.**

This morning marks John’s last Sunday as he begins his 3-month sabbatical tomorrow, June 1st. Commissioned Ruling Elder **Rick Purcell will assume these duties filling in during John’s absence.** Rick is scheduled to work 20 hours per week, leading worship and preaching, tending to pastoral care issues, and other duties as they may arise. He can be reached by email at: rick@bethanypreschurch.org.

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 **Video Recording** of our Zoom worship will be available on our Facebook page and on our website.

Resources used in today’s worship:

- *Feasting on the Word* worship resources
- *Ministry Matters* website (www.ministrymatters.com)
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elders: Randy Cousins and Tina Patterson)

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

Bill Faucette
Jack Cook
Joan Richardson
Teresa Wilborn
Tiffany Tauchren
Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Alex Thomas
Randy Thompson
Frederica Beatty
Christopher Bagley

Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Joey Leake
Shannon Russell
Mary Moore
Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Pete Campbell
Ben Johnson
Katherine Bayliff and family
Glenn Thompson
Carol Brooks
Lou Crutchfield

John & Ann Sutton
Ruby Martin
Shirley Lane
Ida Whitney
Katherine Turner
Jeremy Harden
Anne McDaniels
Mike Sutton
Steward Dillard
Shelvia Russell
Robert Sykes
Ritchie Fishburne
Janie Holt Clapp
Jean Payne

TEACH Ministry: (Lead Elders: Karen Maxwell and Tracey Troxler)

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. **(Classes will resume when we return to having church in person!)**

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 **Karen Maxwell** and **Nancy Purcell**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 11:00 – Worship: “Pentecost in the Park . . . ing Lot”

Monday, the 1st:

- John begins his sabbatical
- Rick begins his role as part-time pastor

Sunday, the 7th:

- 11:00 – Worship (online)

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Karen Maxwell

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2020:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Karen Maxwell

Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell

Ben Russell

Tracey Troxler

Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp

Helen Brown

Tina Patterson

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love learn serve



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Staff

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

Elder Emeritus: Bobby Peele

Elder Emeritus: Don Boggs

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