



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina
www.bethanypreschurch.org
www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

June 30, 2024 – 11:00 am
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost



The Encounter Chapel, Magdala, mural by Daniel Cariola

But Jesus overheard their report and said to the synagogue leader, “Don’t be afraid; just keep trusting.”
Mark 5:36 (COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE)

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! Parts of today’s liturgy are from Ruth Burgess, Summer: Liturgical resources for May, June and July, including Eastertide and Pentecost, (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2020), and LiturgyLink, <https://www.liturgylink.net>.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Andante*

EDOUARD BAPTISTE/ARR. BY DAVID PAXTON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***OPENING HYMN #376:** *Love Divine, All Love's Excelling*

CHARLES WESLEY

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit,
Let us find that second rest;
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

***OPENING SENTENCES**

"BROKEN PLACES," ROB SMITH

Healing God, we come today seeking your presence in our broken places.
In our stories, we have struggles, we carry burdens, and mask our shame.

Help us find the courage to reach out to you in all places –
not just in the church, but also out in the streets.
***May we touch the hem of your garment and be reminded of your words –
that we are enough – that our faith has made us well.***

We invite you into our hearts and welcome the transformation you continually inspire!
***Let us turn to you with our whole heart, mind, soul, and strength.
Let us worship God.***

GATHERING PRAYER

O God,
light of the minds that know you,
life of the souls that love you,
strength of the thoughts that seek you:
Help us so to know you
that we may truly love you,
so to love you
that we may fully serve you,
whose service is perfect freedom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*Speak to us, living God,
as you have spoken to our ancestors:
through the voices of your prophets,
the breath of your Spirit,
and the life of your Son,
so that we may live according to your word;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.*

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 30

PEW BIBLE, 684

MARK 5:21-43

PEW BIBLE, 1221

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF OUR PLEDGES

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY #428:** *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

WILLIAM WALSHAM HOW

We give Thee but Thine own,
What e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

***BLESSING OUR GIFTS**

Precious Lord, take my hand
Lead me on, help 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.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"HEM," THOM SHUMAN

We know the words we have spoken which have broken a relationship;
we know the deeds we have done which separate us from friends and families.
We know how we have failed to be faithful followers of Jesus.
Let us confess our sins, trusting that God will touch us with the healing power of grace.

***All too often, God of Excellence, it is the hem of sin we cling to,
letting it drag us through the mud of fears and failures.
You offer us that love which will always be with us,
but we find it difficult to share it with those who need it most.
You fill us with an abundance of gifts,
but we think we need them all for ourselves.***

***Forgive us, God of Gentle Hope. You do not keep a list of all that we have done wrong,
but erase our failings and foolishness, writing a new ending for our lives.
You touch us with grace, you lift us to our feet, you strengthen us
so we may follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in service to all your children.***

Silence

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

This is the good news, dear friends:
God's love has no ending; God's hope rests upon us each day;
God's forgiveness restores us to new life.

***Our God listens to us – to our cries, and to our joys;
to our hopes and to our hearts.
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.***

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE #372: *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *There'll Be Peace in the Valley*

Glenn Patterson-Soloist

THOMAS A. DORSEY

Chorus:

There'll be peace in the valley for me some day.
There'll be peace in the valley for me, I pray
No more sorrow and sadness or trouble will be.
There'll be peace in the valley for me.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"the Encounter"*

RICK PURCELL, CRE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.*

*CLOSING HYMN: *He Touched Me*

BILL GAITHER

Shackled by a heavy burden,
'Neath a load of guilt and shame.
Then the hand of Jesus touched me,
And now I am no longer the same.

He touched me, Oh He touched me,
And oh the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened and now I know,
He touched me and made me whole.

Since I met this blessed Savior,
Since He cleansed and made me whole,
I will never cease to praise Him,
I'll shout it while eternity rolls.

He touched me, Oh He touched me,
And oh the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened and now I know
He touched me and made me whole.

*SENDING

"MAY LONG SUMMER DAYS," SIMON TAYLOR

May long summer days
speak to you of God's enduring light.

May bright summer flowers
speak to you of God's unending beauty.

May fresh summer fruits
speak to you of God's continuing kindness.

May warm summer nights
speak to you of God's enfolding comfort.

May early summer dawns
speak to you of God's renewing hope.
Amen.

POSTLUDE: *It's a Highway to Heaven*

THOMAS A. DORSEY

** Please stand in body or spirit.*

The Hymn of the Day Story

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

- 1932

Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.
Deuteronomy 31:6

Some people think this great old gospel song was written by the famous big bandleader Tommy Dorsey. It wasn't; the author was named Thomas Andrew Dorsey, and he was the son of a Black revivalist preacher.

Thomas was born in a small town in Georgia in 1899. When he was about eleven, the Dorseys moved to Atlanta where Thomas was quickly enamoured with the blues and began playing piano at a vaudeville theater. Later the family moved to Chicago where he attended classes at the College of Composition and Arranging. Soon he was on stage under the name "Georgia Tom," playing barrelhouse piano in one of Al Capone's Chicago speakeasies and leading jazz bands.

Thomas was converted at the National Baptist Convention in Chicago in 1921, and began writing gospel songs and trying to get them published. It was discouraging at first. He later said, "I borrowed five dollars and sent out 500 copies of my song, 'If You See My Savior,' to churches throughout the country . . . It was three years before I got a single order. I felt like going back to the blues."

He didn't, and gradually his reputation grew and his work became known.

In August, 1932, while leading music in St. Louis, he was handed a telegram bearing the words, "Your wife just died." He rushed to a phone to call home, but all he could hear over the line was "Nettie is dead! Nettie is dead!" A friend drove him through the night, and he arrived home to learn that his baby boy had also died.

"I began to feel that God had done me an injustice," Thomas later said. "I didn't want to serve Him anymore or write any more gospel songs." But the next Saturday, while alone in a friend's music room, he had a "strange feeling" inside—a sudden calm and a quiet stillness. "As my fingers began to manipulate over the keys, words began to fall in place on the melody like drops of water falling from the crevice of the rock:

*Precious Lord, take my hand
Lead me on, let me stand
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn . . ."*

Today Thomas A. Dorsey is remembered as the "Father of Gospel Music" and the author of hundreds of gospel songs including his equally famous, "Peace in the Valley."



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Tuesday, July 9th Alamance Co. Mobile Library

The Alamance County Public Libraries 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

Saturday, July 13th Neighbor Days - Vacation Bible School

Hi neighbor! You are invited to join us for our all-ages Vacation Bible School that once again looks to everyone’s favorite Presbyterian pastor, Fred Rogers. This year we will have offerings for people of every age and you and your neighbors are all invited! For our kids, we will have age-appropriate curriculum based on our denomination’s Mr. Roger’s emphasis day materials. For our grown-ups, I will offer two sessions – in the morning: “Teaching the Faith to Our Kids,” and in the afternoon: “Women in Leadership in the Early Church.”

We are also looking for volunteers to help. Whether you’d love to help out or are interested in the topics for grown-ups, we hope to see you there neighbor!

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

How we can help S.A.F.E. for the next two months... they are asking for items for their backpack program. Things like low sugar granola bars, shelf stable fruit cups and applesauce, etc.

Then, before school starts back, they are going to need peanut butter again, for Back to School.

Save the Date

Saturday, July 27th Shrimp-a-Roo

Saturday, October 26th Fall Festival

Invitation To Scout Summer Program

All youth ages 5-11 years old are invited to attend our Scout Summer Program.

- June 15th Hike at Lake Michael
- June 26th Science STEM Slam
- July 20th Hike at Jaycee Trail Reidsville
- Aug 17th Hike at Bur-Mil Park Greensboro
- August End of Summer Pool Party

For more information contact:

Jeff Benes

Committee Chair Cub Pack 9

(336) 675-9086 cell

benes.nc@att.net

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, June 30th Sixth Sunday after Pentecost & Helping Hand Fund Collection
11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Wednesday, July 3rd
6:30 – No Choir Practice

Thursday, July 4th 4th of July Holiday – Church Office closed

Sunday, July 7th Seventh Sunday after Pentecost & Communion
9:45 – VBS Planning Meeting – Evie C. Marshall classroom
11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)



Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Tracey Troxler

Class of 2025:

Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Tina Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Class of 2026:

Chip Allen

Jean Payne

Ben Russell

1500 S. Main Street
Graham, NC 27253
www.bethanypreschurch.org
336.227.4041

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

Scan this QR code for fast, safe, and reliable online giving:



Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS BULLETIN IN THE BASKETS PROVIDED AT THE DOORS.