



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

July 11, 2021 – 11:00 am

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



“Bless the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! He has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing that comes from heaven. God chose us in Christ to be holy and blameless in God’s presence before the creation of the world.”
Ephesians 1:3-4 (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: *Come, Come, Ye Saints*

LANI SMITH / J. T. WHITE

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 #333:** *Seek Ye First*

LAFFERTY

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!*

*Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!*

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, sing and dance before the Lord.

Praise God with the sound of music and dancing!

Let every soul sing God's praises!

Let the mountains tremble and the seas roar!

Praise the King of glory who guides our lives.

Praise the Lord of hosts who watches over us. Let us worship God!

*** OPENING HYMN #482: *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty***

LOBE DEN HERREN

*Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;
join me in glad adoration!*

*Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
granted in what he ordaineth?*

*Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again;
gladly for aye we adore him.*

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

EPHESIANS 1:3-14

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1423

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Creator God, in praise and adoration our spirits dance before you today. You have created this wondrous universe and all the magnificent things within it. You have blessed us with so much throughout our lives, even to this day of praise and thanksgiving. Let our spirits soar! Let our hearts sing boldly of your wondrous love. We celebrate your love and presence with us.

In the midst of our "summer" lives, O Lord, so many things have claimed our attention. We worked hard this year to earn a little rest and recreation, to break away from the stresses of our everyday living. But in the midst of all this change, we have too often pushed our worship of you aside. We have focused so much on our needs for physical change and peace that we have neglected our spiritual hungers and thirst.

Forgive us when we are tempted to stray from our worship of you and focus entirely on ourselves and our own needs. As we celebrate this day, help us to remember all the wondrous things you continue to do for us.

Let us look at the world as a place of delight. And when we encounter situations in which sorrow and hurt abound, help us to be ready to bring hope and peace. Be with us in this warm days of summer, preparing us for ministry and mission, in your holy name.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

God is merciful and pours God's love on us abundantly.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Hallelujah! Amen!

*** RESPONDING 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)*

* SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

As the people of God gathered in these places, who are we?

We are a community of believers, called by God to WORSHIP, SERVE, TEACH, and SUPPORT.

With the whole church, let us say what we believe.

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!"

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

* **A DOXOLOGY:** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

BEACH SPRING

God, whose giving knows no ending, from Your rich and endless store,

Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:

Gifted by You, we turn to You, offering up ourselves in praise;

Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

* **HYMN OF THE DAY #341:** *Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!*

ASSURANCE

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of His Spirit, washed in His blood. (Refrain)

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

*Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels, descending, bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. (Refrain)*

*Perfect submission all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with His goodness, lost in His love. (Refrain)*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Hymn of Promise*

NATALIE SLEETH / ARR. FRED BOCK

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***The Believer's Blessing***

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* **CLOSING HYMN #356:** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

NETTLETON

*Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.*

*Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!*

*Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.*

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.*

*** SENDING**

We will go to let the Joy of creation lead us into this new day.

We will sing glad choruses of hope to a world in despair.

We go to walk with our Heart's Love beside those whose hearts are broken.

We will touch boastful tongues with peace, we will offer compassion to those frozen with fear.

We will go with your gentle wisdom, Spirit of grace, to walk the streets of the kingdom.

We will bring healing to grudges held far too long, filling those who grieve with the laughter of hope.

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*** POSTLUDE:** *Our Refuge and Strength (Psalm 46)*

DONALD F. CALLENDAR

** 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:

- *Presbyterian Outlook* Liturgical Resources
- *Glory to God* Presbyterian hymnal
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)

John will be away next Sunday on vacation. In his absence we will welcome **Elder Rick Purcell** to the pulpit. John will return to the office on Thursday, July 22nd.

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
Shannon Russell
Katherine Turner
Jeremy Harden
Anne McDaniels
Alex Thomas
Stewart Dillard
Shelvia Russell
Carol Brooks
Janie Holt Clapp
Linda Abplanalp

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

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
Betty Boggs

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) - NOT CURRENTLY MEETING DUE TO COVID

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 July are **Shelby Smith** and **Chip Allen**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Wednesday, the 14th - Wednesday, the 21st

- John on vacation

Sunday, the 18th:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (as scheduled)
- 11:00 – Worship / Rick Purcell, preaching

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

bethany presbyterian

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

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.