



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

[www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org)

[www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian)

July 18, 2021 – 11:00 am

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost



*"Many people saw them leaving and recognized them, so they ran ahead from all the cities and arrived before them. When Jesus arrived and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd.*

*Then he began to teach them many things."*

Mark 6:33-34 (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: Promised Blessings

LENEA KAY

### 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: Come Into God's Presence

ANONYMOUS

Come into God's Presence 413

1 Come in - to God's pres-ence sing - ing "Al - le - lu - ia,  
2 Come in - to God's pres-ence sing - ing "Je - sus is Lord,  
3 Praise the Lord to - geth - er sing - ing "Wor - thy the Lamb,  
4 Praise the Lord to - geth - er sing - ing "Glo - ry to God,  
  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia."  
Je - sus is Lord, Je - sus is Lord."  
wor - thy the Lamb, wor - thy the Lamb."  
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God."

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Neighbors and newcomers, families and strangers,  
***we gather in this place built by God's steadfast love.***  
Strugglers and stragglers, pilgrims almost at the end of the journey,  
***each of us seeks to follow Jesus, the compassionate One.***  
Builders of bridges in fractured communities, those who stand on either side of walls of fear,  
***the Spirit of faithfulness calls us to live as one people – God's people!***

## \* OPENING HYMN #442: *The Church's One Foundation*

AURELIA

*The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord.  
She is his new creation by water and the word.  
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride.  
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.*

*Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.*

*Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.*

*Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore:  
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.*

*Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.*

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

### A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

#### MARK 6:30-34, 53-56

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

***Thanks be to God.***

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1223

### AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

God of aliens and strangers: make the doors of this church wide enough so that all find a welcome, a home, a haven, a heart.

***Christ of the near and those who are far off: make our hearts wide enough so that all might find a place in this household of faith.***

Welcoming Spirit of saints and sinners: open our arms wide enough so that all - the guest, the neighbor, the child, the widow, the politician, the homeless, the brother, the sister - may be embraced by your love and grace.

***God in Community, Holy in One, open your arms wide enough to enfold us in your heart, as we pray.***

Do we really want God to dwell within us, or are we only willing to 'rent out' space for a brief visit? Our actions, our words, our silence, our fears all show the presence, or absence, of God in our lives. Let us empty ourselves of all which burdens us, and welcome the One who lives with us forever.

***Steadfast God, we confess that we are so busy putting up walls between ourselves and others, we cannot see the home you are building for all of us. We spend so much time noting the differences between us and others, while you are embracing everyone as your child. We run to welcome those who look, talk, and act like us, and you throw open your doors to the stranger, the alien, in our midst.***

Forgive us, Faithful Heart. By your grace, help us to see the household you are building for all people: there are no plastic protectors on the furniture; there are no rooms that are off-limits; and even the smallest child is welcome to sit at the big peoples' Table and be fed by your grace. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our peace, our hope, our Lord, our Savior.

## AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

### AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Do you remember? At one time, you were without Christ; you were the stranger, the outsider, and the alien. But now, in Christ, you have been brought home, living in God's household of hope and peace.

***God's covenant with us is everlasting; God's steadfast love is forever; God's forgiveness makes us new and whole. Thanks be to God. 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 #345: *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*

REST

*Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways;*

*reclothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives thy service find, in deeper reverence, praise.*

*In simple trust like theirs who heard beside the Syrian sea*

*the gracious calling of the Lord, let us, like them, without a word rise up and follow thee.*

*O Sabbath rest by Galilee, O calm of hills above,*

*where Jesus knelt to share with thee the silence of eternity, interpreted by love!*

*Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;*

*take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of thy peace.*

*Breathe through the heats of our desire thy coolness and thy balm;*

*let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm!*

## 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:**

### **THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

Sermon: *Changes in the Atmosphere*

ELDER RICK PURCELL

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE**

### \* **CLOSING HYMN #488: The God of Abraham Praise**

LEONA

*The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,  
the Ancient of Eternal Days, the God of love!  
The Lord, the great I am, by earth and heaven confessed,  
we bow before your holy name, forever blest.*

*Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will.  
In prophet's word you spoke of old and you speak still.  
Established is your law, and changeless it shall stand,  
deep writ upon the human heart by your strong hand.*

*You have eternal life implanted in the soul;  
your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.  
We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name:  
the first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!*

### \* **SENDING**

Now go, to greet stranger and dear friend equally.

**We will share God's steadfast love as we seek to live in faithfulness.**

Now go, to share Christ's compassion with everyone.

**We will tear down dividing walls and build bridges of hope.**

Now go, to live as one as the Spirit gathers you with others.

**We will build communities that welcome all, especially the outsiders.**

### \* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

### \* **POSTLUDE: Morning Song**

JAMES DENTON

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\* 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](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org); on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian); or on Twitter by following @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](http://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](http://www.textweek.com))

John is away this week on vacation. In his absence we welcome **Elder Rick Purcell** to the pulpit. John will return to the office on Thursday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Beginning on next Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, John will begin a five-week **Sermon Series** entitled **"The Gospel According to Baseball."** Through this series we hope to see how the struggles and triumphs in the game of baseball can be translated to the game of life, and our life of faith. As John begins these last few weeks before retirement, this series is also a tribute to John's father, Rev. John S. Johnson, Jr., who instilled in John not only a love of the church, but also a love of baseball. Here are the themes for each week of the series:

- July 25<sup>th</sup>: *The Gospel According to Baseball: Round Ball, Round Bat - What Could Go Wrong?* - Luke 18:9-14
- August 1<sup>st</sup>: *The Gospel According to Baseball: Hits, Runs, and Errors* - Luke 15:3-7
- August 8<sup>th</sup>: *The Gospel According to Baseball: The Seventh Inning Stretch* - Matthew 13:1-9
- August 15<sup>th</sup>: *The Gospel According to Baseball: Finding Your Grip* - Hebrews 12:1-2
- August 22<sup>nd</sup>: *The Gospel According to Baseball: Rounding Third and Heading For Home* - Luke 15:11-32

**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

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

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

Carol Brooks  
Janie Holt Clapp  
Linda Abplanalp

Randy Thompson  
Glenn Harden

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 14<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday, the 21<sup>st</sup>

- John on vacation

Sunday, the 25<sup>th</sup>:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (as scheduled)
- 11:00 – Worship / Sermon Series - *The Gospel According To Baseball*

### 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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### Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – [pastor@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@bethanypreschurch.org)

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – [music@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:music@bethanypreschurch.org)

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – [office@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:office@bethanypreschurch.org)

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – [finance@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:finance@bethanypreschurch.org)

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*Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation*

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