



Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

July 23, 2023 – 11:00 am
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost



After they prayed, the place where they were gathered was shaken.
They were all filled with the Holy Spirit
and began speaking God's word with confidence. Acts 4:31 (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! Parts of today's liturgy are from Neil Paynter, We Bring You Everything, and Tip It Out In Front of You: New Prayers from the Iona Community (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2017); the Presbyterian Mission Agency, "8 Habits of Evangelism," <https://8habits.org/>; and LiturgyLink.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *I Love You, Lord*

Laurie Klein/Arr. by Fred Bock

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***OPENING HYMN :** *Take Time to Be Holy*

WILLIAM D. LONGSTAFF

Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord;
Abide in Him always, and feed on His Word.
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,
Forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.

Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;
Spend much time in secret, with Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus, like Him thou shalt be;
Thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see.

Take time to be holy, let Him be thy Guide;
And run not before Him, whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord,
And, looking to Jesus, still trust in His Word.

Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul,
Each thought and each motive beneath His control.
Thus led by His Spirit to fountains of love,
Thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.

***OPENING SENTENCES**

"FOR THE SUN'S RISING," SALLY HOWELL JOHNSON

For the sun's rising
and its beams of precious warmth,
Thanks be to you, O God.

For morning's gleaming promise... plants awakening,
flowers blooming, trees dancing in soft wind,
Thanks be to you, O God.

For the air, warm and wet with summer's invitation to play and rest,
Thanks be to you, O God.

For the birds singing their returning song
and the fragile nests that hold new life,
Thanks be to you, O God.

For the noontime heat
and the refreshing lap of water on the shore,
Thanks be to you, O God.

For shoeless feet and toes
that wiggle in sand and grass,
Thanks be to you, O God.

For the long evenings
stretching out like a blanket of restful sleep,
Thanks be to you, O God.

For the brilliant blue-black of night sky,
silent stars dancing in flickering magic,
Thanks be to you, O God.

For the arc of this summer's day, and for all days,
our hearts are full to overflowing
with gratitude to you, Creator God.
Let us worship our God.

*GATHERING PRAYER

To you, Lord Jesus,
I bow my head and all my thinking;
I bow my will and all my choosing;
I bow my heart and all my loving;
That I may be attentive to your Word
And live a faithful life. *Amen.*

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

"Grace," Stephen M. Fearing

God of Light and Love,
help us this day to worship you
with all of our hearts, minds, and bodies.
Shower us with the grace of your Spirit
that we may joyfully receive
the message you have for us today. *Amen.*

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

ACTS 3:1-10

PEW BIBLE, 1326-1327

ACTS 4:18-31

PEW BIBLE, 1328-1329

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,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

*BLESSING OUR GIFTS

*HYMN OF THE DAY: *Sweet Hour of Prayer*

W.W. WALFORD

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
that calls me from a world of care,
and bids me at my Father's throne
make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief,
my soul has often found relief,

and oft escaped the tempter's snare
by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
the joys I feel, the bliss I share
of those whose anxious spirits burn
with strong desires for thy return!
With such I hasten to the place
where God my Savior shows his face,
and gladly take my station there,
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
thy wings shall my petition bear
to him whose truth and faithfulness
engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since he bids me seek his face,
believe his word, and trust his grace,
I'll cast on him my every care,
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"THE VISION OF A KINGDOM," ALMA FRITCHLEY

Let us come together to tell the truth about ourselves.

Life-giving God,
***you give us a vision of a kingdom
not of diamonds and glitter,
not of success and achievement.***

You give us a vision of a kingdom
***not of rewards and privileges,
not of popularity and fortune.***

For you sit down to eat with fishermen and tax collectors,
***with the gracious and the greedy,
with the respectable and the rogues,
and you sit down with us.***

Forgive us
our lack of generosity
and our lack of compassion
when we chase after pennies
and reach out for dust.
***God of surprises,
God of grace,
you welcome the weak, the tired and the worn,
and you welcome us.
Silent prayer.***

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

You give us the vision of a kingdom
which turns this world upside down.

***Where the first are last and the last are first.
Where the hungry are fed
and the forgotten are honored
and the lonely are loved.***

I proclaim to you in the name of the Living Word that:

You are enough.

You are forgiven.

You are loved.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE: *Spirit of the Living God*

DANIEL IVERSON

Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *I Asked the Lord*

JOHNNY LANGE/JIMMY DUNCAN

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Habit 4 – Prayer"*

REV. PHILLIPS

PRAYING TOGETHER

You are invited to turn to a person near you and pray for one another.

NAMING OUR PRAYERS

We will now name those prayers on our hearts this morning. On the paper provided, write down either a prayer that has been answered recently or a prayer that remains unanswered. You will then be invited to bring them forward.

THANKSGIVING FOR ANSWERED PRAYER

INTERCESSIONS FOR UNANSWERED PRAYER

"YOU GO BEFORE US," SUSAN MILLER

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:** *Standing in the Need of Prayer*

AFRO-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

Refrain:

It's me, it's me, O Lord,
Standin' in the need of prayer;
It's me, it's me, O Lord,
Standin' in the need of prayer.

Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord,
Standin' in the need of prayer;
Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord,
Standin' in the need of prayer. **[Refrain]**

Not the preacher, not the deacon, but it's me, O Lord,
Standin' in the need of prayer;
Not the preacher, not the deacon, but it's me, O Lord,
Standin' in the need of prayer. **[Refrain]**

Not my father, not my mother, but it's me, O Lord,
Standin' in the need of prayer;
Not my father, not my mother, but it's me, O Lord,
Standin' in the need of prayer. **[Refrain]**

***SENDING PRAYER**

"CLOSING PRAYER," TOM BAGLEY

O God, my God, I long to live my life in such a way that others may be drawn to you, and yet I struggle with the ongoing commitment to do it. Open my eyes to the needs of my neighbors, co-workers, family and friends

*Help me experience the gentle touch of compassion for them and a fire of inward conviction for you that I might seek to live in order to be noticed.
Draw me ever deeper into your purposes for my life
and help me pursue you with all my heart, mind, soul and strength.*

Grant me your Holy Spirit that I may live faithfully, pointing others to the hope I find in you, in the name of the One who taught us how to live and pray, Jesus our Lord. Amen.

POSTLUDE: *We Are God's People*

JOHANNES BRAHMS/ARR. BY FRED BOCK

** Please stand in body or spirit.*

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, July 23rd - Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Wednesday, July 26th

6:30 –Choir Practice

Sunday, July 30th - Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

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love learn serve



Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

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Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

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