



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

July 24, 2022 – 9:30am

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



"James the Just," Novgorod, 16th century

Imagine a brother or sister who is naked and never has enough food to eat. What if one of you said, "Go in peace! Stay warm! Have a nice meal!"? What good is it if you don't actually give them what their body needs? In the same way, faith is dead when it doesn't result in faithful activity.

James 2:15-17 (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! Some of the liturgy today is from Ruth Burgess, Summer: Liturgical Resources for May, June and July including Eastertide and Pentecost, (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2020).

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *All the Way My Savior Leads Me*

ROBERT LOWERY/ARR. BY FRED BOCH

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*OPENING SENTENCES

This is the day that the Lord has made!

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Let us worship our God.

***GATHERING PRAYER**

"FOR SUNLIGHT DANCING," AVIS PALMER

For sunlight dancing on white-crested waves,
Creative God, we offer our thanks and praise.
For sunlight dappling forest glades,
Creative God, we offer our thanks and praise.
For sunlight gilding wheat and maize,
Creative God, we offer our thanks and praise.
For sunlight lengthening summer days,
Creative God, we offer our thanks and praise. Amen.

OPENING HYMN #356: *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

ROBERT ROBINSON

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.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

ISAIAH 35:4-7

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 874

JAMES 2:1-18

PEW BIBLE, PAGES 1470

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.

Refrain;
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know,
As He loved so long ago,
Taking children on His knee,
Saying, "Let them come to Me." (Refrain)

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

We are God's beloved children. Holding to this identity, let us come together and tell the truth about ourselves.

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation.

We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.

A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Hear the good news! We are loved, we are forgiven. May we live into this love and forgiveness and live as one who has been raised to new life!

Thanks be to God.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

So now, as Jesus taught us, let us pray in the language we are most familiar with, saying:

***...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.***

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY – THE WORD IN MUSIC: *If I Can Help Somebody*

Randy Cousins, Soloist

A. BAZEL ANDROZZO/
ARR. BY DR. ANDRE THOMAS

*DOXOLOGY #592: *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

THOMAS KEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*BLESSING OUR GIFTS

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Preferential Option"*

REV. PHILLIPS

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

*PROCLAIMING WHAT WE BELIEVE

FROM "THE THEOLOGICAL DECLARATION OF BARMEN," 1934

2. *"Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption." (1 Cor. 1:30.)*

As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the same seriousness is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to his creatures.

We reject the false doctrine, as though there were areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ, but to other lords – areas in which we would not need justification and sanctification through him.

*CLOSING HYMN #302: I DANCED IN THE MORNING

SYDNEY CARTER

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
But they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
They came to me and the dance went on. Refrain

I danced on the sabbath when I cured the lame,
The holy people said it was a shame;
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high;
And they left me there on a cross to die. Refrain

I danced on a Friday and the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
But I am the dance and I still go on. Refrain

They cut me down and I leapt up high,
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. Refrain

***SENDING**

May God our Creator hold you and yours in the arms of his love.
May Jesus inspire you in your loving and serving.
May the Spirit guide you as you journey onwards.
In the name of the Trinity of grace. **Amen.**

"MAY GOD OUR CREATOR" – SIMON TAYLOR

POSTLUDE: *Let's Just Praise the Lord*

WILLIAM J. & GLORIA GAITHER/ARR. BY FRED BOCH

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

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

Bethany Members

Christopher Bagley
Sylvia Donley
Pat Kennedy
Joyce & Norman Mize
Nancy Sutton

Katherine Bayliff
Henry Flythe
Ron & Sue Kimrey
Shelvia Russell
Robert Sykes

Lou Crutchfield
Judy & Darrell Holmes
Ruby Martin
Mike Sutton
Ida Whitney

Friends of Bethany

Carol Abplanalp
Jack Cook
Grace Johnson
Gaynell McCollum
Norma Proctor
Peter Slater
Tiffany Tauchren
Teresa Wilborn
Frank Wrenn

Carol Brooks
Bill Faucette
Christy Lutterloh
Anne McDaniels
Shannon Russell
Bonnie Steiskal
Alex Thomas
Deborah & Larry
Barbara Smith

Janie Holt Clapp
Ben Johnson
Robert May
Diane Miller
David Scranage
Ann Sutton
Randy Thompson
Cindy Uzzo
Don Burenhiede

Elders of the Month for July are **Shelby Smith** and **Kim Snyder**.

Anniversaries & Birthdays

- Pat & Henry Flythe July 1
- Helen & Glenn Byrd July 10
- Millie & Jay Fuller July 11
- Amy & Dusty Kimrey July 13
- Brenda & Robert Sykes July 27

- Shelby Smith July 3
- Sylvia Hayes July 5
- Janine Osborne July 5
- Tina Patterson July 7
- Xan Wagner July 8
- Diane Bullis July 12
- Debbie Johnson July 17
- Sylvia Donley July 20

Liturgist

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| July 3 rd | Tina Patterson |
| July 10 th | Helen Brown |
| July 17 th | Randy Cousins |
| July 24 th | Tina Patterson |
| July 31 st | |

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

Sunday, July 24th – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:30 – Worship (In-Person outside at the Manse parking lot & Live Stream)
- After Church – “Jesus and the Gospels”, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, July 27th

- 6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, July 31st – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost & Brunch Church

- 9:30 – Worship (In-Person in Fellowship Hall)
- After Church – “Jesus and the Gospels”, Fellowship Hall

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love learn serve



Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

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Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp

Helen Brown

Tina Patterson

Class of 2023:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Shelby Smith

Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Tracey Troxler

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

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