



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

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

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

July 25, 2021 – 11:00 am

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



*"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He wouldn't even lift his eyes to look toward heaven. Rather, he struck his chest and said, 'God, show mercy to me, a sinner.' I tell you, this person went down to his home justified rather than the Pharisee. All who lift themselves up will be brought low, and those who make themselves low will be lifted up."*

Luke 18:13-14 (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:** Arabesque

STEVEN SCOTT

### 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 All You People

UYAI MOSE

Come all you people, come and praise your Maker;  
come all you people, come and praise your Maker;  
come all you people, come and praise your Maker;  
come now and worship the Lord.

Come all you people, come and praise Christ Jesus;  
come all you people, come and praise Christ Jesus;  
come all you people, come and praise Christ Jesus;  
come now and worship the Lord.

*Come all you people, come and praise the Spirit;  
come all you people, come and praise the Spirit;  
come all you people, come and praise the Spirit;  
come now and worship the Lord.*

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the day the Lord has made:  
**a day for praise and prayer; a day for gratitude and generosity.**  
This is the time God has given us:  
**a time for singing and silence; a time for speaking and listening.**  
This is the life to which God calls us:  
**a life of humility and service; a life of faith and trust.**

#### \* OPENING HYMN #461: *God Is Here!*

ABBOT'S LEIGH

*God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,  
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.  
Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;  
here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,  
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.  
Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;  
here, as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.  
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore  
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.  
Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt  
keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive:  
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!*

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

#### A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

**LUKE 18:9-14**

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1276

#### AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Pour out your Spirit upon us as we gather, so your grace might strengthen us for service; so your peace might calm our troubled souls; so your hope might mend our broken hearts.

**You poured out your life that we might be filled with the gift of salvation. You humbled yourself that we might be raised to eternal life. Take hold of our hands, so we might cross the finish line together.**

You are in our midst. You enabled us to cling to faith, when hope runs through our fingers like sand. You open the gateways of our hearts morning and evening, that we might sing our praises with all creation.

**God in Community, Holy in One, we pour out our hearts to you, as we pray.**

When we pray to God, do we do so with pride in what wonderful people we are, or with that humble hope which recognizes how we have not lived as God's children, and how we need God's forgiveness and grace in our lives?

**Watching God, like the Pharisee, we think we can stick our thumbs into life, pull out a prayer, and congratulate ourselves for being such good Christians. Then, we remember the harsh words we have spoken this week, the hurt we have inflicted on someone we loved, the lack of compassion we failed to offer to someone who needed our help.**

Forgive us, God of Grace, and deal gently with us. May we become more like the tax collector - humble, penitent, acknowledging our faulty lives to you. Then, may we receive the mercy promised to us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior

## AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

### AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Forgiven and healed, we open ourselves to the grace, the peace, the hope offered to us through our loving God. This is the good news we have received!

***Graced and blessed, we are able to live our lives for others, taking them by the hand to reach that finish line called the Kingdom. 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

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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. Do you believe in God the Father?

***I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.***

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

***I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.***

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

***I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.***

## 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 #280: *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

AMAZING GRACE

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!*

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.*

*The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.*

## 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: *The Gospel According to Baseball: Round Ball, Round Bat - What Could Go Wrong?*

REV. JOHNSON

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

### \* CLOSING HYMN: *O Sing to the Lord*

BRAZILIAN FOLK SONG

*O sing to the Lord; O sing God a new song.*

*O sing to the Lord; O sing God a new song.*

*O sing to the Lord; O sing God a new song.*

*O sing to our God; O sing to our God.*

*For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.*

*For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.*

*For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.*

*O sing to our God; O sing to our God.*

*So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.*

*So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.*

*So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.*

*O sing to our God; O sing to our God.*

*O shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.*

*O shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.*

*O shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.*

*O sing to our God; O sing to our God.*

*For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia!*

*For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia!*

*For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia!*

*O sing to our God; O sing to our God.*

### \* SENDING

We have offered praise and prayer to our God,

**who sends us out to offer peace and hope to others.**

We have heard the call of Jesus in the silence and singing,

**and we will join him in speaking for the voiceless.**

Filled by the Spirit with faith and trust,

**we go to serve others, humbly and lovingly.**

### \* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### \* POSTLUDE: *Firm in the Faith I Stand*

DAVID PAXTON

\* 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))

This morning John begins 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:

- **Today: *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 Fauchette  
Jack Cook  
Joan Richardson  
Shannon Russell  
Katherine Turner  
Jeremy Harden  
Anne McDaniels  
Alex Thomas  
Stewart Dillard  
Shelvia Russell  
Carol Brooks  
Janie Holt Clapp

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

**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 / Sermon Series - *The Gospel According to Baseball* - I

Sunday, the 1<sup>st</sup>:

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

### 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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1500 S. Main Street

Graham, NC 27215

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

336.227.4041

### 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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