



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

July 30, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost



“Therefore, pick up the full armor of God so that you can stand your ground on the evil day and after you have done everything possible to still stand.”
Ephesians 6:13 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

The past few years have been great years for new gadgets, many of them wearable. These gadgets often address problems we don’t even know we have. Paul offers a product solution that actually works, solving the ultimate problem of dealing with evil.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Lead On, O King Eternal*

L. SMITH / BY H. SMART

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 the peace of Christ with your neighbor.)

*** GATHERING SONGS:** *You Are My Strength When I Am Weak*

DENNIS JERNIGAN

*You are my strength when I am weak; you are the treasure that I seek; you are my all in all.
When I fall down, you pick me up; when I am dry, you fill my cup; you are my all in all.
Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name! Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name!*

Christ Be Beside Me

BUNESAN / JAMES QUINN

*Christ be beside me; Christ be before me; Christ be behind me, King of my heart.
Christ be within me; Christ be below me; Christ be above me, never to part.*

*Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me, shield in the strife.
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising, Light of my life.*

*Christ be in all hearts thinking about me; Christ be on all tongues telling of me.
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me; in ears that hear me Christ ever be.*

*** CALL TO WORSHIP AND HYMN OF PRAISE**

What has God promised?

To always be with us.

What are we called to do?

To shout and sing God's praises, God's faithful love for us.

Standing on the Promises (verse 1)

*Standing on the promises of Christ my king, through eternal ages let his praises ring;
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing, standing on the promises of God.*

*Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.*

PROMISES

Life is tough these days.

But God is with us.

Storms and terrors threaten us at every turn. Who will protect us?

God will protect us, as God promised.

Standing on the Promises (verse 2)

*Standing on the promises that cannot fail, when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
by the living Word of God I shall prevail, standing on the promises of God.*

*Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.*

PROMISES

Who gives us the courage to stand in the face of tribulation?

Jesus Christ has given the witness by the gift of his own life.

What bond is there for us?

It is the bond of Christ's own love, the gift of his own self for our lives.

Standing on the Promises (verse 3)

*Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord, bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword, standing on the promises of God.*

*Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.*

PROMISES

No matter what may threaten, God is with us.

Hallelujah! Amen.

We will rest in the Savior and place our hope in him alone!

Hallelujah! Amen.

Standing on the Promises (verse 4)

*Standing on the promises I cannot fall, listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
resting in my Savior as my all in all, standing on the promises of God.*

*Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.*

PROMISES

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

In the beauty of this place, we have come to pray, to worship, to receive healing and hope. We come from the struggles and triumphs of the week, needing to feel the soothing presence of God.

Lord, be with us this day. Calm and soothe our souls. Cause us to rejoice that you have provided a special place where we may gather to talk of your presence and love; to sing your praises; and to be empowered to go forth to serve you.

Patient Lord, we are a culture that wants the quick and easy answers to all of life's problems. We want to be able to open the Bible and place our fingers on the passage that will answer all our questions and heal all our hurts. It is difficult for us to deal with the knowledge that discipleship requires patience and perseverance.

Jesus' own disciples struggled with his teachings. It took a long time for them to understand fully what Jesus was saying and how they were to respond. We are no different. The words of Jesus take time for us to comprehend. Forgive us, Lord, when we are so impatient; when we just want to "get on with it", and be where the action is. Help us to understand the commitment we make in discipleship, through the rocky times and the smooth seas alike.

Push us in our ministry of help and compassion to do more than we ever thought we could do in helping others. Give to us that extra measure of faith and commitment that we may truly serve you by serving others. In Jesus' Name, we pray.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Even though we doubt and question, God's love is poured on us, in us, and through us to others. Rest assured in God's presence and love for us, that will never fail or abandon us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are healed, restored, and forgiven. Amen.

* RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #368: *I've Got Peace Like a River*

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in-a my soul. (Repeat)
I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain in-a my soul. (Repeat)

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *The Water is Wide (Though I May Speak)*

J. PURIFOY

* **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**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG (@ HEART) / MOMENT FOR MISSION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *Open the Eyes of My Heart*

PAUL BALOCHE

*Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see you; I want to see you;
Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see you; I want to see you;
to see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory.
Pour out your power and love as we sing "Holy, holy, holy."
Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy, I want to see you.*

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Down to the River to Pray*

ARR. SHELDON CURRY

*As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way
and who shall wear the starry crown, Good Lord, show me the way.*

(verse 1) O sisters, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.

O sisters, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

(v 2) O brothers, let's go down . . .

(v 3) O fathers, let's go down . . .

(v 4) O mothers . . .

(v 5) O sinners . . .

THE SPOKEN WORD

A Reading from Ephesians 6:10-20

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1428

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON: ***PAUL'S PRODUCT PROPOSAL***

REV. JOHNSON

* **HYMN OF PREPARATION:** *We Gather Here in Jesus' Name* (see page 5)

COME SHARE THE LORD

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Gathered round a table is where Jesus so often met people . . .

. . . gathered round the table of Matthew

the table of Zacchaeus,

the table of Simon,

the table of Peter,

the table of Lazarus

and Martha and Mary . . . gathered round a table where he could see people face to face, listen to their stories, share their laughter.

And here, we are gathered round a table because this is where Jesus has promised to be for those who want to meet him.

So accept his invitation and feel welcome at this table. Jesus Christ, who here offers us a foretaste of eternal life, invites us to be his guests.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

May the Lord, our Host, be with you!

And also with you!

Blessed are those whose hearts know the way to the kingdom.

Our hearts are filled with life itself as we seek to follow Jesus.

Blessed are those who sing praises to God.

Trusting in the One who calls us here, we sing our joy and love to God.

Early morning rains created pools filled with the sweet waters of life on that day of wonder and goodness we call creation . . . So, with those who have always known your name, and those who have heard it for the first time, we join our voices in praise and song:

Holy, holy, holy are you, our God and our Creator. Heaven and highest heaven cannot contain you. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes with words of eternal life. Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you, God of steadfast love, and blessed is Jesus, the Holy One of God . . . As we gather to remember his life and death, as we celebrate the wonder of the resurrection, we make known the mystery of the gospel:

Christ died, so we might have peace; Christ is risen, so we might live forever; Christ will come again, so we may live in God's house for all eternity.

How lovely is your Table of grace, God of mercy, the simple gifts of the bread and cup transformed by your love . . . And when that day with you which will never end finally begins, when we are gathered with our sisters and brothers from every time and place, we will sing for joy to you, and pray as you taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us go now, to share God's strength.

We will do so by embracing the weakness of others.

Let us go now, to be as alert as Jesus.

We will do so by noticing the brokenness all around us.

Let us go now, to share the life of the Spirit.

We will do so by receiving the bread of life from the poor. Amen.

LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

* **CLOSING HYMN #514:** *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

LINSTEAD / JAMAICAN FOLK MELODY

* **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

* **POSTLUDE:** *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart*

C. CURTIS / BY A. MESSITER

* *Those who are able may stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WORSHIP Ministry: (Lead Elders: Nancy Purcell and A. J. Campbell)

WELCOME to this service of worship at Bethany Presbyterian Church. 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).

Operating our audio and video systems this morning is **Rick Purcell**. Anyone wishing to join this team of volunteers please contact the church office at any time.

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.

Resources used in this morning's worship:

- *A Wee Worship Book* (published by the Wild Goose Resource Group)
- *Ministry Matters* website (www.ministrymatters.com)
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.org)

This morning we complete our **Sermon Series focusing on Paul's letter to the Ephesians**. Join us in two weeks, on August 13th, as we begin a **four-week series on the book of Revelation**.

Our year-long 125th Anniversary Celebration didn't end with our wonderful celebration at the end of May. As has been noted before our theme scripture passage for the celebration is Isaiah 40:28-31, ***Growing Stronger – Growing Deeper – Reaching Higher***. Mark your calendars for our final celebration events:

- **Saturday, September 23rd** – Concert by renowned artist, **David LaMotte** (www.davidlamotte.com)
- **Sunday, September 24th** – Culmination of anniversary celebration / **Rev. J. Herbert Nelson**, preaching (Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA) / **David LaMotte** providing music / Anniversary luncheon following worship

John will be away next Sunday, and we welcome back to the pulpit **Rev. Sam Jenkins**. John will return to the office on Monday, August 7th.

Do you have a smartphone? Are you on Facebook? If so, take a moment to **"check in" on Facebook**, letting your friends know that you are here at Bethany Presbyterian Church! It may seem like a small thing, but in reality, it is a wonderful message of evangelism and witness, as you let the cyber-world know what is important to you.

To the parents of young children: Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel that you must suppress those wiggles in God's house. **Please note that a professionally staffed nursery is available during the worship hour**. Here are some hints to make worship with your children more rewarding:

- Consider sitting towards the front where it is easier for little ones to engage. On the second pew nearest the choir loft, there are activities for children of all ages to keep busy with during the service.
- Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, musicians, and leaders.
- Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behavior by mimicking you.
- If you have to leave the sanctuary with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me!"
- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.
- **To adult worshippers:** The presence of children is a gift to the church and they are a reminder that our church is growing! Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elders: Jean Payne and Sherrie Moore)

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

Bill Faucette	Diane Miller	John & Ann Sutton
Faye Campbell	Jack Cook	Peter Slater
Frances Nolan	Polly & Dick Wilson	Joey Leake
Layla Benoklen	Teresa Wilborn	Shannon Russell
Ida Whitney	Tiffany Tauchren	Mary Moore
Rachel Poteat	Jean Berry	Barbara Cousins
Jeremy Harden	Christy Lutterloh	Pat Kennedy
Anne McDaniels	Eleanor Thompson	Harold Baldwin
Mike Sutton	Nancy Sutton	Duffy Strigo
Steward Dillard	Infant Sadie Ruth Majors	Norma Proctor
Donna Mitchell-Ayers	Ben Johnson	Gloria Carden Woods
Crystal Schappacher		Pete Campbell

Each week **Salem Presbytery** lists churches and other ministries that we are to lift up in prayer that week. A complete list can be viewed online at the presbytery website: www.salempresbytery.org. On the prayer list for this week are: **Richard Osmer, Faculty Princeton Seminary; Gulf Presbyterian; Pine Hall Presbyterian**. Please keep these churches and ministries in your prayers this week.

TEACH Ministry: (Lead Elders: Brandon Troxler and Karen Maxwell)

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)

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.

Young at Heart Class (Young at Heart Classroom – across from pastor's office)

Using the *Uniform Series*, this class engages in lively discussions pertaining to the biblically based curriculum. The class is taught by a very capable team of teachers.

Seeker's Class (Church Office)

The Seeker's Class is currently using the *Wired Word* curriculum, looking at current events as they relate to our faith.

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.

Registration for Vacation Bible School is now open and available either in the church office, or on the church website. See Nancy Purcell if you have any questions.

SUPPORT Ministry: (Lead Elders: Ron Osborne, Ron Kimrey, and Glenn Patterson)

Elders of the Month for July are **Glenn Patterson and Karen Maxwell**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- **5th Sundays @ Bethany**
- Ephesians Sermon Series IV
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Tuesday, the 1st – Sunday, the 6th:

- John on vacation

Wednesday, the 2nd:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 6th:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship / Rev. Sam Jenkins, guest preacher

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Rick Purcell

Treasurer: Ron Osborne

Class of 2017:

Ron Kimrey
Karen Maxwell
Sherrie Moore

Class of 2018:

Glenn Patterson
Nancy Purcell
Brandon Troxler

Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell
Ron Osborne
Jean Payne

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love learn serve



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Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org



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