



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

August 1, 2021 – 11:00 am

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost



"In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who changes both heart and life than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to change their hearts and lives."

Luke 15:7 (CEB)

"When you come to a fork in the road, take it." - Yogi Berra

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: *Simple Blessings*

CHARITY BOYLES

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 #473: *For the Beauty of the Earth*

DIX

*For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

The foolish say, 'there is no God.'

We come, trusting in Jesus, the face, the voice, the presence of the God who loves us.

The scoffers of our age ask, 'why do you seek after God?'

We come, in this time, because God's grace has spilled over in our lives.

The hopeless around us think, 'no one cares about me.'

We come, in this time, to this place, because Jesus has found us and brought us home.

*** OPENING HYMN #446: Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken**

AUSTRIAN HYMN

*Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God.
God, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for a blest abode.*

*On the rock of ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.*

*Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near.*

*Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,
safe they feed upon the manna which God gives them when they pray.*

*See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove.*

Who can faint while such a river ever flows, their thirst to assuage?

Grace, so like the Lord the giver, never fails from age to age.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

LUKE 15:3-10

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1271

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

When we are short-sighted and think we can't see you, you show us a mother cradling her sick child. When we are anxious, certain you don't care about us, you are confident enough to trust us with your grace. When we are cynical, sure that nothing matters, you are optimistic enough to become one of us. God, you are our Hope.

You sweep the streets of the world, to uncover the people we consider to be trash. You shine your grace into sin's shadows to find us when we have lost our way. You would leave us to go find the sister we left behind. Jesus, you are our Joy.

When we walk the dusty desert of desolation, you refresh us with showers of grace. When our lives lie in ruined rubble, you come and build a foundation for us out of love and faith. Spirit, you are our Life.

God in Community, Holy in One, our Hope, our Joy, our Life, hear us as we pray.

Which of us has not hurt someone this week? Which of us has not spoken (or thought) ill of a sister or brother in Christ? Which of us has failed to do good when given the chance? Which of us? All of us and each of us!

Although we believe we are experts at faithfulness, Holy God, we must confess we are unskilled workers at doing good for others. Too often, we turn a deaf ear to the cries of people we have judged to be fools. We easily scoff at those we believe have nothing to teach us or share with us.

How foolish, Searching God, how foolish we are! Forgive us, and restore us to your goodness. Then, send us forth to search for all who sit in the shadowed corners of our world, yearning for someone to come and find them, even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, came to find us.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Our actions sometimes show we do not know God. Our words and lives show we do not understand God's hopes for us. But with utmost patience, God sets aside our foolishness, and fills us with mercy.

Mingled with faith and love, grace is poured into our sin-parched souls, giving us new life, restoring us as God's children. Thanks be to God. Amen.

* RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE: *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

PAUL VASILE

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

* 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: *Praise, I Will Praise You, Lord*

JE LOUERAI L'ETERNEL

Praise, I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart.

O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways, and glorify your name.

Praise, I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart.

In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* HYMN OF THE DAY #377: *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*

PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

You have come up to the lakeshore, looking neither for wise nor for wealthy.

You only wanted that I should follow.

Refrain:

O Lord, with Your eyes You have searched me, and while smiling, have called out my name.

Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me, now with You I will seek other seas.

You know that I own so little, in my boat there's no money nor weapons.

You'll only find there my nets and labor. (Refrain)

You need the caring of my hands. Through my tiredness, may others find resting.

You need a love that just goes on loving. (Refrain)

You, who have fished other oceans, ever longed for by souls that are waiting.

My dear and good friend, as thus You call me. (Refrain)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

THE WORD IN MUSIC:

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *The Gospel According to Baseball: Runs, Hits, and Errors*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN #525: *Here I Am, Lord*

DANIEL SCHUTTE

*I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?*

Refrain:

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

*I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? (Refrain)*

*I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? (Refrain)*

* SENDING

We have been found by our God,
so now we will go to search for those forgotten by the world.
We have been welcomed by Jesus,
so now we will go to embrace the ones people look down their noses at.
We have been gathered as a community by the Spirit,
so now we will go to be a family to the people who long to draw near to hope.

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE: *More Than Conquerors*

GERALD PETERSON

** 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; on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian; or on Twitter by following [@bpresbyterian](https://twitter.com/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. 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)

A Note About the Offering: As we have returned to worship as the pandemic has been becoming less and less a threat, we have continued the practice of not passing the offering plates at the time of the offering during our service, thus decreasing the threat of spreading germs. Instead, you are invited to make your contribution in one of four ways: drop it in the offering plate that is located at the narthex door (before worship) and in the narthex (following worship); mail it in to the church; drop it off at the church in person; or, use our quick and secure online giving platform. This can be accessed through our website, or by scanning the QR code on the last page of this bulletin. Thanks for your generosity and cooperation.

As the threat of the pandemic does ease somewhat, we are still not completely out of the woods. This past week the CDC adjusted the guidelines for wearing masks, suggesting that all persons - vaccinated or not - wear masks indoors in areas that are experiencing more infections. We will continue to urge our congregation to use their own best judgment in whether to wear a mask in worship, always remembering our hope to keep all worshippers healthy and free from infection. The Session will revisit this issue at its August meeting.

This morning John continues 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 the remaining Sundays of the series:

- **Today: *The Gospel According to Baseball: Runs, Hits, and Errors - Luke 15:3-10***
- August 8th: *The Gospel According to Baseball: The Seventh Inning Stretch - Matthew 13:1-9*
- August 15th: *The Gospel According to Baseball: Finding Your Grip - Hebrews 12:1-2*
- August 22nd: *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	Diane Miller	John & Ann Sutton
Jack Cook	Peter Slater	Ruby Martin
Joan Richardson	Joey Leake	Teresa Wilborn
Shannon Russell	Ida Whitney	Tiffany Tauchren
Katherine Turner	Jean Berry	Barbara Cousins
Jeremy Harden	Christy Lutterloh	Pat Kennedy
Anne McDaniels	Eleanor Thompson	Mike Sutton
Alex Thomas	Nancy Sutton	Ben Johnson
Stewart Dillard	Norma Proctor	Grace Johnson
Shelvia Russell	Christopher Bagley	Frank Wrenn
Carol Brooks	Randy Thompson	Sylvia Donley
Janie Holt Clapp	Glenn Harden	Joyce & Norman Mize
	Debbie Walters (Smith family neighbor)	

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 August are **Tracey Troxler** and **Randy Cousins**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Sunday, the 8th:

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

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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love learn serve



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Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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