



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

August 7, 2022 – 9:30 am

Nineth Sunday after Pentecost



"Planting Seeds" slgckgc

What of the wisdom from above? First, it is pure, and then peaceful, gentle, obedient, filled with mercy and good actions, fair, and genuine. Those who make peace sow the seeds of justice by their peaceful acts.
James 3:17-18 (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! The liturgy today is from the Wild Goose Resource Group, A Wee Worship Book, (Chicago: GIA Publications, 2015.)

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *There's Something About That Name*

GLORIA & WILLIAM GAITHER/ARR. BY FRED BOCK

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*OPENING SENTENCES

Christ is like a single body that has many parts.
It is still one body though every part is different.

Therefore the foot cannot say, ***I am not part of the body;***
nor can the ear say, ***I am not part of the body.***
The eye cannot say to the hand, ***I do not need you;***
nor can the head say to the feet, ***I do not need you.***

If one part suffers, *all parts share the pain;*
if one part is praised, *all parts share the joy.*

Together, we are Christ's body: *each one of us is a part of it.*

Let us worship our God.

***GATHERING PRAYER**

PSALMS 133 & 134

How good and how lovely it is to live together in unity.
Precious it is, like oil, poured out to anoint the head.

Unity is like the dew falling on holy mountains.
With it comes God's blessing: life for evermore.

Come, bless the Lord, you servants, fulfilling God's commands:
Love and praise your maker, the God of heaven and earth. Amen.

OPENING HYMN #263: *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

WALTER CHAMBERS SMITH

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.

Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

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

JEREMIAH 11:18-20

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 933

JAMES 3:13-4:10

PEW BIBLE, PAGES 1472

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

When we walk with the Lord
in the light of his word,
what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will,
he abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain:

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Not a burden we bear,
not a sorrow we share,
but our toil he doth richly repay;
not a grief or a loss,
not a frown or a cross,
but is blest if we trust and obey. [Refrain]

But we never can prove
the delights of his love
until all on the altar we lay;
for the favor he shows,
for the joy he bestows,
are for them who will trust and obey. [Refrain]

Then in fellowship sweet
we will sit at his feet,
or we'll walk by his side in the way;
what he says we will do,
where he sends we will go;
never fear, only trust and obey. [Refrain]

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

Let us tell the truth about ourselves. Please pray with me.

Eternal God, you do not need our praise. The world itself tells of your glory... sunrise and birdsong, the ruggedness of landscape, the randomness of rain, beauty for the eye, nourishment for the body, music for the soul... these speak of your goodness, these honor your name.

You do not need our praise.

Other places can do it better with finer music or fewer words, with centuries of tradition or buildings of rare beauty. Other people can do it better, where two or three are gathered who live in poverty or under threat, and who, despite all that oppress them, rejoice to be called your own.

What can we add by way of magnificence or testimony when these are more eloquent?

You do not need our praise, but we need to praise you. It is the yearning, the restlessness, which you have planted in us. It is our desire for a true home and unconditional acceptance that brings us here.

All the rumors we have heard about you are true: you love, you forgive, you transform.

And you know us... oh, how you know us! You perceive what in us needs to be loved, what in us needs to be forgiven, and what in us needs to be changed.

We need no more words, just penitence...

Lord, have mercy on us. ***Lord, have mercy on us.***
Christ, have mercy on us. ***Christ, have mercy on us.***
Lord, have mercy on us. ***Lord, have mercy on us.***

A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

These are the words of Jesus. They are strong and true, so believe them:

"I have come that you may have life in all its fullness."

"Go in peace; your sins are forgiven."

"Come, each one, and follow me."

Pause

Now, God, help us to live as a forgiven people – visibly different, gloriously free – for Jesus sake, Who taught us to pray in the language most familiar to us, saying:

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

***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: *"Seeds of Justice"*

REV. PHILLIPS

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

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

...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 you to be his guests.

What we do here, we do because it is Jesus' will...

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. *And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts. *We lift them to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, for you are the One from whom we came and the One to whom we will return...

...With the church throughout the world, Orthodox and Lutheran, Catholic and Reformed, with all who love Jesus and honor his name, we praise you, singing the hymn of your everlasting glory:

Holy, holy, holy Lord

God of power and might;

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Yes, blessed is he...

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Go now, you have been fed, you have shared the living bread;

you have been grafted to the vine, you have tasted heaven's new wine.

Go now, you have been blessed. Jesus called you each his guest.

God knows your name and says you're wanted and in your lives God's seed is planted.

Go now, and go in Christ's own peace and in your going do not cease

to love yourself – you are God's treasure,

and to love the world – it is God's pleasure,

and love the Lord in greatest measure. Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

*PROCLAIMING WHAT WE BELIEVE

FROM THE CONFESSION OF 1967 (INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE TEXT)

God's reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery which the Scriptures describe in various ways. It is called the sacrifice of a lamb, a shepherd's life given for his sheep, atonement by a priest, again it is ransom of a slave,

payment of debt, vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty, and victory over the powers of evil. These are expressions of a truth which remains beyond the reach of all theory in the depths of God's love for humankind. They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement of God's reconciling work.

The risen Christ is the savior of all people. Those joined to him by faith are set right with God and commissioned to serve as God's reconciling community. Christ is the head of this community, the church, which began with the apostles and continues through all generations.

The same Jesus Christ is the judge of all people. His judgement discloses the ultimate seriousness of life and gives promise of God's final victory over the power of sin and death. To receive life from the risen Lord is to have life eternal; to refuse life from him is to choose the death which is separation from God. All who put their trust in Christ face divine judgment without fear, for the judge is their redeemer.

***CLOSING HYMN:** *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

ANONYMOUS

I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
no turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, I still will follow;
though none go with me, I still will follow;
though none go with me, I still will follow;
no turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me;
the world behind me, the cross before me;
the world behind me, the cross before me;
no turning back, no turning back.

***SENDING**

Prepare the way of the Lord; ***make a path for our God in the desert.***
Each valley shall be exalted; ***every mountain and hill be laid low.***
The crooked shall be made straight; ***rough places shall become plain.***
The glory of the Lord shall be revealed; ***all people shall see it together.***
This is the will of the Lord: ***God's promise shall be fulfilled.***

POSTLUDE: *The Church Triumphant*

GLORIA & WILLIAM GAITHER/ARR. BY FRED BOCK

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

Anniversaries & Birthdays

- Debbie & John Johnson August 1
- Caroline & Jon Phillips August 1
- Tina & Glenn Patterson August 6
- Linda & Bill Abplanalp August 15
- Nancy & Mike Sutton August 22
- Kasey & Brent Dampier August 26

- Ruby Martin August 1
- Jean Payne August 4
- Darrell Holmes August 10
- Zach Wagner August 13
- Millie Fuller August 15
- Emmie Davis August 15
- Donna Mitchell-Ayers August 18
- Samantha Patterson August 18
- Gina Wagner August 18
- Robert Cousins August 19
- Shelvia Russell August 19
- Sue Kimrey August 20
- Caroline Phillips August 20
- Betty Boggs August 22

Liturgist

August 7th

Chip Allen

August 14th

Alex McClain

August 21st

August 28th

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

Sunday, August 7th – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost & Communion

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

Wednesday, August 10th

- 6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, August 14th – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

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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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