



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

August 11, 2024 – 11:00 am
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



"The Three Hebrews in the Fiery Furnace," c. 3rd - 4th century, Catacombs of Priscilla, Rome.

He replied, "Look! I see four men, unbound, walking around inside the fire, and they aren't hurt! And the fourth one looks like one of the gods." Nebuchadnezzar went near the opening of the furnace of flaming fire and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the fire.

Daniel 3: 25-26 (COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE)

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! Parts of today's liturgy are from LiturgyLink, <https://www.liturgylink.net>; and Nathan Nettleton, LaughingBird.net

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Who at My Door is Standing*

EDWARD BROUGHTON / TUNE: EVERETT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***OPENING HYMN #485:** *To God Be the Glory*

FANNY JANE CROSBY

To God be the glory, great things He hath done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory: great things He hath done.

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. **[Refrain]**

***OPENING SENTENCES**

Ps. 96:1-2

O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing and give praise to God's name;
tell the good news of salvation from day to day.

GATHERING PRAYER

"SILENCE," TERI PETERSON

We come into your holy place, O God, hoping for a glimpse of your presence.

***Silence us when we allow our voices to drown out yours.
Silence us when our words in the sanctuary and our actions outside do not line up.
Into that silence, speak again your word of life and your call to live the gospel.***

Help us to be still and know that you are God.
Make space in our hearts and minds to trust your word –
and not just our hearts and minds, but also our choices and actions.

***Tune our voices to sing of your glory, to share your good news.
And then open our lips, and our mouths shall proclaim your praise. Amen.***

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Testify to us, O God,
by the voice of your Spirit.
Put your law in our hearts,
write your word in our minds,
and show your will in our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 46:1-3

PEW BIBLE, 699

DANIEL 3:1-30

PEW BIBLE, 1074

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF OUR PLEDGES

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY #428:** *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

WILLIAM WALSHAM HOW

We give Thee but Thine own,
What e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

*BLESSING OUR GIFTS

***HYMN OF THE DAY #467:** *How Great Thou Art*

CARL GUSTAV BOBERG

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hands hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; **[Refrain]**

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing
he bled and died to take away my sin; **[Refrain]**

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim: "My God, how great thou art!" **[Refrain]**

Let us come together to tell the truth about ourselves.

You, O Lord, are our strong tower, our refuge and help in every trouble. Forgive us when we hide away from the challenges of following your call, using your word to build walls that insulate us from your world.

You, O Lord, are everywhere present. Forgive us when we want you to walk alongside us, when we ought to ask for the grace to walk alongside you wherever you are going.

You, O Lord, are the one who hears and answers our cries. Forgive us when our prayer is only self-serving, asking your stamp of approval or your help for our desires, and not for your glory.

You, O Lord, are our counselor and comforter. Forgive us when we seek only comfort, ignoring what we have done wrong and refusing to be confronted and challenged.

You, O Lord, are the one who calls us to come and follow. Forgive our blindness to your people in need, our deafness to your creation groaning for relief, our hearts hardened against the new thing you are doing. Teach us to pray, teach us to listen, teach us to serve, teach us to follow you wherever you are going.

Silence

Help us, O God

to know you so well that we cannot help but love you, and to love you so much we cannot help but serve you, sharing your good news in every place, for it is in doing your will that we find perfect freedom. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

I proclaim to you in the name of our holy God that:

You are enough.

You are forgiven.

You are loved.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE #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!

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Give Me a Clean Heart*

MARGARET PLEASANT DOURoux

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: "Refugees, Statues, and Furnaces"

REV. PHILLIPS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.*

***CLOSING HYMN #536:** *Lord Make Us More Holy*

MARY JACKSON CATHEY

Lord, make us more holy,
Lord, make us more holy,
Lord, make us more holy,
Until we meet again.
Holy, holy, holy,
Until we meet again.

Lord, make us more loving,
Lord, make us more loving,
Lord, make us more loving,
Until we meet again.
Loving, loving, loving,
Until we meet again.

Lord, make us more patient,
Lord, make us more patient,
Lord, make us more patient,
Until we meet again.
Patient, patient, patient,
Until we meet again.

Lord, make us more faithful,
Lord, make us more faithful,
Lord, make us more faithful,
Until we meet again.
Faithful, faithful, faithful,
Until we meet again.

*SENDING

Go out into the world in peace.
Love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your mind;
and love your neighbor as yourself.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *The Master has Called Us*

GERALD PETERSON (ASH GROVE)

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Tuesday, August 20th Alamance Co. Mobile Library

The Alamance County Public Libraries mobile library will be in the church parking lot 10:30 – 11:30. Please stop by and “check-out” this wonderful service the library has to share

S.A.F.E. (Southern Alamance Family Empowerment)

How we can help S.A.F.E. for the next two months... they are asking for items for their backpack program. Things like low sugar granola bars, shelf stable fruit cups and applesauce, etc. Then, before school starts back, they are going to need peanut butter again, for Back to School.

Save the Date

- **Saturday, October 26th Fall Festival**

END OF SUMMER SCOUTS POOL PARTY

All Bethany Youth and Parents are invited to the Scouts End of Summer Pool Party.

Saturday August 24th, 2:00 pm

1407 E. Gilbreath St
Graham, NC 27253

Food: Pot Luck. Bring a dish or drink.

BBQ Grill and Pool will be provided.

For more information contact:

Jeff Benes

Committee Chair Cub Pack 9

(336) 675-9086 cell

benes.nc@att.net

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, August 11th Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Wednesday, August 14th
6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, August 18th Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

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love learn serve



Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Tracey Troxler

Class of 2025:

Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Tina Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Class of 2026:

Chip Allen

Jean Payne

Ben Russell

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Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – admin@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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