



## Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

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

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

August 13, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.

*Tenth Sunday after Pentecost*



*"After this I looked and there was a door that had been opened in heaven. The first voice that I had heard, which sounded like a trumpet, said to me, 'Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.' At once I was in a Spirit-inspired trance and I saw a throne in heaven, and someone was seated on the throne."*

Revelation 4:1-2 (CEB)

## GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Although Revelation is usually seen as a book of destruction, God's fundamental identity is that of Creator. This scene anticipates the outcome of the book, where God's purposes culminate in new creation. The words "holy, holy, holy" and the images of casting down crowns by heaven's glassy sea have inspired many of the hymns we use in worship. Revelation functions rightly when it invites us into worship too -- which we do as we add our voices to the song.*

### TRINITY CHIMES

**PRELUDE:** *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

T. KENDALL

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

CLAUDE FRAYSEE / KENNETH MORSE

*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!*

*Love, I will love you, Lord, with all my heart.  
O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways, and glorify your name.  
Love, I will love you, Lord, with all my heart.  
In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!*

*Serve, I will serve you, Lord, with all my heart.  
O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways, and glorify your name.  
Serve, I will serve you, Lord, with all my heart.  
In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!*

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!

***We proclaim here and now the marvelous works of our God!***

Let our hearts leap for joy, O people of God.

***We proclaim here and now the marvelous faithfulness of our God!***

God's ways are not our ways. God's works are too wonderful to behold.

***We proclaim here and now the marvelous works of our God!***

\* **HYMN OF PRAISE #276:** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

### AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Almighty and most gracious God, we give you thanks for this day and for calling us here to your place of worship. We gather to praise your name, for your faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

***Signs of your faithfulness are all around us: love, mercy, forgiveness, new life, and the gifts of your Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Help us claim your faithfulness as we seek to increase our faithfulness to you.***

We have strayed, O God, from your will and your way. Like the brothers of Joseph, we have betrayed family and friends for our own glory; we have enslaved others to suit our purposes;

***we have lied to cover our tracks; we have forgotten our faith when it is convenient; we have failed you and each other so many times. Heal us, O God.***

### AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

### AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Here is proof that God's faithfulness never ends: that while we were yet sinners, God sent God's Son, Jesus Christ, to shed his blood for our sins, that we might not be cast down into the pit, but rise with him to everlasting life.

***In Jesus Christ we are 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)*

\* **SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

As the people of God gathered in this place, who are we?

***We are a community of believers called by God to worship, serve, teach, and support.***

With the whole church, let us confess our faith. Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

***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 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.***

\* **HYMN OF THE DAY #282:** *If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee*

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

### **AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES**

**OFFERTORY:** *My Jesus, I Love Thee*

P. TAYLOR

\* **THE DOXOLOGY:**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Praise God, above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

\* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

### **AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS 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**

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

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:** *I Love to Tell the Story*

HANKEY

*I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;  
it satisfies my longings as nothing else could do.  
I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

**THE WORD IN MUSIC:** *An Offering of Praise*

C. YOUNGER

*Enter into the house of the Lord with praise.  
Enter into the house of the Lord with praise.  
Praise Him for His goodness, each and everyday, Oh,  
Enter into the house of the Lord with praise.  
Bow before the Lord and give Him praise . . .  
He is worthy. I will give Him praise . . .  
Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Enter into the house of the Lord with praise.*

### **THE SPOKEN WORD**

A Reading from Revelation 4:1-11  
This is Holy Scripture for God's people.  
***Thanks be to God!***

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1493

**SERMON: *THE HEAVENLY THRONE***

REV. JOHNSON

## **LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME**

\* **CLOSING HYMN #138:** *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*

NICAEA

\* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

\* **POSTLUDE:** *Our Refuge and Strength (Psalm 46)*

D. CALLENDER

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\* *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](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org); on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](http://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](http://www.buzzsprout.com/9198).

Resources used in this morning's worship:

- *Ministry Matters* website ([www.ministrymatters.com](http://www.ministrymatters.com))
- *Revelation: DVD Teaching Series* – Dr. Brian Blount
- *Revelation* commentary – Dr. Brian Blount

This morning we begin a four-week **Sermon Series on Revelation**. Note the passages and themes:

- Today: Revelation 4:1-11 – *The Heavenly Throne*
- August 20<sup>th</sup>: Revelation 5:1-13 – *Flash Mob Messiah*
- August 27<sup>th</sup>: Revelation 6:1-8; 7:9-17 – *Getting Past Tilt*
- September 3<sup>rd</sup>: Revelation 21:1-6; 22:1-5 – *Better City, Better Life*

**Our year-long 125<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Concert by renowned artist, **David LaMotte** ([www.davidlamotte.com](http://www.davidlamotte.com))
- **Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>** – Culmination of anniversary celebration / **Rev. J. Herbert Nelson**, preaching (Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA) / **David LaMotte** providing music / Anniversary luncheon following worship

**Invitations** to the culmination of our anniversary celebration at the end of September were mailed out this past week. If you did not receive one, or know of someone who needs to be on the list, please see Tina Patterson.

**Tickets for the David LaMotte concert are now available.** There is no charge for the concert, but tickets are required. You may obtain tickets from the church office, or by visiting our website. Donations are appreciated at the door, with a suggested donation of \$20. Cash, checks, and credit cards are accepted.

**Attention all school-age children and youth:** As a new school year is upon us, join us on Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup> for our **Blessing of the Backpacks**. Bring your school backpacks to church for this special time to remember you are loved by your church family as our prayers go with you for a new school year!

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 Elder: Jean Payne)

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	Family of Harold Baldwin
Mike Sutton	Nancy Sutton	Duffy Strigo
Steward Dillard	Infant Sadie Ruth Majors	Norma Proctor
Donna Mitchell-Ayers	Ben Johnson	Gloria Carden Woods
	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](http://www.salempresbytery.org). On the prayer list for this week are: **Mebane First Presbyterian; Francisco Presbyterian, Westfield; Concord Presbyterian, Statesville.** Please keep these churches and ministries in your prayers this week.

Many, many thanks to **Bobby Peele**, for the beautiful new **Prayer Board**, in the hallway near the Welcome Center. Please feel free to add prayer request to the board as the needs arise.

**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.

Please note the insert with information on our upcoming **Book Study on Rob Bell's latest *What Is the Bible?***. The only cost is the cost of the book (available on Amazon.com). **Deadline for registration is next Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**. You may register using the form provided, or on our website.

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

Elder of the Month for August is **Brandon Troxler**.

## This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- Revelation Sermon Series I
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Wednesday, the 9<sup>th</sup>:

- John out – cataract surgery
- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 20<sup>th</sup>:

- Revelation Sermon Series II
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

### Session

**Moderator:** Rev. John W. Johnson

**Clerk:** Rick Purcell

**Treasurer:** Ron Osborne

### Class of 2017:

Ron Kimrey

Karen Maxwell

### Class of 2018:

Glenn Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Brandon Troxler

### Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell

Ron Osborne

Jean Payne

# bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



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### Staff

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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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