



## Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina  
[www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org)  
[www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian)

August 13, 2023 – 11:00 am  
*Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost*  
*Fellowship Lunch*



The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. All the believers were united and shared everything.  
Acts 2:42-44 (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! Parts of today's liturgy are from The Office of Theology and Worship for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Book of Common Worship, (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2018); the Presbyterian Mission Agency, "8 Habits of Evangelism," <https://8habits.org/>; and LiturgyLink, <https://www.liturgylink.net>.*

### TRINITY CHIMES

**PRELUDE:** *I Look to God in Every Need*

FRANKLIN RITTER

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*OPENING HYMN #462:** *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*

CHARLES WESLEY

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true, the only Light,  
Sun of Righteousness, arise,  
Triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Day-star, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn  
Unaccompanied by Thee;  
Joyless is the day's return  
Till Thy mercy's beams I see,  
Till they inward light impart,  
Cheer my eyes and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine;  
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
Fill me, Radiancy divine;  
Scatter all my unbelief;  
More and more Thyself display,  
Shining to the perfect day.

**\*OPENING SENTENCES**

ADAPT. FROM "WHEN THE POOR ONES (PEQUEÑAS ACLARACIONES)", JOSÉ ANTONIO OLIVAR & MIGUEL MANZANO

O Lord, open my lips,  
***and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.***

Let us worship our God.

**\*GATHERING PRAYER**

When the poor ones who have nothing to share with strangers,  
when the thirsty water give unto us all,  
when the weak in their weakness strengthen others,  
then we know that God still goes that road with us.

When at last those who suffer find their comfort,  
when they hope though even hope seems hopeless,  
when we love, though hate, at times, seems all around us,  
then we know that God still goes that road with us.

***As we gather to worship and study the Scripture,  
walk this road with us, O God.  
That we may see you in each other. Amen.***

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

**A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

"Living and Active," Nathan Williams

Almighty God,  
your Word is living and active,  
and the stories of our lives bear witness to your Good News.  
We thank you for these words, of scripture and testimony.  
Open us to hear your voice within these words,

and guide us as we respond in faith.  
We pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

**LUKE 19:1-10**

PEW BIBLE, 1277

**ACTS 2:42-47**

PEW BIBLE, 1326

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,  
Whate'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 #837 (GLORY TO GOD):** *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine*

ELISHA A. HOFFMAN

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

#### **Refrain:**

Leaning, leaning,  
safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
O how bright the path grows from day to day,  
leaning on the everlasting arms. **[Refrain]**

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
leaning on the everlasting arms. **[Refrain]**

## TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"CHAOTIC MESS OF VOICES," LUCUS LEVY KEPPEL

Trusting in the goodness of our Creator,  
let us come together to tell the truth about ourselves.

***Holy and Beloved God, though the world calls us in a chaotic mess of voices,  
your voice stands apart. Yours is the soft, still voice that speaks to our very heart of hearts.  
If we would pay attention to your voice, we would hear your love and concern for us –  
and for those whose voice is getting lost in the chaos.***

*Help us to hear you, and through you, to hear the voices of the oppressed,  
the lost, the seething, and the frightened.  
May your voice bring justice and mercy to us and to all the world.*

*Silent prayer*

## AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

My friends, God hears your voice – whether you shout from the top of your lungs or whisper softly below your breath. God has already forgiven you for not listening – and is calling you to live this Good News through the Holy Spirit.

*Praise God, who send the Spirit of Truth and Love to the world. Amen!*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE: *Spirit of the Living God*

DANIEL IVERSON

Spirit of the Living God,  
Fall afresh on me,  
Spirit of the Living God,  
Fall afresh on me.  
Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.  
Spirit of the Living God,  
Fall afresh on me.

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *I Have Overcome the World*

CAROL ANTRON

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Habit 7 – Fellowship"*

REV. PHILLIPS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

"IN YOUR LOVE AND MERCY," KATHERINE KUSSMAUL

In your love and mercy: *hear our prayer.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*...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.*

\*CLOSING HYMN #539: *Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise*

JOHN ELLERTON

Savior, again to Thy dear Name we raise  
With one accord our parting hymn of praise.  
We stand to bless Thee ere our worship cease;  
And, now departing, wait Thy word of peace.

Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way;  
With Thee began, with Thee shall end the day.  
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
That in this house have called upon Thy name.

Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;  
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light;  
From harm and danger keep Thy children free,  
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.

Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,  
Our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife.  
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,  
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

**\*SENDING**

ADAPT. FROM "WHEN THE POOR ONES (PEQUEÑAS ACLARACIONES)", JOSÉ ANTONIO OLIVAR & MIGUEL MANZANO

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
***who made heaven and earth.***

When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing,  
when our lips can speak no words other than true,  
when we know that love for simple things is better,  
then we know that God still goes that road with us.

When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance,  
when we learn how to peace instead of war,  
when each stranger that we meet is called a sibling,  
then we know that God still goes that road with us.

***As we go through that road with you,  
help us to see your image in every person that crosses our path,  
knowing that each one we meet is our sibling.  
In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
our example of love and practice. Amen.***

**CHORAL BENEDICTION:** *Shalom to You*

ELISE S. ESLINGER

Shalom to you now, Shalom, my friends.  
May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.  
In all your living and through your loving,  
Christ be your Shalom, Christ be your Shalom.

**POSTLUDE:** *More Than Conquerors*

GERALD PETERSON

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*\* Please stand in body or spirit.*



# Our Faith Community @ Work

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### August 13<sup>th</sup> Fellowship Lunch

Our seventh and penultimate Habit of Evangelism is Fellowship. Please join us as we experience this together with our Fellowship Lunch, following worship. We will offer baked potato, a salad bar, and the opportunity to gather informally around the table as a community. We look forward to seeing you there!

### August 20<sup>th</sup> Helping Hand Fund Collection

As you know, we have a fund to help our congregation and our neighbors in their time of need. We typically collect for it on 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays, but as it was depleted due to all the need around us during the pandemic, and considering that the 20<sup>th</sup> is a day we are focusing on generosity, we will hold a special collection for the Helping Hands Fund.

If you are interested in participating, you may donate any loose offerings to the basket in front of the sanctuary during the service like you would for our Pennies for Hunger collection.

If you have any questions about our Helping Hands Fund, please reach out to Ron Kimrey.

### August 27<sup>th</sup> Backpack and Teacher Sunday

We are celebrating our teachers and learners on the 27<sup>th</sup> during worship with both a Blessing of the Backpacks and a Blessing of our Teachers. Please join us as we celebrate the upcoming school year and give thanks and bless all of our teachers and learners. **If you or a loved one is a teacher or student in the coming school year, please let Joy know by Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>** and we will include their names in the bulletin. Likewise, we want to make sure we have enough backpack tags for all students who want them, so **please also let us know if you would like a backpack tag and invite your students to come and participate in worship!**

### August 29<sup>th</sup> 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

**This Week's Calendar:**

Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup> - Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost & Fellowship Luncheon

11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>

6:30 –Choir Practice

Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup> - Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost & Helping Hand Fund Collection

11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

# bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



## Session

**Moderator:** Rev. Jon Phillips

**Clerk:** Randy Cousins

**Treasurer:** Glenn Patterson

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## Class of 2023:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Shelby Smith

## Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Tracey Troxler

## Class of 2025:

Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Tina Patterson

Nancy Purcell

## Staff

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