



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

August 18, 2019 – 11:00 am

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost



“So then let’s also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let’s throw off any extra baggage, get rid of sin that trips us up, and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith’s pioneer and perfecter.”

Hebrews 12:1-2 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

“The writer images life as a long-distance race. Jesus is the one who runs ahead, sets the pace, and neutralizes the distractions that entice the runners to wander off course. It seems to be a part of every runner’s experience that he or she wonders at some point in the race, ‘Why am I doing this?’ For the small community of Christians beset with shame and hostility, Jesus becomes a reminder that the finite goods of the world, however tempting, cannot finally give life meaning. One must hold out for the ultimate promise.”

- from *Feasting on the Word* commentary by John C. Shelley

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Berceuse*

D. PAXTON

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:** *We Are One in the Spirit*

PETER SCHOLTIES

*We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:*

*Refrain: And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.*

*We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;
we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: (Refrain)*

*We will work with each other; we will work side by side;
we will work with each other; we will work side by side,
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride: (Refrain)*

*All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: (Refrain)*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

The One who commands the clouds calls us to be poured out for others.

We can, by faith, be the waters of peace which quench the fires of hatred.

The One who creates mercy and hope, longs for a world of fair play and grace.

We can, by faith, let righteousness and justice be our constant companions.

The One who is with us in every moment composes a love-song for our hearts.

We can, by faith, teach this song to everyone we meet.

* OPENING HYMN #442: *The Church's One Foundation*

AURELIA

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of Wisdom, we eagerly seek your presence in our lives and in the world.

By your Spirit, speak your word to us, and give us your grace to recognize the abundant signs of your care for us, so that we might be freed to act in the world with courage and abandon. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

HEBREWS 11:29-12:2

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1466

Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Gracious God, in the debris and litter of the world, you clear a place where we can be planted: your justice which can bring hope to the oppressed; your righteousness which can receive even our enemies in peace.

Jesus Christ: you break up the stony ground of our hearts, so grace might be planted. You take us by the hand to lead us through the waters of baptism, so we can stand on the far shores on your kingdom.

Holy Spirit, early every morning, you are out ahead of us, walking the paths of life, clearing away all the temptations which would cause us to stumble and fall. Being human, we never find it easy to ask for forgiveness. But as God's children, called to live in relationship with one another, we know we must speak of how we have hurt others, so we might be forgiven and restored to new life.

What more can we say, Expectant God, that you don't know already? You long for justice for all people, but it is washed away by the flood of violence in our world. You hope that righteousness will walk with us, but you hear the clear cries of those we mistreat. You ask us to speak up for those in need, but we shut our mouths and turn away.

Forgive us, Righteous God. Have mercy when we do not bear the fruit we could. Even though we have not lived our faith to the fullest, may we receive the promises of hope and grace you have given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Shhh, listen! Can you hear them? The saints of heaven - those who have gone on before us - are cheering us on as we run towards the finish line of our faith.

Thanks be to God! The victory has already been won for us in Jesus Christ. We are forgiven. Amen.

* **RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #355:** *Hear the Good News of Salvation*

NETTLETON

*Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.
Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.
Jesus Christ, how much I love You! Jesus Christ, You save from sin!
How I love You! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.*

* **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 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

OFFERTORY: *Jesus is All the World to Me*

W. THOMPSON

* **A DOXOLOGY:** *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

AZMON

*O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace!
My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of Thy name.*

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

* **HYMN OF THE DAY #388:** *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

ANGEL'S STORY

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: *Be Strong in the Lord*

TOM FETTKE

*Be strong in the Lord, and be of good courage;
Your mighty Defender is always the same.
Mount up with wings, as the eagle ascending;
Vict'ry is sure when you call on His name.*

*Be strong, be strong, be strong in the Lord;
And be of good courage, for He is your guide.
Be strong, be strong, be strong in the Lord;
And rejoice for the vict'ry is yours.*

*So put on the armor the Lord has provided,
And place your defense in his unfailing care.
Trust Him for He will be with you in battle,
Lighting your path to avoid every snare. [Refrain]*

*Be strong in the Lord, and be of good courage;
Your mighty Commander will vanquish the foe.
Fear not the battle for the vict'ry is always His;
He will protect you wherever you go. [Refrain]*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *Running the Race*

ELDER RICK PURCELL

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* **CLOSING HYMN #354:** *Guide My Feet*

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

* **SENDING**

In faith, we have worshiped the God of all grace and hope.

By faith, we will go to be poured out for all around us.

Through faith, we have come to follow the Servant of the poor.

With faith, we will go with our companions, justice and righteousness, to serve the oppressed.

By faith, we learn the songs of the Spirit of love.

In faith, we will sing these songs with those for whom the music has gone silent.

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *Rise Up and Serve the Lord*

P. HARRIS / W. WALKER

* *Please 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 (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.**

For our children: Childcare is available during the entire worship hour for infants and preschool children. Children are invited and welcome to stay in the service, in whatever manner befits their person: they should feel free to squirm, whine, dance, sing, cry, pray, or otherwise make themselves known. Activities for children can be found at several locations throughout the sanctuary. See an usher if you can’t find one.

Audio and Visual Assistance: A hearing enhancement system is available for those who have a need. An usher will be happy to provide you with a receiver this morning. Large print bulletins are also available.

Please take a moment – members and guests – to sign the **Fellowship Pads** that are located on each row. If you are a guest, please share any contact information you wish to, so that we may be in touch.

Operating our audio and video systems this morning is **Brandon Troxler**. 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.

Resources used in today’s worship:

- *The Text this Week* website (www.textweek.com)
- *Feasting on the Word* worship resources.

John is away this weekend, and we welcome **Elder Rick Purcell** to the pulpit as our guest preacher for the day!

As a new school year approaches, **Blessing of the Backpacks** will be held during worship **next Sunday, August 25th**. All students AND teachers are encouraged to bring their school backpacks to worship as we participate in a blessing liturgy.

As a way of supporting teachers and students, the congregation is invited to participate in our **School Supply Drive, also scheduled for next Sunday, the 25th**. You are invited to bring school supplies - those for teachers or students - and place them on or around the communion table before worship. They will be blessed as a part of worship, and then distributed to local schools.

Mark your calendar for next **Sunday, August 11th** as we will be led in worship by our amazing young people for our annual **Youth Sunday!** Our youth will share with the congregation their recent experiences at the Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference and the Montreat Youth Conference.

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.

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elders: Jean Payne and Randy Cousins)

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	Shirley Lane
Teresa Wilborn	Shannon Russell	Ida Whitney
Tiffany Tauchren	Mary Moore	Katherine Turner
Jean Berry	Barbara Cousins	Jeremy Harden
Christy Lutterloh	Pat Kennedy	Anne McDaniels
Eleanor Thompson	Donna Mitchell-Ayers	Mike Sutton
Nancy Sutton	Pete Campbell	Steward Dillard
Norma Proctor	Ben Johnson	Shelvia Russell
Katherine Bayliff	Alex Thomas	Foy Bayliff
Randy Thompson	Robert Sykes	Ritchie Fishburne
	Glenn Thompson	

TEACH Ministry: (Lead Elders: Karen Maxwell and Tracey Troxler)

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. The Fellowship Class is currently participating in the *Feasting on the Word* summer series.

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.

We are looking forward to our new **Fall Book Study** which will begin on **Monday, September 8th**. This will be a ten-week study, looking at author and theologian Brian McLaren's book, *"A New Kind of Christianity."* We are still waiting on details, but this will probably be an off-campus event, meeting at a local restaurant. Stay tuned!

We have been blessed with our Faith Formation experience for the summer, our **Summer Sunday Series, *Feasting on the Word***. There has been engaging conversation, lots of laughter, and wonderful fellowship as we have tackled each Sunday's topic, corresponding to the text from which John is preaching each week. Next Sunday marks the final Sunday of our series.

- August 18th: Hebrews 11:29-12:2, *Running the Race*
- August 25th: Luke 13:10-17, *Bending the Rules*

SUPPORT Ministry: (Lead Elders: Ron Osborne, Chip Allen, and Ben Russell)

Elders of the Month for August are **Ben Russell** and **Nancy Purcell**

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 - *Feasting on the Word* Summer Study Series
- 9:45 - Sunday school for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship / Elder Rick Purcell, preaching

Wednesday, the 21st:

- 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 25th:

- 9:45 – *Feasting on the Word* Summer Study Series
- 9:45 - Sunday school for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Rick Purcell

Treasurer: Ron Osborne

Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell
Ron Osborne
Jean Payne

Class of 2020:

Chip Allen
Randy Cousins
Karen Maxwell

Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell
Ben Russell
Tracey Troxler

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love learn serve



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Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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