



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina
www.bethanypreschurch.org
www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

August 18, 2024 – 11:00 am
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



So the King gave the order, and they brought Daniel
and hurled him into the pit of lions.
Daniel 6:16a (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

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*

JAMES MANSFIELD/WILLIAM J. KIRKPATRICK

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***OPENING HYMN #482:** *Praise Ye Lord, the Almighty*

JOACHIM NEANDER

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Praise Him in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires ever have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen sound from His people again,
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

*OPENING SENTENCES

ISA. 56:1

Maintain justice, and do what is right.
God our Savior is coming soon.

GATHERING PRAYER

*Almighty God,
you have broken the tyranny of sin
and sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts.
Give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,
that all people may know the glorious liberty
of the children of God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.*

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Loving God, fountain of every blessing,
open us to your life-giving word,
and fill us with your Holy Spirit
so that living water may flow through our hearts –
a spring of hope for a thirsty world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

ROMANS 5:3-5

PEW BIBLE, 1373

DANIEL 6:6-27

PEW BIBLE, 1080

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 #370:** *Just as I Am, Without One Plea*

CHARLOTTE ELLIOTT

Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"QUITE A MESS," LAURA VIAU

Let us come together to tell the truth about ourselves.

***We come to you conflicted, Lord. We want to be a people who love well,
turn the other cheek and generously share what you have given us.
But we find ourselves needing to be right, striving to win the argument
and keeping a tight grip on both our stuff and your good news.
We are afraid to be vulnerable and frightened by too much honesty in others.
Gathered like this, we must look like quite a mess...
a mess that only your grace can put right. We come in need of your faithfulness,
your cleansing, your healing, your forgiveness.***

Silence

Open our eyes to your presence.

***Loosen our grip so that you might be in control. Love us most clearly
through the ones with whom we have fought, so that the body
might regain health and wholeness. Amen.***

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Friends, hear this good news: the One who started a good news in you will be faithful to complete it. The saving work of Christ is done, for you and for me. The reconciling work of Christ is happening in you, in me, among us. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

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: *Blessings*

NATALIE SLEETH

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"The Lion Pit"*

RICK PURCELL, CRE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father, (pause)...
who art in heaven, (pause)...
hallowed be Thy name. (pause)...
Thy kingdom come, (pause)...
Thy will be done, (pause)...
on earth as it is in heaven. (pause)...
Give us this day (pause)...
our daily bread, (pause)...
and forgive us our debts (pause)...
as we forgive our debtors. (pause)...
And lead us not into temptation, (pause)...
but deliver us from evil. (pause)...
For thine is the kingdom, (pause)...
and the power, (pause)...
and the glory, (pause)...
forever. (pause)...
Amen.*

***CLOSING HYMN #447:** *Lead On, O King Eternal*

ERNEST W. SHURTLEFF

Lead on, O King eternal,
The day of march has come;
Henceforth in fields of conquest
Thy tents shall be our home:
Through days of preparation
Thy grace has made us strong,
And now, O King eternal,
We lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal,
Till sin's fierce war shall cease,
And holiness shall whisper
The sweet amen of peace;
For not with swords' loud clashing,
Nor roll of stirring drums;
With deeds of love and mercy
The heavenly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King eternal:
We follow, not with fears,
For gladness breaks like morning
Where'er Thy face appears;
Thy cross is lifted over us;
We journey in its light:
The crown awaits the conquest;
Lead on, O God of might.

***SENDING**

"BLESS ALL WHO WORSHIP YOU," DA NOUST

Bless all who worship you, O God,
from praise at dawn to sunset song;
from your goodness, you enrich us.
Oh, by your love, inspire us.
Oh, by your Spirit, guide us.
By your power, you protect us.
In your mercy, you receive us,
now and always
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Epilogue of Praise*

FRANKLIN RITTER

** 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

August 25th Backpack and Teacher Sunday

We are celebrating our teachers and learners on the 25th 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 Wednesday, August 21st** 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!**

NOTE: If you would like a backpack tag to be blessed and distributed on Sunday, August 25th, please let the office know before Wednesday, August 21st. If you do not let the office know there will not be a tag available for you.

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 18th Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Wednesday, August 21st

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, August 25th Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost & Blessing of the Backpacks

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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Staff

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Jon Phillips – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org

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Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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