



Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

August 20, 2023 – 11:00 am
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



Then his father said, ‘Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive. He was lost and is found.’”
Luke 15:31-32 (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: *Be Thou My Vision*

IRISH FOLK MEDLEY-ARR. BY FRED BROCK

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***OPENING HYMN #376:** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

CHARLES WESLEY

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit,
Let us find that second rest;
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

***OPENING SENTENCES**

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it;
the world, and those who live in it.

Let us worship our God.

***GATHERING PRAYER**

"OPENING PRAYER," LEANNE VAN DYK

Generous God, there is nothing we have that you have not given to us.
All we have and all we are flow from your abundant love.
Give us generous hearts and open hands to give freely so that our habits,
our lives and our attitudes reflect your love.
Through our generosity, may others come to know that your lavish love is for them and for all.
And then may the whole world sing in praise and joy. ***Amen.***

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

"Lead Us to Treasure," Nathan Williams

Your word, O Lord, is sweeter than honey
and more precious than gold.
Inspire this reading by your Holy Spirit
and lead us to the treasure of your will,
in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 14:13-21

PEW BIBLE, 1189

LUKE 15:11-32

PEW BIBLE, 1272

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 #359:** *More Love to Thee, O Christ*

ELIZABETH PAYSON PRENTISS

More love to Thee, O Christ,
More love to Thee!
Hear Thou the prayer I make
On bended knee.
This is my earnest plea:
More love, O Christ, to Thee;
More love to Thee,
More love to Thee!

Once earthly joy I craved,
Sought peace and rest;
Now Thee alone I seek,
Give what is best.
This all my prayer shall be:
More love, O Christ to Thee;
More love to Thee,
More love to Thee!

Then shall my latest breath
Whisper Thy praise;
This be the parting cry
My heart shall raise;
This still its prayer shall be:

More love, O Christ to Thee;
More love to Thee,
More love to Thee!

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"WE GIVE GRUDGINGLY," TERI PETERSON

Friends, let us come together to tell the truth about ourselves.

God whose giving knows no ending, all that is in heaven and earth is yours. We confess that we often forget that all things come from you, believing we have earned or created what we have, and that we never have enough. We confess that we often give grudgingly rather than freely. We give the time and money and energy we have left after we have satisfied ourselves, even as you call us to imitate your self-giving love... and we limit your generosity so we feel okay about limiting our own.

Forgive us.

Open our ears to hear you speaking, and our hearts to embrace your purpose.

Silent prayer

Amen.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

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

You are enough.

You are forgiven.

You are loved.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

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: *Jesus is All the World to Me* (solo-Randy Cousins)

WILL L. THOMPSON

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***"Habit 8 – Generosity"***

REV. PHILLIPS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 #422:** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

ROBERT L. EDWARDS

God, whose giving knows no ending,
From Your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
Costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by You, we turn to You,
Offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever,
Gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing
Toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
All at peace in health and freedom,
Races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
Lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants
Fit to answer at Your throne.

Treasure too You have entrusted,
Gain through powers Your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred,
And to spread the gospel Word.
Open wide our hands, in sharing,
As we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
Serving You by loving all.

***SENDING**

"CLOSING PRAYER," LEANNE VAN DYK

Generous God, ***help me to find the call of love in this and every day.***
When I am tempted to close my eyes and shut my ears to the needs of others,
instead open me up to new commitments.
When I hesitate to serve, ***give me courage and patience.***
May someone see in me today the gift of generosity
and be caught up in its expansive reach. ***Amen.***

POSTLUDE: *O Worship the King*

FRANKLIN RITTER/TUNE: LYONS

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

August 20th 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 5th Sundays, but as it was depleted due to all the need around us during the pandemic, and considering that the 20th is a day we are focusing on generosity, we will to 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 27th Backpack and Teacher Sunday

We are celebrating our teachers and learners on the 27th 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 23rd** 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 27th, please let the office know before Wednesday, August 23rd. If you do not let the office know there will not be a tag available for you.

September 5th 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 20th – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Wednesday, August 23rd

6:30 –Choir Practice

Sunday, August 27th - Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

1500 S. Main Street
Graham, NC 27215

www.bethanypreschurch.org

336.227.4041

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

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

Chaplain: Rick Purcell – chaplain@bethanypreschurch.org

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – music@bethanypreschurch.org

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – admin@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

Scan this QR code for fast, safe, and reliable online giving:



Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS BULLETIN IN THE BASKETS PROVIDED AT THE DOORS.