



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

September 1, 2024 – 11:00 am

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Juxtaposition of "Archangel Michael," Viktor Vansnetsov, 1914 with a coin of Antiochus IV Epiphanes. The inscription translates to "King Antiochus, God manifest, bearer of victory," and the reverse image is of the enthroned Zeus.

Those skilled in wisdom will shine like the sky. Those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever and always. Daniel 12:3 (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 Nathan Nettleton, "Laughing Bird," <https://laughingbird.net/>, and LiturgyLink, <https://www.liturgylink.net>.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Strength for the Victory*

TODD KENDELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN #485: *To God Be The Glory

FANNY JANE CROSBY

To God be the glory, great things He hath done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory: great things He hath done.

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. **[Refrain]**

***OPENING SENTENCES**

Ps. 16:7-11

Bless the Lord who counsels and guides us.
***Because we keep the Lord ever before us,
we shall not be moved.***
Rejoice! Let your hearts be glad!
Let your spirits rejoice and your bodies rest secure.
***For God does not give us up to death, but shows us the path of life.
Praise the Lord!***

GATHERING PRAYER

REV. 21:3

Holy God,
creator of all that is and is to come,
you made the world and called it good.
We thank you and praise you,
for we have wreaked havoc on your good creation,
yet you promise to make all things whole
and live among us in joy and peace.
Keep us watchful for Christ's coming,
enliven our hope,
and support us through the birth pangs
of your new creation,
that we may welcome you with songs of praise. ***Amen.***

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

***O Lord, you have the words of eternal life.
Speak to us by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that we might hear what you would say to us today. Amen.***

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

REVELATION 22:6-7

PEW BIBLE, 1510

DANIEL 12:1-13

PEW BIBLE, 1090

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 #404:** *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

THOMAS A. DORSEY

Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night
Lead me on to the light;
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, Precious Lord linger near;
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call
Hold my hand lest I fall;
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

HEB. 10:21-23, MK. 13:5-8

Since we have a great high priest, Jesus Christ,
let us approach the throne of grace in
full assurance of faith,
for God has promised to be merciful.

Let us come together to tell the truth about ourselves.

*God of grace,
all around us are wars, and rumors of wars,
and we are afraid for ourselves and our world.
We follow after false leaders
and grasp for whatever security we can find.
Forgive us, Lord, for we are quick to forget
that all of life is in your hands.
Renew our hope, increase our courage,
and keep us watchful for the signs
of your just and peaceful reign that is to come;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Silence

Amen.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

HEB. 10:22

Hear the good news!

Our guilty hearts have been sprinkled clean,
our bodies washed with pure water.
Live in peace, forgiven and freed.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

***RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE #324:** *Open My Eyes That I May See*

CLARA H. SCOTT

Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Goodness of God*

Tina Patterson – Soloist

JENN/BRIAN JOHNSON

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *“Go on to the end”*

REV. PHILLIPS

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper today by inviting everyone who wants to participate up front to receive the bread and cup (we use gluten free bread and grape juice). If you are more comfortable remaining seated but would like to participate, raise your hand and we will come to your seat to serve you. We believe that Jesus invites everyone forward to his table to “taste and see,” and so we proclaim that all are welcome to participate.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

NATHAN NETTLETON

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right to give you our Thanks and praise, O God...
... who forever praise your name:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might;
heaven and earth
are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is the One
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.***

Remembering the risen Christ,
we take from your creation this bread and cup
as we live for the day of his coming.
With thanksgiving we offer you now
the sacrifice of our lives,
for the great mystery of faith.

***Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.***

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.***

CLOSING HYMN #343: *Called as Partners in God's Service

JANE PARKER HUBER

Called as partners in Christ's service,
Called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment
Fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
Side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring To fulfill God's chose end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,
Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering.
Reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer,
All God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together
Gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,
In a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens,
Breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,
Words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action,
Make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow
Ways to order human life,
That surround each person's sorrow
With a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
Our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith,
thus giving Hope and confidence and peace.

***SENDING**

"COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION," NATHAN NETTLETON

Go out in peace, for the Lord has heard your prayers.
Do not allow anyone to lead you astray
but hold fast to the hope you have claimed.
Continue to meet together,
encouraging and provoking one another
to put love in action.

And may God be your rock of strength;
May Christ Jesus usher you into the presence of God;
and may the Holy Spirit write the laws of life on your hearts.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ. Amen.

POSTLUDE: *Joy Unending*

LANI SMITH

* *Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Tuesday, September 10th 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

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**

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, September 1st Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Communion & Pennies for Hunger
11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Monday, September 2nd Labor Day – Church Office closed

Wednesday, September 4th
6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, September 8th Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)



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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