



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

September 3, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



*“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. There will be no mourning, crying, or pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”
Then the one seated on the throne said, ‘Look! I’m making all things new.’
He also said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’”
Revelation 21:4-5 (CEB)*

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

God was introduced as the Creator in Revelations 4 and God’s final great act consists of new creation. The defeat of the forces of evil does not bring about the annihilation of the earth. Rather, it leads to God saying “I make all things new” (21:5). God’s future includes the resurrection of the dead but does not stop there. When death is vanquished creation itself is made new.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Come, Come Ye Saints*

L. SMITH / TUNE: ALL IS WELL

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 #150:** *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

MADRID

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

How wondrous! A new heaven and a new earth!

The old, bruised and angered, fearful and alienated, will pass away.

In its place God will offer new hope and peace.

God will dwell with God's people forevermore.

Worship the Lord who is about to do a new thing.

Praise God who establishes God's reign in the heart of God's people.

*** HYMN OF PRAISE #482: Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty**

LOBE DEN HERREN

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

How magnificent the sight must be! The vision of John proclaims a crystal river flowing from God's throne, comforting light, peace and hope for all God's people. Darkness is vanquished.

Open our eyes and our hearts to catch a glimpse of this vision. Help us to place our trust in you, that we may faithfully serve you, knowing what awaits our eyes in glory.

Lord, You know how easy it is for us to sit here, tethered to our darkness and fear. We get bound up by chains of mistrust. We dare not to hope, for so many times before we have been disappointed. So we sit here and wonder where you are. We are not unlike the disciples who wondered also, who feared.

Lord, come to us in our darkness. Flood us with your powerful light of love and mercy. Help open our eyes to the good news of your eternal glory. Give to us visions of the place in which love and hope will reign. Forgive our stubborn resistance to your mercy and your love.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

May we let the light of God's eternal love flood into our hearts this day. May we feel the healing presence of God in our lives. May we accept God's love and hope for us.

This is the gift freely given for us by Jesus Christ, God's risen Son our Lord. Amen!

*** RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #368: I've Got Peace Like a River**

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in-a my soul. (Repeat)

I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain in-a my soul. (Repeat)

*** 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 confess our faith. Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

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 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.

*** HYMN OF THE DAY #151: Crown Him with many Crowns**

DIADEMATA

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *In This Very Room*

R. & C. HARRIS

*** THE DOXOLOGY:**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Praise God, above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS 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

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG (@ HEART) / MOMENT FOR MISSION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *I Love to Tell the Story*

HANKEY

*I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else could do.
I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

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

CAROL ANTRON

*I have overcome the world.
You don't have to worry.
If you can remember this when trouble comes, you can conquer all.
For I have overcome the world. You don't have to worry.
When the trials come you meditate on this that I have overcome the world.
I have overcome the world.
I have overcome the world.
You don't have to worry.
Be at rest within your spirit always knowing
I've already conquered all. Yes;
I have overcome the world.
You don't have to worry.
Meditate on this and you will be at peace for I have overcome the world.
And you will overcome the world because I have overcome the world.*

THE SPOKEN WORD

A Reading from Revelation 21:1-6; 22:1-5

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1509

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON: *BETTER CITY, BETTER LIFE*

REV. JOHNSON

LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

*** CLOSING HYMN #155:** *Rejoice, the Lord Is King*

DARWALL'S 148TH

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

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

P. HARRIS

* *Those who are able may 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. 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).

Operating our audio and video systems this morning is **Rick Purcell**. 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 this morning's worship:

- *Ministry Matters* website (www.ministrymatters.com)
- *Revelation: DVD Teaching Series* – Dr. Brian Blount
- *Revelation* commentary – Dr. Brian Blount

This morning we complete our four-week **Sermon Series on Revelation**. Printed copies of the sermons are available as requested, and audio recordings are available online (see above announcement).

Our year-long 125th Anniversary Celebration is growing near! As has been noted before, our theme scripture passage for the celebration is Isaiah 40:28-31, ***Growing Stronger – Growing Deeper – Reaching Higher***. Mark your calendars for our final celebration events:

- **Saturday, September 23rd** – Concert by renowned artist, **David LaMotte** (www.davidlamotte.com)
- **Sunday, September 24th** – Culmination of anniversary celebration / **Rev. J. Herbert Nelson**, preaching (Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA) / **David LaMotte** providing music / Anniversary luncheon following worship

Invitations to the culmination of our anniversary celebration at the end of September were mailed out recently. If you did not receive one, or know of someone who needs to be on the list, please see Tina Patterson.

Tickets for the David LaMotte concert are now available. There is no charge for the concert, but tickets are required. You may obtain tickets from the church office, or by visiting our website. Donations of any amount are appreciated at the door. Cash, checks, and credit cards are accepted.

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given in honor of **Barbara Sinclair** on her birthday, by **Guy Sinclair**.

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.

To the parents of young children: Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel that you must suppress those wiggles in God's house. **Please note that a professionally staffed nursery is available during the worship hour.** Here are some hints to make worship with your children more rewarding:

- Consider sitting towards the front where it is easier for little ones to engage. On the second pew nearest the choir loft, there are activities for children of all ages to keep busy with during the service.
- Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, musicians, and leaders.
- Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behavior by mimicking you.
- If you have to leave the sanctuary with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me!"
- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.
- **To adult worshippers:** The presence of children is a gift to the church and they are a reminder that our church is growing! Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

Our new **Nursery Worker is Stephanie Ramos**, who will be with us on a consistent basis through the end of the year. Stop by the nursery and say hello!

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elder: Jean Payne)

Our ongoing prayer list is below. Please let the church office know if there are any changes.

Bill Faucette	Diane Miller	John & Ann Sutton
Faye Campbell	Jack Cook	Peter Slater
Frances Nolan	Polly & Dick Wilson	Joey Leake
Layla Benoklen	Teresa Wilborn	Shannon Russell
Ida Whitney	Tiffany Tauchren	Mary Moore
Rachel Poteat	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	Carolyn Thompson
Ben Johnson	Gloria Carden Woods	Shelvia Russell
	Sandy Cook and niece Rachel	

Each week **Salem Presbytery** lists churches and other ministries that we are to lift up in prayer that week. A complete list can be viewed online at the presbytery website: www.salempresbytery.org. On the prayer list for this week are: **First Presbyterian, Thomasville; Guilford Park Presbyterian, Greensboro; First Presbyterian, Lexington.** Please keep these churches and ministries in your prayers this week.

Please note that **Presbyterian Women Circles** will resume meeting in September. **Circle #4**, which usually meets on the first Monday, will meet on the second Monday, September 11th so as not to conflict with Labor Day. **Circles #1 and #3** will also meet on next Monday, September 11th.

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

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.

Young at Heart Class (Young at Heart Classroom – across from pastor's office)

Using the *Uniform Series*, this class engages in lively discussions pertaining to the biblically based curriculum. The class is taught by a very capable team of teachers.

Seeker's Class (Church Office)

The Seeker's Class is currently using the Wired Word curriculum, looking at current events as they relate to our faith.

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.

SUPPORT Ministry: (Lead Elders: Ron Osborne, Ron Kimrey, and Glenn Patterson)

Elders of the Month for September are **Ron Osborne and Jean Payne.**

The Church Office will be closed tomorrow, September 4th, in observance of Labor Day.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- Revelation Sermon Series IV
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Monday, the 4th: OFFICE CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY

Tuesday, the 5th:

- 7:00 – “What is the Bible?” Book Study

Wednesday, the 6th:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 10th:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Rick Purcell

Treasurer: Ron Osborne

Class of 2017:

Ron Kimrey

Karen Maxwell

Class of 2018:

Glenn Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Brandon Troxler

Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell

Ron Osborne

Jean Payne

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love learn serve



1500 S. Main Street
Graham, NC 27215

www.bethanypreschurch.org

336.227.4041

Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org

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

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org



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