



Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

September 3, 2023 – 11:00 am
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



"Birthday Brunch," lil'bear

God's righteousness comes through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ for all who have faith in him. There's no distinction. All have sinned and fall short of God's glory, but all are treated as righteous freely by his grace because of a ransom that was paid by Christ Jesus. Romans 3:22-23 (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 LiturgyLink, <https://www.liturgylink.net>.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *I Love to Tell the Story*

SUSANNA KEENEY/TUNE: HANKEY BY WILLIAM G. FISCHER

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***OPENING HYMN #487:** *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

EDWARD CASWELL

When morning gilds the skies,
My heart awaking cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer
To Jesus I repair:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind?
A solace here I find:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Or fades my earthly bliss?
My comfort still is this:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round
In joyful notes resound:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Let air and sea and sky
From depth to height reply:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine,
My canticle divine:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this the eternal song
Through all the ages long:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

***OPENING SENTENCES**

"FOLLOW ME," KATHLEEN SHEETS

To the fisherman Jesus said: ***"follow me and I will make you fish for people."***

To the tax collector Jesus said: ***"follow me."***

To the rich man Jesus said: ***"Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."***

At the last supper Jesus said: ***"follow me."***

To you and to me and to all of us Jesus says: ***"follow me!"***

***GATHERING PRAYER**

"PERSONAL, NOT PRIVATE," STEPHEN FEARING

God of Good News,
we are reminded this day
that our faith is always personal but never private.
Bless our worship this day that we might leave this place
to live out our faith in tangible ways that change lives.
In all that we do, may we do it for your Gospel. ***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 our Holy Spirit
and lead us to the treasure of your will,
in Jesus' name. ***Amen.***

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

JOHN 3:14-21

PEW BIBLE, 1292

ROMANS 3:21-26

PEW BIBLE, 1371

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 #769 (GLORY TO GOD)** *For Everyone Born*

SHIRLEY ERENA MURRAY

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,

Refrain:

and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for woman and man, a system that's fair, **[Refrain]**

For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong, **[Refrain]**

For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free, **[Refrain]**

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"LOVE, PROMISE, CALL," TERI PETERSON

Friends, let's come together and tell the truth about ourselves.
Please pray with me.

God we thank you that you love, you promise, you call – in that order. We confess that we often see you in reverse, believing we must earn your regard. When we see you only as a rule-enforcer, forgetting that obedience to your way is true freedom, forgive us. When we see you as doling out rewards we think we have earned, forgive us. When we are so consumed with the letter of the law that we miss your Spirit, forgive us. Guide us again into your path and lead us in your truth – the truth of unending love.

Silent prayer

Amen.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

I proclaim to you in the name of our God who loves, promises, and calls 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: *For Those Tears I Died* Soloist – Tina Patterson

MARSHA J. STEVENS

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"A Place at the Table"*

DONNA MITCHELL-AYERS

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

RICK PURCELL

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

***CLOSING HYMN #467:** *How Great Thou Art*

CARL GUSTAV BOBERG

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; **[Refrain]**

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing
he bled and died to take away my sin; **[Refrain]**

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim: "My God, how great thou art!" **[Refrain]**

***SENDING**

We are God's beloved,
and we go out into God's future
to love, to serve, and to be made new.
As we go, may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the unity of the Holy Spirit
keep us now and forever.
Alleluia! Amen.

"GOD'S FUTURE," NATHAN WILLIAMS

CHORAL BENEDICTION: *Shalom to You*

ELISE S. ESLINGER

Shalom to you now, Shalom, my friends.
May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your Shalom, Christ be your Shalom.

POSTLUDE: *New Faith, New Life*

FRANKLIN RITTER

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

September 4th Labor Day Holiday

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 4th for the Labor Day holiday.

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

September 10th Sunday School

Would you like to know more about the Bible? Join Pastor Jon for Bible 101 - a Sunday School survey of our Biblical text. We will meet on **Sunday mornings at 9:45** for a time of lecture and discussion on the Bible, starting with the Hebrew Bible, then the New Testament, and then going into specific themes found in Scripture. The later part of the class will be crafted around your interest!

Beginning September 10th before church in the **Evie C. Marshall Room**.

September 10th Ice Cream Bar Social

Come and celebrate our fall kick off with ice cream bars (and cookies!) following the service on September 10th.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, September 3rd - Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost & Communion

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

Wednesday, September 6th

6:30 –Choir Practice

Sunday, September 10th - Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost & Ice Cream Social

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

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Class of 2023:

Chip Allen

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Class of 2024:

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Kim Snyder

Tracey Troxler

Class of 2025:

Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Tina Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Staff

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