



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

September 8, 2024 – 11:00 am
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



"Der Baum der Erkenntnis," Thomas Rees

On the day the LORD God made earth and sky— before any wild plants appeared on the earth, and before any field crops grew, because the LORD God hadn't yet sent rain on the earth and there was still no human being to farm the fertile land, though a stream rose from the earth and watered all of the fertile land—the LORD God formed the human from the topsoil of the fertile land and blew life's breath into his nostrils.

The human came to life.

Genesis 2:4b-7 (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 Ruth Burgess, Fire and Bread: Resources for Easter Day to Trinity Sunday (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2006).

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *If Thou Art Near*

J.S. BACH/ARR.BY L.N. PORTER

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #281: *Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah*

WILLIAM WILLIAMS

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield,
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee,
I will ever give to Thee.

*OPENING SENTENCES

"IN THE BEGINNING," TERI PETERSON

In the beginning, when God created, God looked at the world and called it good.

***Not only way back when, but even now, God is creating,
calling us to join the work of making the world good.***

Earth and water and air, plants and animals and people, made from dirt and word and love.

God gifts us all this and more, so that we can glorify and enjoy God forever.

Come, let us worship God together.

*GATHERING PRAYER

"CREATION," JULIA BROWN

Breath of God
surrounding, enveloping,
dancing, nurturing,
holding
the dark and the light,
all colors
and none,
exploding, imploding
the new and the old,
surfacing
flowering,
living and dying,
held.

Amen.

***RESPONDING TO OUR PRAYERS**

Hear our prayer, O Lord.
Hear our prayer, O Lord.
Incline Thine ear to us and grant us Thy Peace. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*God our helper,
by your Holy Spirit, open our minds,
that as the scriptures are read
and your word is proclaimed,
we may be led into your truth
and taught your will,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

LUKE 11:4

PEW BIBLE, 1263

GENESIS 2:4B-7, 15-17; 3:1-8

PEW BIBLE, 2

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF OUR PLEDGES

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY #579:** *Glory Be to the Father*

HENRY W. GREATOREX

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.

***BLESSING OUR GIFTS**

***HYMN OF THE DAY #272:** *God of the Sparrow*

JAROSLAV J. VAJDA

God of the sparrow
God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise

God of the earthquake
God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow
God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks

God of the hungry
God of the sick
God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbour
God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages
God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"CO-CREATORS?" TERI PETERSON

God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and God's mercy endures to all generations. When we confess our brokenness, God's grace offers us a glimpse of healing. Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, let us confess with open and honest hearts our failure to live up to God's call. Let us pray.

***God our creator, you asked humans to tend this garden of your creating,
to care for the creatures of your making, to speak and so join you in creating
your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. We confess that we have sinned:
we have used your creation rather than cherished it,
we have lived greedily rather than gratefully,
we have spoken words of destruction rather than love.
We acknowledge the damage our heavy footprints, our heart hearts,
and our rash tongues have done, and we pray for your forgiveness.
Take the dust of our lives and re-form us into your image,
and breathe into us the grace to live for you.***

silence

Amen.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

When God began to create, God breathed life into being,
and every morning God's mercies are new.
Know that you, child of God, made in God's image,
are forgiven, loved and free.
Believe and live the good news:

***God's goodness is planted more deeply than all that is wrong.
Thanks be to God!***

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: *Good*

GALE JONES MURPHY

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"All Downhill from Here"*

REV. JON PHILLIPS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 #379: *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

EDWARD MOTE

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain

On Christ, the solid Rock I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil. **(Refrain)**

His oath, His covenant, His blood
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay. **(Refrain)**

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh may I then in Him be found,
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne. **(Refrain)**

***SENDING**

Now to the One who is able
to keep you from falling,
and to make you stand without shame
in the presence of God's glory with rejoicing,
to the only God our Savior,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
be glory, majesty, power, and authority,
before all time and now and forever.

Alleluia!

POSTLUDE: *Go Out With Praise*

DAVID PAXTON

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

September 8th Ice Cream Social

Come and celebrate our fall kick off with ice cream bars following the service on September 8th in the Fellowship Hall.

September Scout Fall Popcorn Sale

September starts the kick off for the Fall popcorn sale for the Scouts. The order sheet is located in the Welcome Center. Any questions, please contact Jeff Benes 336-675-9086 or benes.nc@att.net.

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

September 29th Brunch Church 11:00am Fellowship Hall

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 8th Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost & Ice Cream Social
11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Wednesday, September 11th
6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, September 15th Seventeenth 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

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

1500 S. Main Street

Graham, NC 27253

www.bethanypreschurch.org

336.227.4041

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.