



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

September 15, 2019 – 11:00 am
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



“This saying is reliable and deserves full acceptance: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” — and I’m the biggest sinner of all. But this is why I was shown mercy, so that Christ Jesus could show his endless patience to me first of all.”
1 Timothy 1:15-16a (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

“Presidential politics are heating up. Have you ever tried to rate U.S. presidents from worst to first? The apostle Paul always considered himself one of the worst. But, thanks to the grace of God, he went from worst to first.”

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Heavenly Love*

G. GIORDANI

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 #387:** *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

BRADBURY

* CALL TO WORSHIP

The foolish say, ‘there is no God.’

We come, trusting in Jesus, the face, the voice, the presence of the God who loves us.

The scoffers of our age ask, ‘why do you seek after God?’

We come, in this time, because God’s grace has spilled over in our lives.

The hopeless around us think, ‘no one cares about me.’

We come, in this time, to this place, because Jesus has found us and brought us home.

* **OPENING HYMN #478:** *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

LAUDA ANIMA

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

1 TIMOTHY 1:12-17

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1444

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

When we are short-sighted and think we can't see you, you show us a mother cradling her sick child. When we are anxious, certain you don't care about us, you are confident enough to trust us with your grace. When we are cynical, sure that nothing matters, you are optimistic enough to become one of us. God, you are our Hope.

You sweep the streets of the world, to uncover the people we consider to be trash. You shine your grace into sin's shadows to find us when we have lost our way. You would leave us to go find the sister we left behind.

Jesus, you are our Joy.

When we walk the dusty desert of desolation, you refresh us with showers of grace. When our lives lie in ruined rubble, you come and build a foundation for us out of love and faith. Spirit, you are our Life.

God in Community, Holy in One, our Hope, our Joy, our Life, hear us as we pray. Which of us has not hurt someone this week? Which of us has not spoken (or thought) ill of a sister or brother in Christ? Which of us has failed to do good when given the chance? Which of us? All of us and each of us! But Christ came to save people just like us.

Although we believe we are experts at faithfulness, we must confess we are unskilled workers at doing good for others. Too often, we turn a deaf ear to the cries of people we have judged to be fools. We easily scoff at those we believe have nothing to teach us or share with us.

How foolish we are! Forgive us, and restore us to your goodness. Then, send us forth to search for all who sit in the shadowed corners of our world, yearning for someone to come and find them, even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, came to find us.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Our actions sometimes show we do not know God. Our words and lives show we do not understand God's hopes for us. But with utmost patience, God sets aside our foolishness, and fills us with mercy.

Mingled with faith and love, grace is poured into our sin-parched souls, giving us new life, restoring us as God's children. Thanks be to God. Amen.

* RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE: *Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!*

TRADITIONAL

Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burden down. (Repeat)

I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burden down. (Repeat)

Feel like shouting, "Hallelujah!" Since I laid my burden down. (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 say what we believe. Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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 God 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.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *Holy Spirit, Faithful Guide*

R. HUGHES

* **A DOXOLOGY:** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

BEACH SPRING

*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.*

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

* **HYMN OF THE DAY #356:** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

NETTLETON

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked*

GEOFFREY O'HARA

*I walked today where Jesus walked, In days of long ago.
I wandered down each path He knew, With reverent step and slow.
Those little lanes, they have not changed, A sweet peace fills the air.
I walked today where Jesus walked, And felt Him close to me.
My pathway led through Bethlehem, A memory's ever sweet.
The little hills of Galilee, That knew His childish feet.
The Mount of Olives, hallowed scenes, That Jesus knew before
I saw the mighty Jordan row, As in the days of yore.
I knelt today where Jesus knelt, Where all alone he prayed.
The Garden of Gethsemane, My heart felt unafraid
I picked my heavy burden up, And with Him at my side,
I climbed the Hill of Calvary, I climbed the Hill of Calvary,
I climbed the Hill of Calvary, Where on the Cross He died!
I walked today where Jesus walked,
And felt Him close to me.*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *From Worst to First*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* **CLOSING HYMN #446:** *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

AUSTRIAN HYMN

* **SENDING**

We have been found by our God,
so now we will go to search for those forgotten by the world.
We have been welcomed by Jesus,
so now we will go to embrace the ones people look down their noses at.
We have been gathered as a community by the Spirit,
so now we will go to be a family to the people who long to draw near to hope.

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *Our Refuge and Strength*

D. CALLENDER

* *Please 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 (PCUSA). 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).

“I will show love to those who were called unloved and, to those who were called ‘not-my-people’, I will say ‘you are my people’ and they will answer, ‘you are our God.’” (Hosea 2:23) Bethany Presbyterian Church is a place where the mind is nourished as well as the spirit, and where we affirm the dignity and worth of every person. As we are all created in the image of God, we believe discrimination is incompatible with Christ’s Gospel of unconditional love. While we celebrate our Presbyterian identity, we acknowledge that we are not alone on the path to understanding God. We invite conversations that move us to seek a deeper understanding of life in the Spirit. **Be who you are and be welcome here.**

For our children: Childcare is available during the entire worship hour for infants and preschool children. Children are invited and welcome to stay in the service, in whatever manner befits their person: they should feel free to squirm, whine, dance, sing, cry, pray, or otherwise make themselves known. Activities for children can be found at several locations throughout the sanctuary. See an usher if you can’t find one.

Audio and Visual Assistance: A hearing enhancement system is available for those who have a need. An usher will be happy to provide you with a receiver this morning. Large print bulletins are also available.

Please take a moment – members and guests – to sign the **Fellowship Pads** that are located on each row. If you are a guest, please share any contact information you wish to, so that we may be in touch.

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 today’s worship:

- *The Text this Week* website (www.textweek.com)
- *Feasting on the Word* worship resources.

There is still time to join our new **Fall Book Study** which began last Monday evening. This is a ten-week study, looking at author and theologian Brian McLaren’s book, ***“A New Kind of Christianity.”*** We will be gathering each Monday evening at **6:30 pm at Burlington Beer Works** in downtown Burlington. We have a private room reserved, and participants are invited to dine and discuss - feast and fellowship - as you so desire. Books are approximately \$10.00 each and can be ordered on Amazon. See John if you have any questions or would like to join the group!

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.

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elders: Jean Payne and Randy Cousins)

We are pleased to share the information that all the **school supplies** that we collected a few Sundays ago have been delivered to South Graham and North Graham Elementary Schools. They wish to thank all who donated for your generosity and they assure us that these supplies will be put to good use!

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

Bill Faucette
Jack Cook
Joan Richardson
Teresa Wilborn
Tiffany Tauchren
Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Katherine Bayliff
Randy Thompson
Family of Don Boggs

Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Joey Leake
Shannon Russell
Mary Moore
Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Pete Campbell
Ben Johnson
Alex Thomas
Robert Sykes
Glenn Thompson

John & Ann Sutton
Ruby Martin
Shirley Lane
Ida Whitney
Katherine Turner
Jeremy Harden
Anne McDaniels
Mike Sutton
Steward Dillard
Shelvia Russell
Foy Bayliff
Ritchie Fishburne
Janie Holt Clapp

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

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. The Fellowship Class is currently participating in the *Feasting on the Word* summer series.

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, Chip Allen, and Ben Russell)

The Session has called for a **Congregational Meeting** to immediately follow worship on **next Sunday, September 22nd**, for the purpose of acting on the recommendations of the Nominating Committee which will present a slate of candidates for Ruling Elder, Class of 2022.

Elders of the Month for September are **Randy Cousins** and **Jean Payne**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Monday, the 16th:

- 6:30 - Fall Book Study

Wednesday, the 18th:

- 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 22nd:

- 9:45 - Sunday school for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship
- 12:00 - Congregational Meeting

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Rick Purcell

Treasurer: Ron Osborne

Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell

Ron Osborne

Jean Payne

Class of 2020:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Karen Maxwell

Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell

Ben Russell

Tracey Troxler

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love learn serve



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Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org
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Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@bethanypreschurch.org
Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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