



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

September 20, 2020 – 11:00 am

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



“Don’t suppress the Spirit. Don’t brush off Spirit-inspired messages, but examine everything carefully and hang on to what is good.”

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

O God of this and every morning, as I begin this day, call my name; as I step into this day, guide my feet; as I live this day, care for those I love; as I learn this day, teach me your ways. In Jesus’ name. Amen. - From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2 (p. 150). Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Kindle Edition.

PRELUDE: *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

WILLIAM CROFT / ARR. FRED BOCK

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

AN OFFERING OF PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*(Please take a moment to **socially distantly** share the peace of Christ with your neighbor.)*

* **GATHERING SONG:** *Rain Down*

JAIME CORTEZ

Rain Down 48

Capo 3: (D) (F#7) (Bm) (D7) (G)
F A7 Dm F7 Bb

Rain down; rain down; rain down your
love on your peo - ple. Rain down; rain
down; rain down your love, God of life.

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Love the Lord your God,

with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind!

Love your neighbor as yourself,

with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind!

Do this and you will live!

Let us worship God!

* **OPENING HYMN:** *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship* (see page 5)

HOLY MANNA

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

LUKE 10:25-37

Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

The psalmist asks a question: how long? How long will we live unjustly and show partiality, instead of loving as God has loved us? Trusting in that love, let us confess our transgressions to the Lord.

Holy God, we are your sons and daughters, descendants of the God most high, yet, we do not behave to honor you and our actions belittle the love you have for us. We do not defend the weak or those without fathers or mothers.

We do not uphold the poor or the oppressed. We do not commit to efforts to rescue the weak and the needy; we sometimes deliver them into solitude and neglect.

Rise up to judge us, O God. We prefer your merciful justice, than living with guilt and fear. Straighten our path, so that we can be guided as a mother or a father guides beloved children.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

The triune God's unconditional love does not seek appearances or conditions, but loves in such a way, that we are restored to health and to wholeness.

Thanks be to God! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. 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**

EXCERPTED FROM *THE CONFESSION OF 1967*

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.

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY:

* **A DOXOLOGY:** *We Lift Our Voices*

*We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives: they are yours: we are an offering.
All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.*

DWIGHT LILES

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

* **HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Christ Be Beside Me* (to the tune of "Morning Has Broken")

*Christ be beside me; Christ be before me; Christ be behind me, King of my heart.
Christ be within me; Christ be below me; Christ be above me, never to part.
Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me, shield in the strife.
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising, Light of my life.
Christ be in all hearts thinking about me; Christ be on all tongues telling of me.
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me; in ears that hear me Christ ever be.*

BUNESSAN

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 PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***The Digital Church: From Connection to Communion***

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* **CLOSING HYMN #372:** *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

*Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.*

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

*Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.*

*Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.*

*Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.*

* **SENDING**

Go and bear fruit! Go and do!

We go so that we live a life that is worthy of the Lord.

Give joyful thanks to God!

We do so through loving our neighbor, through doing justice, through speaking out, and through defending those who are weak and oppressed.

Go and bear fruit! Go and do!

We go to be connected and in communion with our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

* **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship 396



1 Breth-ren, we have met to wor-ship and a - dore the Lord our God.
2 Sis - ters, will you come and help us? Mo-ses' sis-ter aid - ed him.
3 Is there here a trem-bling jail-er, seek-ing grace and filled with fears?
4 Let us love our God su - preme-ly; let us love each oth - er, too.



Will you pray with all your pow - er while we try to preach the word?
Will you help the trem-bling mourn-ers who are strug-gling hard with sin?
Is there here a weep-ing Mar - y pour-ing forth a flood of tears?
Let us love and pray for sin - ners till our God makes all things new.



All is vain un - less the Spir - it of the ho - ly One comes down.
Tell them all a - bout the Sav - ior. Tell them that he will be found.
Breth-ren, join your cries to help them; sis - ters, let your prayers a - bound!
Christ will call us home to heav - en; at his ta - ble we'll sit down.



Breth - ren, pray, and ho - ly man - na will be show-ered all a-round.
Sis - ters, pray, and ho - ly man - na will be show-ered all a-round.
Pray, O pray, that ho - ly man - na will be scat-tered all a-round.
Christ will gird him-self and serve us with sweet man-na all a-round.





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.

“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.**

This morning we welcome our pastor Rev. John W. Johnson back from his 3-month sabbatical! In welcoming John back, we offer our sincere and heartfelt thanks to Commissioned Ruling Elder Rick Purcell for his leadership and guiding presence over the past three months!

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. A **Video Recording** of our Facebook Live stream will be available on our Facebook page and on our website.

Resources used in today’s worship:

- *Glory to God* Presbyterian Hymnal
- *Feasting on the Word* Worship Companion (Year C, Volume 2)
- *Call to Worship* worship resource

Post-Sabbatical Sermon Series: This morning we continue a six-week sermon series, sharing insights that John has gleaned through his sabbatical focus of study - The Digital Church. There is also a study component of this series, as those who are interested are invited to gather each Sunday morning during the Sunday school hour for a lively discussion of the book on which this series is based: *“Digital Disciple: Real Christianity in a Virtual World.”* The book is available on Amazon. Here are the themes for each Sunday during the series:

- Sunday, September 13th: *The Digital Church: Virtual People*
- **Sunday, September 20th: *The Digital Church: From Connection to Communion***
- Sunday, September 27th: *The Digital Church: Remote Intimacy*
- Sunday, October 4th: *The Digital Church: Empty Minds and Disposable Bodies*
- Sunday, October 11th: *the Digital Church: Googling Prayer*
- Sunday, October 18th: *The Digital Church: Tech Sabbath*

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elders: Randy Cousins and Tina Patterson)

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

Bill Faucette
Jack Cook
Joan Richardson
Teresa Willborn
Tiffany Tauchren
Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson

Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Joey Leake
Shannon Russell
Mary Moore
Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Mike Sutton

John & Ann Sutton
Ruby Martin
Shirley Lane
Ida Whitney
Katherine Turner
Jeremy Harden
Anne McDaniels
Alex Thomas

Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Christopher Bagley
Randy Thompson
Frederica Beatty

Pete Campbell
Ben Johnson
Grace Johnson
Frank Wrenn
Sylvia Donley
Norm Whitney

Stewart Dillard
Shelvia Russell
Carol Brooks
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.

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.

Join us **each Thursday evening** for a new fall **Bethany Book Club**, as we engage in a discussion of the prominent issue of racism, and our response as followers of Christ. We will be reading and discussing the book ***Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race***, by Debby Irving. The book is available on Amazon. This study will be offered both in-person here at the church and virtually via Zoom. Watch your email for the Zoom link.

SUPPORT Ministry: (Lead Elders: Chip Allen, Ben Russell, and Bill Abplanalp)

Elders of the Month for September are **Karen Maxwell** and **Tracey Troxler**.

Scan the QR code below to access and download our new Interactive Digital Bulletin.



This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 - *The Digital Church* study and discussion
- 11:00 - Worship - Sermon Series II - The Digital Church: From Connection to Communion

Wednesday, the 16th:

- 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal (not meeting)

Thursday, the 17th:

- 7:00 - *Waking Up White* book study

Sunday, the 27th:

- 9:45 - *The Digital Church* study and discussion
- 11:00 - Worship - Sermon Series III - The Digital Church: Remote Intimacy

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Karen Maxwell

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2020:

Chip Allen
Randy Cousins
Karen Maxwell

Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell
Ben Russell
Tracey Troxler

Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp
Helen Brown
Tina Patterson

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love learn serve



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Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org
Elder Emeritus: Bobby Peele
Elder Emeritus: Don Boggs

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