



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

[www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org)

[www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian)

September 22, 2019 – 11:00 am

*Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*



*“Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there?  
Why then have my people not been restored to health?  
If only my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears,  
I would weep day and night for the wounds of my people.”  
Jeremiah 18:22-19:1 (CEB)*

## GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Welcome to our service of worship! Join in with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength . . . don’t hold back! Sing from your toes! Pray from your guts. Worship the Eternal Creator from your soul. It’s not about perfect music. It’s not about the perfect prayer. It’s about joining the holy roar of a community honestly wrestling with what it means to follow their Creator.*

### TRINITY CHIMES

**PRELUDE:** *Minuet in B minor*

J. S. BACH

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

SOLID ROCK

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

O God, we come into your courts with praise and thanksgiving!

***We come in celebration and song.***

We come in gratitude of your inheritance.

***We come as those who have received blessing upon blessing.***

We hear the cry of the poor in the land, and ache to offer them relief.

*We come to bring them blessing upon blessing, in Jesus' name.*  
O God, we come into your courts with praise and thanksgiving!  
*We come in celebration and song.*

\* **OPENING HYMN #262:** *God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand*

NATIONAL HYMN

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

**A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE**

**JEREMIAH 8:18-9:1**

This is the Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 929

**AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS**

Gracious God, your people are suffering. Where there is woundedness, help us bring healing. Where there is discouragement, help us bring support and comfort. Where there is dismay and mourning, help us bring the power of new life and new opportunities.

***Heal us, O God, for you are our help and our hope, the One we turn to in times of trouble.***

We confess that we find your medicine hard to swallow. The quick fixes of this world are so much more pleasant, leaving us free to go back to our usual routines. But your medicine is powerful. And if we take it, it will remake and renew our lives. It will reorient us to you and to you alone.

***Turn us toward your love for justice and true worship. Forgive our sins, for which you weep. Forgive our hesitation. Grant us courage to choose you as our physician, and to serve you and you alone.***

**AN OFFERING OF SILENCE**

**AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE**

The God of our salvation, the God who weeps for us and for our world, desires everyone to be saved. Christ Jesus, a human like us, gave himself as a ransom for all.

***Through the love of the one God and the one mediator, we are forgiven. Amen.***

\* **RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #355:** *Hear the Good News of Salvation*

NETTLETON

*Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.  
Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.  
Jesus Christ, how much I love You! Jesus Christ, You say from sin!  
How I love You! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.*

\* **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:** *Lord of All Hopefulness*

JAN STRUTHER

\* **A DOXOLOGY #422:** *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 #394:** *There Is a Balm in Gilead*

BALM IN GILEAD

**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:** *Just a Closer Walk With Thee*

TRADITIONAL / NORTH AMERICAN HYMN

*Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
daily walking close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

*I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. (Refrain)*

*Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. (Refrain)*

*When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;  
guide me gently, safely o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore. (Refrain)*

**THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

Sermon: ***Have a Good Cry***

REV. JOHNSON

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

\* **CLOSING HYMN #369:** *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

I'M GONNA LIVE / AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

\* **SENDING**

God has filled us with joy and wonder.

***We will go to let it overflow in the lives of others.***

Jesus has filled us with comfort and hope.

***We will go to wipe away the tears of those around us.***

The Spirit sends us forward in faith to share the truth of God's presence in our lives.

***Alleluia! We will live everyday as God's own. Amen.***

\* **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

\* **POSTLUDE:** *Mignon*

ROBERT SCHUMANN

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\* *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](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org); on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](http://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](http://www.buzzsprout.com/9198).

Resources used in today’s worship:

- *The Text this Week* website ([www.textweek.com](http://www.textweek.com))
- *Ministry Matters* website ([www.ministrymatters.com](http://www.ministrymatters.com))
- *Feasting on the Word* worship resources.

Please welcome to our service today our guest musician, **Anthony Cancro**. Anthony is a student at Elon University, and we are grateful that he can fill in for Chris again for us this morning.

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

Diane Miller  
Peter Slater

John & Ann Sutton  
Ruby Martin

Joan Richardson  
Teresa Willborn  
Tiffany Tauchren  
Jean Berry  
Christy Lutterloh  
Eleanor Thompson  
Nancy Sutton  
Norma Proctor  
Katherine Bayliff  
Randy Thompson  
Family of Don Boggs

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

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 **today**, 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
- 12:00 - Congregational Meeting

Monday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>:

- 6:30 - Fall Book Study

Wednesday, the 25<sup>th</sup>:

- 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 29<sup>th</sup>:

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

### 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

**bethany presbyterian**  
love learn serve



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### Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – [pastor@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@bethanypreschurch.org)  
Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – [music@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:music@bethanypreschurch.org)  
Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – [office@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:office@bethanypreschurch.org)  
Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – [finance@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:finance@bethanypreschurch.org)

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*Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation*

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