



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

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September 22, 2024 – 11:00 am
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



"Abisha the Hyksos," in "Procession of the Aamu," Tomb of Khnumhotep II,
(12th Dynasty Egyptian official) c. 1900 BCE

But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I God? You planned something bad for me, but God produced something good from it, in order to save the lives of many people, just as he's doing today. Now, don't be afraid. I will take care of you and your children."
So he put them at ease and spoke reassuringly to them.
Genesis 50:19-21 (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>.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

ARR. BY DON HUSTAD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is my Father's world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world.
Oh, let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world:
The battle is not done:
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and heaven be one.

***OPENING SENTENCES**

FEASTING ON THE WORD

God lifts us from death to life
and preserves us for God's purposes
through the compassion of
Jesus Christ our Lord
and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
With thanksgiving, praise the Lord!

***GATHERING PRAYER**

***Grant us, O Lord,
the grace always to do and think
what accords with your purpose;
that we, who cannot exist without you,
may be enabled to live according to your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. 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

Lord, by the power of your Holy Spirit
open our understanding
that we may receive the Word of life. ***Amen.***

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

LUKE 6:35

PEW BIBLE, 1253

GENESIS 37:3-8, 17B-22, 26-34; 50:15-21

PEW BIBLE, 45; 65

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 #276: *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

THOMAS O. CHISHOLM

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever will be.

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. **(Refrain)**

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **(Refrain)**

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"HOLDING ON," ANDY JAMES

Let us come together to tell the truth about ourselves.

God of the old and the new,
we want to embrace your new way,
but we like the old just fine.
We repeat tired ideas and resist new possibilities.
We hold on to old grudges
and resist your word of reconciliation and new life.
We are too afraid of the unknown to step out into something new.

Forgive us, loving Lord.
Help us to see the way of your new creation in our lives and our world,
that we might be reconciled to you and one another in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Silence

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

I proclaim to you in the name of our reconciling God that:
You are enough.
You are forgiven.
You are loved.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE #324: *Open My Eyes That I May See*

CLARA H. SCOTT

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: *There is a Name I Love to Hear*

ARRANGED - UNKNOWN

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***"Working for the Good"***

REV. JON PHILLIPS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

...O God, in your mercy: ***Hear our prayer...***

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 #412: *Eternal God, Whose Power Upholds*

HENRY HALLAM TWEEDY

Eternal God, whose power upholds
Both flower and flaming star,
To whom there is no here nor there,
No time, no near nor far,
No alien race, no foreign shore,
No child unsought, unknown:
O send us forth, Thy prophets true,
To make all lands Thine own!

O God of love, whose Spirit wakes
In every human breast,
Whom love, and love alone, can know,
In whom all hearts find rest:
Help us to spread Thy gracious reign
Till greed and hate shall cease,
And kindness dwell in human hearts,
And all the earth find peace!

O God of truth, whom science seeks
And reverent souls adore,
Who lightest every earnest mind
Of every clime and shore:
Dispel the gloom of error's night,
Of ignorance and fear,
Until true wisdom from above
Shall make life's pathway clear!

O God of beauty, oft revealed
In dreams of human art,
In speech that flows to melody,
In holiness of heart:
Teach us to turn from sinfulness
That shuts our hearts to Thee,
Till all shall know the loveliness
Of lives made fair and free!

O God of righteousness and grace,
Seen in the Christ, Thy Son,
Whose life and death reveal Thy face,
By whom Thy will was done:
Inspire Thy heralds of good news
To live Thy life divine,
Till Christ has formed in all mankind
And every land is Thine!

***SENDING**

Go in peace,
practice forgiveness,
live the gospel,
in the name of Jesus, our Lord.

The blessing of God be with you,
the love of Jesus fill you,
and the power of the Holy Spirit sustain you,
now and forevermore. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE: *All Creatures of Our God and King*

ARR. BY RALPH VAUGHN WILLIAMS

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

September 29th Pastor Appreciation Luncheon

Please join us for a luncheon immediately following worship in the Fellowship Hall to show our grateful thanks and appreciation for the Transitional Ministry and Leadership of Paster Jon Phillips.

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.

October 1st 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

S.A.F.E. (Southern Alamance Family Empowerment)

How we can help S.A.F.E. for the month of September? They are asking for **soup** and **rice**.

S.A.F.E. will be closed the 1st and 5th Saturday of the Month.

Consider donating your plastic and paper bags.

Save the Date

- **Saturday, October 26th 1:00pm – 4:00pm Fall Festival**

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, September 22nd Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Wednesday, September 25th

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, September 29th Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost & Pastor Appreciation Lunch

11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)
After Service – Lunch in the Fellowship Hall

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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

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