



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

September 23, 2018 – 11:00 am

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



*“Whoever welcomes one of these children in my name welcomes me;
and whoever welcomes me isn’t actually welcoming me but rather the one who sent me.”*

Mark 9:37 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

True greatness results not from how far we rise above others but in how far we are willing to go to include and care for the least and the lowly in Christ’s name.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *The Way of Peace*

D. PAXTON

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:** *God Is Calling Through the Whisper*

W ZLOBIE LEZY

*God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit’s deepest sighs,
through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise.
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder; hush of stillness, rush of wonder:
God is calling—can you hear? God is calling—can you hear?
God is calling through the voices of our neighbors’ urgent prayers,
through their longing for redemption and for rescue from despair.*

*Place of hurt or face of needing; strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling—can you hear? God is calling—can you hear?
God is calling through the music of sublime and human arts,
through the hymns of earth and angels, and the carols of our hearts.
Lift of joy and gift of singing; days and nights our praises bringing:
God is calling—and we hear! God is calling—and we hear!*

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jesus calls us to servant ministry.

We must be willing to help others, not counting the cost or rewards.

Pretense, disharmony, greed have no place in discipleship.

Serving God means receiving each person as though they were a beloved child.

Lord, help us to truly become your disciples.

Create in us hearts for ministries of compassion and kindness. Let us worship God.

*** OPENING HYMN #555: Now Thank We All Our God**

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

AN INVITATION TO THE WORD

The universe proclaims God's truth. God's knowledge flows night and day!

We open our ears to hear, our minds to comprehend, our hearts to receive.

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE:

MARK 9:30-37

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1229

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Lord, be with us this day, helping us to put our priorities in order; so that we may faithfully serve you by serving your people. Heal our spirits. Enable us to follow your ways all the days of our lives.

God of patience and mercy, we come to you, offering "lip service" to serving you, but when things get difficult; when we are called to do something which is hard for us, we shy away from the duty and the opportunity. We turn our back on service out of fear of failure.

Forgive us, gracious Lord. Heal our fears and our weaknesses. Strengthen us and give us courage to truly be your disciples, not counting the rewards, but rejoicing in the work. In Jesus' Name, we pray.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

This day the Lord reaches out to us in healing love and compassion. Receive the blessings which God offers to us.

We are healed and made whole. We are ready to serve. Amen.

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

*Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burdens down. (Repeat)
I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down. (Repeat)
Feel like shouting, "Hallelujah!" since I laid my burdens down. (Repeat)*

TRADITIONAL

*** SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE**

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 confess our faith. Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

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 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 Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray*

M. BARTLETT

OLD HUNDRETH

* THE DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* **HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth*

NORWICH

THE TRIUNE GOD

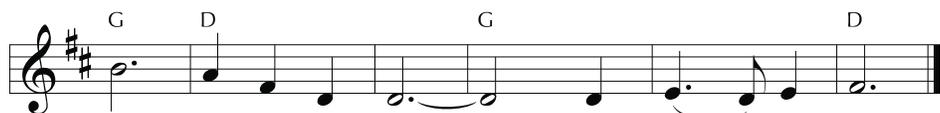
Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth 7



1 Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright
2 Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing
3 Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - turing one, in arms of



morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of ev - ery
me your food of light, grain of life, and grape of
pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I root and



breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.
grow un - til I flower, un - til I know.

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS 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

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG (@ HEART) / MOMENT FOR MISSION

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *God Is*

JAMES CLEVELAND

*God is My protection, God is, My all and all,
God is, My light in darkness, God is, He is my all and all,
God is, My joy in the time of sorrow,
God, God is, My all and all,
God is, My today and tomorrow,
God, my God is, My all and all,*

*God is the joy and the strength of my life,
Removes all pain, misery and strife,
He promised to keep me, never to leave me,
He'll never, never fall short of His word.
I've got to fast and pray, Stay in that narrow way,
I'll keep my life clean everyday,
I want to go with Him, when He comes back,
I've come too far and I'll never turn back.*

*God is, God is, God is, God is, God is my all and all.
God is my all and all. God is my all and all.*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***Tall Tales***

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* **CLOSING HYMN:** *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant* (see next page)

THE SERVANT SONG

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus*

L. SMITH

* *Please stand in body or spirit.*

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant 727

The Servant Song

1, 6 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney; we're to -
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you
 5 When we sing to God in heav - en, we shall

be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the
 geth - er on the road. We are here to help each
 night - time of your fear. I will hold my hand out
 laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and
 find such har - mo - ny, born of all we've known to -

grace to let you be my ser - vant too.
 oth - er walk the mile and bear the load.
 to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
 sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.
 (repeat stanza 1)



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 guest 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 this morning’s worship:

- *Ministry Matters* website (www.ministrymatters.com)
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)
- *Homiletics Online* website (www.homileticsonline.com)

Mark your calendars for a delicious **Fifth Sunday Breakfast NEXT SUNDAY, September 30th at 9:00 am.**

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 Sandy Cook)

RTSA (Residential Treatment Services) Jewelry Sale, benefitting Women in Recovery – Holly Hill Mall (old American Eagle Location) – **Thursday, September 27th, \$10 VIP Event – 6 pm-8 pm. Friday and Saturday, September 28th and 29th, 10 am-6 pm.**

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

Bill Faucette	Diane Miller	John & Ann Sutton
Faye Campbell	Jack Cook	Peter Slater
Frances Nolan	Joan Richardson	Joey Leake
Shirley Lane	Teresa Wilborn	Shannon Russell
Ida Whitney	Tiffany Tauchren	Mary Moore
Rachel Poteat	Jean Berry	Barbara Cousins
Jeremy Harden	Christy Lutterloh	Pat Kennedy
Anne McDaniels	Eleanor Thompson	Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Mike Sutton	Nancy Sutton	Pete Campbell
Steward Dillard	Norma Proctor	Ben Johnson
Shelvia Russell	Levi Byrd	Ruth Younts
Ruby Martin	Betty Boggs	Alex Thomas
Katherine Turner	Randy Thompson	Susie Hunley
Katherine Bayliff		Bill Abplanalp

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

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.

Young at Heart Class (Young at Heart Classroom – across from pastor's office)

Using the *Uniform Series*, this class engages in lively discussions pertaining to the biblically based curriculum. The class is taught by a very capable team of teachers.

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 Glenn Patterson)

Elders of the Month for September are **Sandy Cook** and **Ron Osborne**.

Did you know . . . that the cost of maintaining our buildings (main buildings, rec building, and manse) for one week is \$288.94?

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Tuesday, the 25th:

- 7:00 – Disciple Bible Study

Wednesday, the 26th:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 30th:

- 9:00 – Fifth Sunday Breakfast
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Fifth Sunday Worship

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Rick Purcell

Treasurer: Ron Osborne

Class of 2018:

Glenn Patterson
Nancy Purcell
Brandon Troxler

Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell
Ron Osborne
Jean Payne

Class of 2020:

Chip Allen
Sandy Cook
Karen Maxwell

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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

Scan this QR code for fast, safe, and reliable online giving:



Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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