



Bethany Presbyterian Church

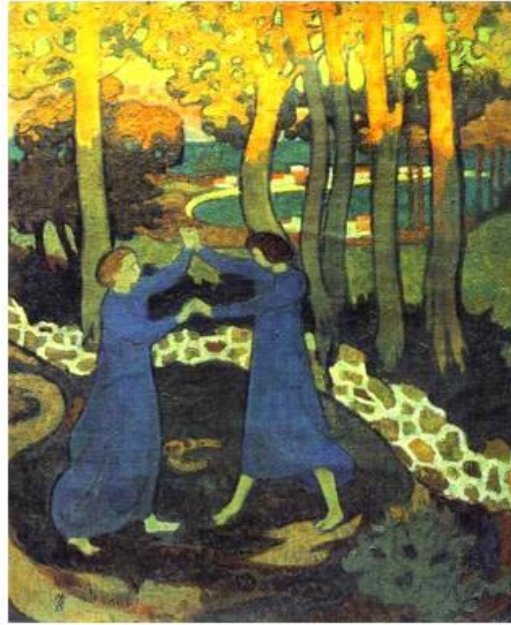
Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

September 24, 2023 – 11:00 am

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



"Jacob Wrestling with the Angel," Maurice Denis, 1893

He said to Jacob, "What's your name?" and he said, "Jacob." Then he said, "Your name won't be Jacob any longer, but Israel, because you struggled with God and with men and won." Genesis 18:13-14 (CEB)

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 Kimberly Bracken Long, ed., Feasting on the World: Worship Companion (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2014); and LiturgyLink, <https://www.liturgylink.net>.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray*

MERCY BARTLETT/TUNE: GRACE CHURCH (PLEYELL)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***OPENING HYMN #482:** *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

JOACHIM NEANDER

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Praise Him in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires ever have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen sound from His people again,
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

***OPENING SENTENCES**

God meets us in our greatest need
and satisfies us with divine presence and provision.
In gratitude, let us worship the Lord our God.

***GATHERING PRAYER**

Life changing God, you have touched us
and transformed us
to reach out to all who hunger for
what only you can give.
Keep our feet in your paths
and bless us to multiply blessings to others,
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer
and Lord. ***Amen.***

***RESPONDING TO OUR PRAYERS:** *Hear our Prayer, O Lord* (Choir 1st time; Congregation 2nd time)

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

All-knowing God, you have satisfied our hunger at sunset
And held us close through nights of wrestling.
Now let the day break with your blessing.
***Awaken and illuminate us by your Word
that we may behold your likeness. Amen.***

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

MARK 14:32-36

PEW BIBLE, 1238

GENESIS 32:9-13, 22-30

PEW BIBLE, 39; 40

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF OUR PLEDGES

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY #592:** *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

THOMAS KEN

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

*BLESSING OUR GIFTS

***HYMN OF THE DAY #341:** *Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!*

FANNY JANE CROSBY

Blessed assurance: Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels, descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. **(Refrain)**

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with His goodness, lost in His love. **(Refrain)**

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

Let us come together and tell the truth about ourselves
in the presence of the One
who blesses us and meets our need.

*God of compassion, we are sick.
We have wrestled all night with worry
instead of resting in you.
We have asserted our own goodness
instead of awakening to yours.*

*We have turned away those hungry for you help
instead of trusting you and feeding them
from your limitless supply of blessings.*

Forgive us, heal us, and help us to hold on to you.

We call upon you, for you will answer us, O God

Silence

We pray this and all things through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

I proclaim to you in the name of our steadfast God that:

You are enough.

You are forgiven.

You are loved.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

***RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE #837 (GLORY TO GOD):** *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine*

ELISHA A. HOFFMAN

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

FRANZ SCHUBERT/ARR. BY PATRICK M. LIEBERGEN

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Wrestling with it all"*

REV. PHILLIPS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ADAPTED FROM "HEAR US WHEN WE PRAY," NATHAN WILLIAMS

...Blessed Jesus, Hear us when we pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*...Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 #391:** *Take My Life*

FRANCES R. HAVERGAL

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days;
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee,
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee,
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose,
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine;
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own;
It shall be Thy royal throne,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee,
Ever, only, all for Thee.

***SENDING**

Touched, changed, called, and empowered,
go now in the power and provision of Christ
to heal the sick, feed the hungry, and
serve the world.

***CHORAL BENEDICTION:** *Lord, Make Us More Holy*

Lord, make us more holy,
Lord, make us more holy,
Lord, make us more holy,
Until we meet again.
Holy, holy, holy,
Until we meet again.

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

LANI SMITH/TUNE: WEBB

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Tuesday, September 26th 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

Saturday, September 30th 11:00am Blessing of the Animals – Recreation Area

Join us in our recreation area for a blessing of the animals! All of your beloved animals, or pictures of them, are invited to receive a blessing during this unique service remembering the ministry and legacy of St. Francis of Assisi.

Sunday, October 1st 11:00am World Communion Sunday Brunch Church – Fellowship Hall

Join us for our brunch church service – bring your appetites and a desire for worship and fellowship done in a creative way that remembers how the first church came together.

Saturday, November 4th Fall Festival – Recreation Area

Save the date! Our Fall Festival is back! More information to come.

Sunday, November 5th 11:00am A Service for All the Saints

Our annual commemoration of all in our congregation in and in our hearts who have died in the past year.

Sunday, November 19th 11:00 Brass Sunday - Sanctuary

Brass Sunday is also back! Join us for a worship featuring our wonderful brass ensemble.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, September 24th - Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:45 – Adult Sunday School - Bible 101 - Evie C. Marshall classroom

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

Wednesday, September 27th

6:30 –Choir Practice

Saturday, September 30th

11:00 –Blessing of the Animals – Recreation Area

Sunday, October 1st - Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost & Brunch Church

9:45 – Adult Sunday School - Bible 101 - Evie C. Marshall classroom

11:00 – Worship - Brunch Church – Fellowship Hall

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Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2023:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Shelby Smith

Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Tracey Troxler

Class of 2025:

Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Tina Patterson

Nancy Purcell

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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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