



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

October 4, 2020 – 11:00 am

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



*“The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory,
glory like that of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.”*

John 1:14 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

“Followers of Jesus Christ know that the Word became flesh in order to help us find within ourselves the image and likeness of God, which is God's original gift to us. But when the Tech isolates the functions usually ascribed to our minds and bodies and then programs those functions into external sources, accessing the image and likeness of God within becomes very challenging indeed.” - Thomas, Adam. Digital Disciple . Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.

PRELUDE: *To God Be the Glory*

FANNIE J. CROSBY / WILLIAM H. DOANE

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:** *We Gather Here in Jesus’ Name* (see page 5)

BRYAN JEFFREY LEECH

* CALL TO WORSHIP

From north and south, from east and west, we come:

God’s people called to the Table where simple grace nourishes us.

From down the street to across town, from single households to apartment dwellers:

God’s people are called to community, where we live and serve one another.

From every class, every race, every status; from little ones with sippy cups to elders with overflowing hearts:

God’s people are called to witness to God’s hope, to offer peace to a shattered world.

* **OPENING HYMN #516:** *Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation*

O QUANTA QUAIL

*Lord, we have come at your own invitation, chosen by you, to be counted your friends;
yours is the strength that sustains dedication; ours, a commitment we know never ends.*

*Here, at your table, confirm our intention; give it your seal of forgiveness and grace;
teach us to serve without pride or pretension, Lord, in your kingdom, whatever our place.*

*When, at your table, each time of returning, vows are renewed and our courage restored,
may we increasingly glory in learning all that it means to accept you as Lord.*

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

JOHN 1:1-5, 14

Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Seeing your children in bondage and despair, you brought them to freedom by your compassion and hope. Longing to create a people who would care for one another, you spoke simple truths about integrity and justice. Fill our worship with sighs more precious than all we value.

You came, not to build a grand scheme, but to be our foundation of faith. You came, not to choose sides like we do, but to be that peace which brings us together. You came, not worrying about what lay ahead for you, so we could see your kingdom prepared for us. Fill our worship with your grace more precious than our deepest fears.

When we cling to all which holds us back, you empty our arms, putting our past in a rummage sale. When we hesitate to stand with the lost, you nudge us forward with the wind of justice. Fill our worship with your peace more precious than the brokenness we grasp.

God in Community, Holy in One, hear the words of our hearts as we pray.

We are good at rules: making them and then breaking them. Paul reminds us that, when we gain Christ Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we receive exactly what we need - forgiveness, grace, hope. Let us confess our sins to God, that we might know God's healing love for us!

If we were to name all the gods we have before you, Rock of Redemption, we would be here a very long time. We elevate politicians into saviors, though they are as broken as we are. We misuse your name so much during the day, we have trouble speaking to you in prayer at night. We are so busy, we do not notice how creation witnesses to your goodness and grace.

Forgive us, God our Hope. Help us to let go of what we value most, so we may open our emptiness, our hearts, our lives to the healing and loving presence of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Persistently, patiently, lovingly, God pours out grace and joy into our lives, healing our brokenness, forgiving our sin.

Loved, we are sent to love; forgiven, we are freed to forgive; graced, we can offer our gifts to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. 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 save from sin!
How I love You! Look upon me, love me still and cleanse within.*

A LITANY FOR WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Loaf, wafer, unleavened bread, cubed white bread, rice cakes, millet bread, breadfruit.

Wine, wine mixed with water, grape juice, tea, nut beer, coconut milk.

Tiny cups, common chalice, disposable, plastic, glass, paper; historic and sentimental, or common and every day.

Large, inner-city church with a diverse, culturally-rich congregation.

Small, country church where everyone is related in one way or another.

In a strip mall, on a hillside, in a jungle, is someone's apartment; bright, shiny and clean, or old, dirty and antiquated.

Chinese, Spanish, English, Hindi.

Swahili, Urdu, Portuguese.

Navajo, Mandarin, American Sign Language.

The words of Christ spoken by a pastor with multiple, advanced degrees,

or a bi-vocational minister,

or perhaps the only one in the village who knows how to read.

All around the world today people gather to worship.

Our differences are many; our similarities few;

But the one, striking similarity is Jesus Christ.

All those differences,

All those varied circumstances,

All those walls ...

They come tumbling down.

We are not so different that we cannot worship and celebrate in the presence of God.

We are not so different that we cannot share the common cup – even if it is miles . . . and many lifetimes apart.

We are not so different that we cannot set aside those differences – at least for a day.

And if we can do it for one day . . .

We can do it for two. And if we can do it for two days . . .

We can do it for three. And if we can do it for three days . . .

We can do it for a lifetime.

THE PEACEMAKING PROJECT VIRTUAL CHOIR: *This Is My Song*

FINLANDIA

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

* **DOXOLOGY:** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Lord Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary*

RANDY SCRUGGS / JOHN THOMPSON

MORGAN TROXLER, SOLOIST

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***The Digital Church: Empty Minds and Disposable Bodies***

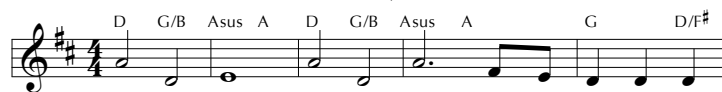
REV. JOHNSON

* **HYMN OF PREPARATION: *Feed Us Lord***

REEDER

Feed Us, Lord

501



1 Feed us, Lord. Feed us, Lord. In the bro - ken bread,
2 Quench us, Lord. Quench us, Lord. On this thirst - y ground,
3 Fill us, Lord. Fill us, Lord. with the bread and wine
4 Lead us, Lord. Lead us, Lord, nour-ished here by Christ,



be re - vealed a - gain. Come and feed our hearts, O Lord.
may your love flow down. Come and quench our hearts, O Lord.
of the ris - en Christ. Come and fill our hearts, O Lord.
giv - en strength for life. Come and lead our hearts, O Lord.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

This is the table, not of the Church but of Jesus Christ.

It is made ready for those who love God and who want to love God more.

So come, you who have much faith and you who have little; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time or ever before; you who have tried to follow and all of us who have failed.

These are the gifts of God for the People of God.

Come, not because the Church invites you; it is Christ who invites you to be known and be fed here.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

May the composer of heaven's music be with you!

And also with you!

Beloved, God has created us for faithful living.

We lift our hearts to the One who calls us to be Christ's Body.

People of God, sing to the One who cleanses us of our fears.

We will dance with joy to the Table of peace and hope.

Chaos trembled as you spoke, not wanting to hear your goodness breaking it apart, Rock and Redeemer of all . . .

So, with those who trembled at the foot of your holy mountain, and with those who press on to follow you, we join our voices in praise to you:

Your Word opens our eyes to all creation; your Word is the sweet taste of joy for hungry hearts; your Word endures through every trial and triumph. Blessed is your Word who comes in your name! Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you, God of all creation, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord . . . As we remember his goodness and gentleness, as we celebrate his life in us, we would speak of that mystery we call faith:

Setting aside all he valued, Christ became our treasure; setting aside his own life, Christ rescued us from sin; setting aside our doubts and fears, we yearn for Christ's return in glory.

Here at your Table, Redeemer of all creation, pour out your Spirit on the gifts of the bread and the cup, and on our sisters and brothers in Christ . . . And when we stand around your Table, all hurtful words silenced, all pain left behind, with hope and grace our closest friends, we will join our hearts and voices with our sisters and brothers who forever sing of your glory, and pray with one voice heard this day throughout the world:

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of grace, You renew us at your table with the bread of life. May this meal strengthen us in love and help us to serve you in each other. We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN #507: *I Come with Joy*

DOVE OF PEACE

*I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.*

*I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.*

*As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.*

*The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known, alive among us here, alive among us here.
Together met, together bound by all that God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.*

* **SENDING**

You are a blessed people.

We will go to be a blessing in the world.

You are the face of Jesus.

We will go to be love and compassion to all.

You are the family of God.

We will go to serve our sisters and brothers wherever we may find them.

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE: Rescue the Perishing**

FANNIE J. CROSBY / WILLIAM H. DOANE

LORD'S SUPPER

510 We Gather Here in Jesus' Name

Come, Share the Lord

Capo 3: (G) (D) (Em7)
B \flat F Gm7

1 We gath - er here in Je - sus' name;
2 He joins us here; he breaks the bread;
3 We'll gath - er soon where an - gels sing;

(D) (Asus)
F Csus

his love is burn - ing in our hearts like liv - ing flame;
the Lord who pours the cup is ris - en from the dead;
we'll see the glo - ry of our Lord and com - ing King;

(A7) (D) (A) (D)
C7 F C F

for through the lov - ing Son the Fa - ther makes us one:
the one we love the most is now our gra - cious host:
now we an - tic - i - pate the feast for which we wait:

(G) (D) (Em) (A) (D)
B \flat F Gm C F *Fine*

come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.

(A7) (D) (G) (A7) (D)
C7 F B \flat C7 F

(1) No one is a strang - er here; ¶ ev - ery - one be - longs.
(2) We are now a fam - i - ly, of which the Lord is head.

(G) (A7) (D) (Bm) (Em7) (Asus) (A)
B \flat C7 F Dm Gm7 Csus C

Find - ing our for - give - ness here, we in turn for - give all wrongs.
Though un - seen, he meets us here in the break - ing of the bread.



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](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.**

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 Zoom Worship and our Facebook Live stream will be available on our Facebook page and on our website.

Today is **World Communion Sunday**. We will join with our sisters and brothers from around the world in celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. Please note the instructions that will be given regarding the distribution of the elements.

As this is the first Sunday of the month, we will receive our **Pennies for Hunger Offering**. Please feel free to come forward during our final hymn and place your offerings in the basket that will be on the table. Please observe social-distancing guidelines as you come forward.

We also rejoice that this is **our first Sunday worshipping in person** in our beautiful sanctuary since March! Here are some guidelines to follow to ensure the health and safety of our congregation:

- **Masks must be worn at all times.**
- Please do not sit in any pews that have been blocked off. This is to make sure that social-distancing guidelines are being followed.
- Bulletins are available at the doors. They will not be distributed but you may pick one up as you wish. See the QR code to download our Interactive Digital Bulletin to your smartphone or tablet.
- The offering will not be collected but offering plates are available in the narthex. You may place your offering in the plates on your way out, or you may follow the QR code below to give online.
- Please refrain from physical interaction during our “meet and greet” time. Waves and virtual hugs are our new normal - at least for awhile!
- Although we normally encourage singing hymns with gusto, that might not be the wisest thing to do right now. Either sing softly through your mask, or hum.
- John will be at the door to greet following the service, but will not shake hands or hug . . . just an elbow bump and the knowledge that he’s smiling beneath the mask!

Resources used in today’s worship:

- *Glory to God* Presbyterian Hymnal
- *Worldwide Worship Kit for World Communion Sunday*, Presbyterian News Service
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)
- *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	Diane Miller	John & Ann Sutton
Jack Cook	Peter Slater	Ruby Martin
Joan Richardson	Joey Leake	Shirley Lane
Teresa Wilborn	Shannon Russell	Ida Whitney
Tiffany Tauchren	Mary Moore	Katherine Turner
Jean Berry	Barbara Cousins	Jeremy Harden
Christy Lutterloh	Pat Kennedy	Anne McDaniels
Eleanor Thompson	Mike Sutton	Alex Thomas
Nancy Sutton	Pete Campbell	Stewart Dillard
Norma Proctor	Ben Johnson	Shelvia Russell
Christopher Bagley	Grace Johnson	Carol Brooks
Randy Thompson	Frank Wrenn	Ritchie Fishburne
Frederica Beatty	Sylvia Donley	Janie Holt Clapp
	Norm Whitney	

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**.

The Session has called for a **Congregational Meeting** to immediately follow worship on **next Sunday, October 11th** for the purpose of acting on the recommendation of the Nominating Committee to elect a Ruling Elder to the Session in the Class of 2023.

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



This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- **WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**
- 9:45 - *The Digital Church* study and discussion (in person and via Zoom)
- 11:00 - Worship - Sermon Series IV - *The Digital Church: Empty Minds and Disposable Bodies /* Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Wednesday, the 7th :

- 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal (not meeting)

Thursday, the 8th:

- 7:00 - *Waking Up White* book study (in person and via Zoom)

Sunday, the 11th:

- 9:45 - *The Digital Church* study and discussion
- 11:00 - Worship - Sermon Series V - *The Digital Church: Googling Prayer*

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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Elder Emeritus: Bobby Peele

Elder Emeritus: Don Boggs

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