Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina
www.bethanypreschurch.org
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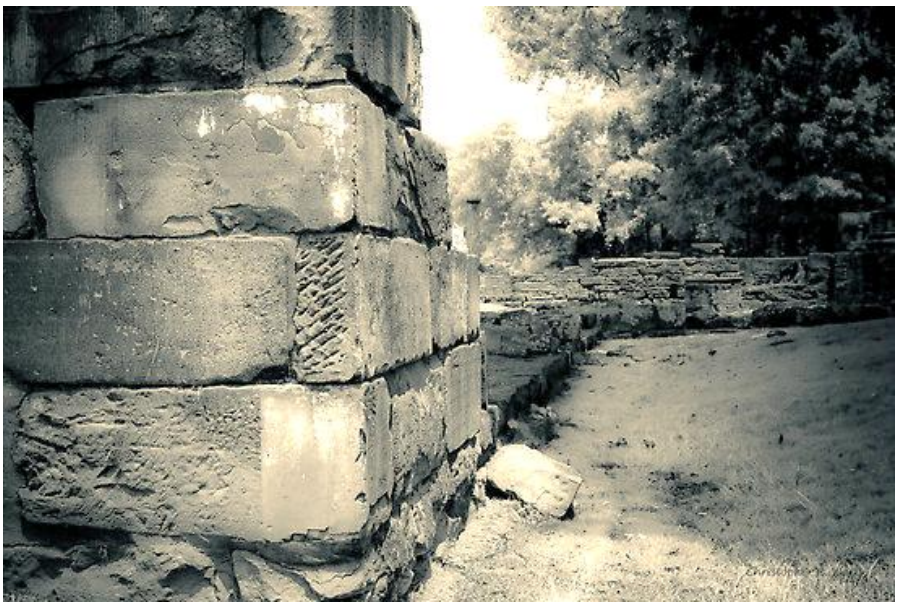
October 4, 2026 – 11:00 am
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Communion



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!

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE

WELCOME

***OPENING HYMN #138:** *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty* REGINALD HEBER

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinfulness Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES (FROM LUKE 13:29)

People will come from east and west,
from north and south,
and will eat in the kingdom of God.
Thanks be to God for welcoming us to the table.

GATHERING PRAYER (PSALM 78, MATTHEW 21)

Creating God, like the earth around us, we gather to proclaim your glory.
We pray that you will revive our souls today.
We pray that you will help us become a little bit wiser.
We pray that our hearts will rejoice at the sound of your name.
We pray that our eyes will be opened to your ways.
We pray that we might live in peace and harmony with one another.
And we pray that today, and every day, we will again choose to follow in the ways of Christ ,
so that our lives may become and example of your love and grace to the world
In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (THE APOSTLES' CREED)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,
from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.
Amen.

***HYMN OF THE DAY #280:** *Amazing Grace, How Sweet The Sound* JOHN NEWTON

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

Gracious God, we are indebted to you and your generosity. But we fail to live as good stewards of all you have given us. We confiscate and consume far more than our fair share. We neglect the poor and trap people in poverty, claiming that debt forgiveness is unfair. God, liberate us from our spiritual and moral bondage. Free our world for Jubilee. Reorder our priorities so all your nations and peoples may thrive. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE (2 CORINTHIANS 5:17: BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP)

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Bless us, O God, with ears to hear your truth, vision to discern your path, and feet ready to move into action, responding to your call. Inspire us as we hear your Word read and proclaimed. Amen.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 19 PEW BIBLE, 677

MATTHEW 21:33-46 PEW BIBLE, 1200

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *In Remembrance of Me* ARR. BY BURYL RED

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***"The Vineyard, The Stone, and The Table"*** RICK PURCELL, CP

THE LORD'S SUPPER

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper today by inviting everyone who wants to participate up front to receive the bread and cup (we use gluten free bread and grape juice). If you are more comfortable remaining seated but would like to participate, raise your hand and we will come to your seat to serve you. We believe that Jesus invites everyone forward to his table to "taste and see," and so we proclaim that all are welcome to participate.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

AN OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

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**

***CLOSING HYMN #370:** *Just as I Am, Without One Plea* CHARLOTTE ELLIOTT

Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

***SENDING**

POSTLUDE

** Please stand in body or spirit.*

Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sundays, 9:45am Bible Study – Evie C. Marshall Room

Wednesdays, 10:00am Bethany Exercise Class - Evie C. Marshall Room
Exercise classes are meeting on Wednesdays at 10:00am in the Evie C. Marshall classroom. Come join us for fun and fellowship.

Tuesday, October 6th 10:30am The Women of Bethany Church Gathering
The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, September 1st at 10:30am. in the Evie C. Marshall classroom.

Tuesday, October 6th Alamance Co. Mobile Library
The Alamance County Public Libraries mobile library with be at Bethany on the first Tuesday of each month. The 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.

Sunday, December 13th 11:00am Christmas Cantata
Save the Date: Our choir will bless us with a Christmas Cantata – The Music of Christmas during the 11:00 worship service on Sunday, December 13th.

S.A.F.E. (Southern Alamance Family Empowerment)
How can we help S.A.F.E. for during the **month of October**? They are in most need of:

Pet Food	**Spaghetti sauce**
Rice	**Spaghetti noodles**
Pasta	**Peanut Butter and Jelly**
Soup	**Canned Meats**

S.A.F.E. will be closed the 1st and 5th Saturday of the Month.
Consider donating your paper bags.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, October 4th - 19th Sunday after Pentecost - Communion & Pennies for Hunger

9:45 – Bible Study - Evie C. Marshall classroom

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

Tuesday, October 6th

10:30 – Women of Bethany Church Gathering - Evie C. Marshall classroom

Wednesday, October 7th

10:00 – Exercise class

7:00 pm – Choir Practice

Sunday, October 11th - 20th Sunday after Pentecost

9:45 – Bible Study - Evie C. Marshall classroom

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

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Session
Moderator: Rick Purcell, CP
Clerk: Randy Cousins
Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2026:
Chip Allen
Jean Payne
Ben Russell

Class of 2027:
Karen Maxwell
Kim Snyder
Brandon Troxler

Class of 2028:
Helen Brown
Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Nancy Purcell

Staff
Pastor/CP: Rick Purcell – *pastor4bethany@gmail.com*
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