



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina
www.bethanypreschurch.org
www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

October 6, 2024 – 11:00 am
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday



Art by Sefira Lightstone

"...Then he made a metal image of a bull calf..." Exodus 32:4 (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. Liturgy today was written by Rev. Stephanie Sorge and published in The Presbyterian Outlook.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Balm in Gilead*

ARRANGED BY ROGER C. WILSON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #482: *Praise Ye 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**

O Lord, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
We proclaim your name to the whole human family.
We praise you in the midst of this congregation:
O Lord, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
Let us continue to praise our majestic Creator

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of wisdom, though we are mere mortals, you are mindful of us. You know the voices inside and out that distract us. You know the words we need to hear. By the power of your Holy Spirit, enable us now to receive your holy, life-giving Word. 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.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

LUKE 23:34

PEW BIBLE, 1286

EXODUS 32:1-14

PEW BIBLE, 107

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 #514:** *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

FRED KAAAN

Let us talents and tongues employ,
Reaching out with a shout of joy:
Bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Christ is able to make us one.
At the table He sets the tone,
Teaching people to live to bless,
Love in word and in deed express. **(Refrain)**

Jesus calls us in, sends us out
Bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
Gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere! **(Refrain)**

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

When we reflect on the goodness and majesty of God, we cannot help but recognize our own mortal frailty and failing. And yet, God cares for us. Emboldened by God's love, we can be honest in confession, assured already of God's grace. Let us confess together:

Sovereign God, who are we humans, that you pay any attention to us? And yet, you have entrusted us to care for all of creation. We confess the times we have thought too highly of ourselves, and the ways we have twisted our charge to care for creation into permission to dominate and subdue it.

We confess the same human tendencies to dominate and subdue other people. It is easy for us to ignore or take for granted our own privilege, rather than seeking to dismantle unjust systems of supremacy. Your desire is for peace, but so often we choose comfort and call it peace.

Remind us of who we are, and whose we are. Remind us of our interdependence with creation, and our dependence on you, our Creator. Set our hearts and minds on your will, made known to us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silence

Amen.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Hear the good news:
the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all children of the one God.
Jesus is not ashamed to call us his beloved siblings and family.
Our sin is forgiven, we are made one with Christ and with each other.
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: *Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread*

JAY ALTHOUSE

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Apostasy"*

RICK PURCELL, CRE

SACRAMENT OF 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

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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 #539:** *Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise*

JOHN ELLERTON

Savior, again to Thy dear Name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise.
We stand to bless Thee ere our worship cease;
And, now departing, wait Thy word of peace.

Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way;
With Thee began, with Thee shall end the day.
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
That in this house have called upon Thy name.

Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light;
From harm and danger keep Thy children free,
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.

Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,
Our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife.
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

*SENDING

Jesus said: Let the children come to me. Beloved children of God, we go from this place carrying the blessing we have received, so that we may share it with all of God's children.
Go and live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you. And may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.
Amen.

POSTLUDE: *Praise Him With Trumpets*

PATRICIA LOU HARRIS

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Tuesday, October 22nd 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, October 26th 1:00pm – 4:00pm Fall Festival – Recreation Area

Our annual fall festival is back!

There will be food and fun activities for all ages, including face painting, balloon art, hayrides, games, trunk or treating. Proceeds from food sales will go to our Helping Hands Fund, which provides assistance for those in need in our community. We will be joined this year by several friends from the nonprofit community in Alamance County with information on their services.

All are welcome. There is no entry fee.

We need volunteers – please let Joy know if you are interested in helping.

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

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

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

Consider donating your plastic and paper bags.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, October 6th Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, Communion & Pennies for Hunger
11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Tuesday, October 8th
7:00pm - Session Meeting

Wednesday, October 9th
6:30pm – Choir Practice

Sunday, October 13th Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

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love learn serve



Session

Moderator: Rev. Scott Lawson

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

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Staff

Pastor: vacant – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org

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Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – admin@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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