



Bethany Presbyterian Church

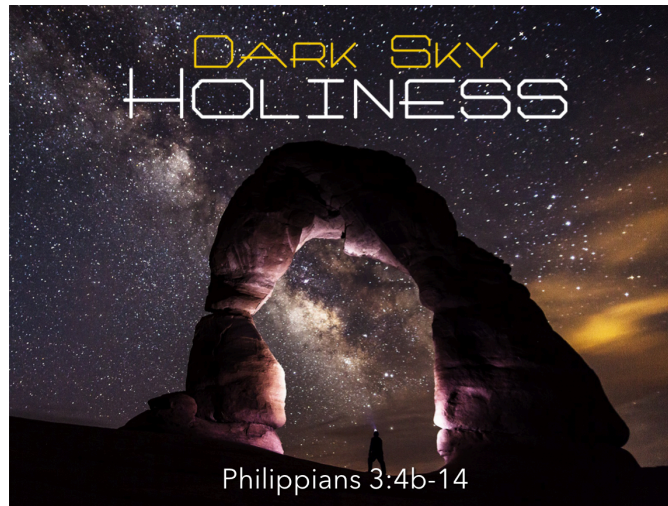
Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

October 8, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



“These things were my assets, but I wrote them off as a loss for the sake of Christ. But even beyond that, I consider everything a loss in comparison with the superior value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have lost everything for him, but what I lost I think of as sewer trash, so that I might gain Christ and be found in him.”
Philippians 3:7-9a (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Some cities are reducing artificial light pollution as a way of enabling people to see the stars in the vastness of the night sky. The apostle Paul encourages us to cut down on the things that prevent us from seeing and pursuing the bright light of Christ and his resurrection.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Promised Blessing*

L. KAYE

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:** *We Are Standing on Holy Ground* (see page 4)

GERON DAVIS

* CALL TO WORSHIP

O Lord, you are God. There is no other God but you.

We renounce all that we have allowed to come between us.

O Lord, we worship you. We praise and honor your name.

We worship you on this, your holy day.

For your love, for your word, for all that you have given:

O Lord, we thank you and praise you.

* **HYMN OF PRAISE #262:** *God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand*

NATIONAL HYMN

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Almighty God, your word bursts forth into our lives like a glorious sunrise. You speak, and our hearts rejoice. You command, and our eyes are opened. The sound of your voice brings revival to our souls. Your words are purer than the finest gold.

True and righteous one, living Word, light our way. As we listen to your Spirit, may the words of our mouths and the thoughts of our hearts be accepted in your sight, O Lord, our strength and our redeemer.

No matter how righteous we imagine ourselves to be, Lord, your perfect word reveals our imperfections all too clearly. No matter how hard we strive to fulfill the requirements of your law, we always fall short. We have forgotten that righteousness and perfection come not from rules and regulations but from faith.

We have ignored the truth that your righteousness comes from faith. Open our eyes to see that all we have accomplished is nothing compared to knowing Christ as our Lord. Let us count everything as loss, that we might gain heaven and be found blameless in Christ.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Take heart; have faith. The goal is in sight. Press on to take hold of it, as Christ has taken hold of us.

We have no fear; we leave the past behind. We reach out for what lies ahead, for the prize, for the life to be found in Christ Jesus. Amen.

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

Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burden down. (Repeat)

I feel better, so much better since I laid my burden down. (Repeat)

Feel like shouting, "Hallelujah!" Since I laid my burden down. (Repeat)

TRADITIONAL

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

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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.

* **HYMN OF THE DAY #307:** *Fight the Good Fight*

DUKE STREET

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *What a Friend*

IMPROVISATION
LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*** THE DOXOLOGY:**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Praise God, above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG @ HEART / MOMENT FOR MISSION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION #339: *Be Thou My Vision* (stanza 3 only)

SLANE

*Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *An Exhortation of Praise*

R. FRYSON

*Hallelujah!
Praise ye the Lord with the trumpet.
Praise ye the Lord with the harp.
Praise Him with stringed instruments and clapping.
Praise ye the Lord.
Come let everything that hath breath, now praise ye the Lord!
Hallelujah!*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *Dark Sky Holiness*

Text: Philippians 3:4b-14

REV. JOHNSON
PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1431

LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

*** CLOSING HYMN #467:** *How Great Thou Art*

O STORE GUD

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*** POSTLUDE:** *Trumpet Processional*

D. F. CALLENDER

** Those who are able may stand in body or spirit.*

GATHERING

406 We Are Standing on Holy Ground

Holy Ground

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of five lines of music. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: G, D, A, D, G, D, Em, D, G, F#m, F#m7, B7, E, Gm, D, A7, D, G, D, Em, F#m7, G, D, G, D, Em7, D, G, D.

We are stand - ing on ho - ly ground,
and I know that there are an - gels all a -
round; let us praise Je - sus
now; we are stand - ing in his
pres - ence on ho - ly ground.



Our Faith Community @ Work

WORSHIP Ministry: (Lead Elders: Nancy Purcell and A. J. Campbell)

WELCOME to this service of worship at Bethany Presbyterian Church. 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).

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)
- *Homiletics Online* website (www.homileticonline.com)

Beginning on **next Sunday, October 15th**, we will begin our four week **Stewardship Emphasis Season**. The focus of these four Sundays is designed to mirror the four ministry areas at Bethany, and will try to answer the question, "Why Church?" Here are the themes for each Sunday:

- Today: *Why Church? Reason One: Community (Worship)*
- October 22nd: *Why Church? Reason Two: Real People (Serve)*
- October 29th: *Why Church? Reason Three: Mentors (Teach)*
- November 5th – Stewardship Dedication Sunday: *Why Church? Reason Four: Money Matters (Support)*

Donations are still being accepted for the gift of having **David LaMotte** with us two weeks ago. We are within a few hundred dollars of having his concert and Sunday morning presence completely paid for with donations. If you write a check, put "David LaMotte" on the memo line, and make the check out to the church. Thank you for your generosity.

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.

To the parents of young children: Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel that you must suppress those wiggles in God's house. **Please note that a professionally staffed nursery is available during the worship hour.** Here are some hints to make worship with your children more rewarding:

- Consider sitting towards the front where it is easier for little ones to engage. On the second pew nearest the choir loft, there are activities for children of all ages to keep busy with during the service.
- Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, musicians, and leaders.
- Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behavior by mimicking you.
- If you have to leave the sanctuary with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me!"
- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.
- **To adult worshippers:** The presence of children is a gift to the church and they are a reminder that our church is growing! Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elder: Jean Payne)

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	Polly & Dick Wilson	Joey Leake
Layla Benoklen	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	Carolyn Thompson
Ben Johnson	Sandy Cook and niece Rachel	Shelvia Russell

Presbyterian Women News: Circle #1 will meet on Monday, the 9th at 10:00 am. Circle #3 will also meet on Monday, the 9th

Each week **Salem Presbytery** lists churches and other ministries that we are to lift up in prayer that week. A complete list can be viewed online at the presbytery website: www.salempresbytery.org. On the prayer list for this week are: **Ebenezer Presbyterian, Jefferson; Thyatira Presbyterian, Salisbury; Red House Presbyterian, Semora.** Please keep these churches and ministries in your prayers this week.

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.

Seeker's Class (Church Office)

The Seeker's Class is currently using the *Wired Word* curriculum, looking at current events as they relate to our faith.

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, Ron Kimrey, and Glenn Patterson)

Elders of the Month for October are **Nancy Purcell and A. J. Campbell.**

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Monday, the 9th:

- 10:00 – Circle #1
- 7:00 – Circle #3

Tuesday, the 10th:

- 7:00 – “What is the Bible?” Book Study

Wednesday, the 11th:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 15th:

- Stewardship Emphasis Season - I
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Rick Purcell

Treasurer: Ron Osborne

Class of 2017:

Ron Kimrey
Karen Maxwell

Class of 2018:

Glenn Patterson
Nancy Purcell
Brandon Troxler

Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell
Ron Osborne
Jean Payne

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



1500 S. Main Street
Graham, NC 27215
www.bethanypreschurch.org
336.227.4041

Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org
Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – music@bethanypreschurch.org
Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@bethanypreschurch.org
Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org



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Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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