



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

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October 8, 2023 – 11:00 am

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost



"Word," Pamela Kelly

Israel, listen! Our God is the LORD! Only the LORD!

Love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your being, and all your strength.

These words that I am commanding you today must always be on your minds. Deuteronomy 6:4-6 (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 Ruth Burgess, Acorns and Archangels: Resources for Ordinary Time (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2009); and LiturgyLink, <https://www.liturgylink.net>.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Offertory on "Land of Rest"*

GARY DAVIDSON-BASED ON A TRADITIONAL AMERICAN MELODY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***OPENING HYMN #281:** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

WILLIAM WILLIAMS

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield,
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee,
I will ever give to Thee.

***OPENING SENTENCES**

"WE GATHER HERE," ANDY JAMES

We gather here, hoping to catch a glimpse of God's face.

We gather here, longing for the fullness of God's grace.

Here God steps into our world and walks this way with us.

Here we join our voices in praise for our God who shows us all that we need.

Let us worship our God!

***GATHERING PRAYER**

"PRAYER FOR AUTUMN," MARY HANRAHAN

Lord of the seasons
there is a time for dying,
and a time for new birth;
a time to speak
and a time to keep quiet.
Help us discern your will for us now.

***Lord of autumn leaves and warm berries,
help us to let go gracefully
and to rejoice in the color and fruitfulness of this moment.
Wrap us in the shawl of eternity
and teach us to await with wonder
the new shoots of your love.***

***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

"PLANT YOUR WORD," STEPHEN M. FEARING

Holy Spirit,
bless this reading of your word
that we might neither add to it or take anything away from it.
Help us to keep your commandments and plant them within our hearts. Amen.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

MARK 12:28-31

PEW BIBLE, 1234

DEUTERONOMY 5:1-21; 6:4-9

PEW BIBLE, 223-224;225

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 #303:** *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

CHARLES WESLEY

Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high:
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide;
O receive my soul at last!

Other refuge have I none;
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee;
Leave, ah! leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed,
All my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head
With the shadow of Thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want,
More than all in Thee I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind.

Just and holy is Thy name,
I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am,
Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound;
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
Freely let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart;
Rise to all eternity.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"LOVE, PROMISE, CALL," TERI PETERSON

Let us come together to tell the truth about ourselves.

*God, we thank you that you love, you promise, you call – in that order.
We confess that we often see you in reverse, believing we must earn your regard.
When we see you only as a rule-enforcer, forgetting that obedience is your way to true freedom, forgive us.
When we see you as doling out rewards we think we have earned, forgive us.
When we are so consumed with the letter of your law that we miss your Spirit, forgive us.
Guide us again into your path and lead us in your truth – the truth of unending love.*

Silence

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: #398: *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

DORIS MAE AKERS

There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Sweet Holy Spirit,
Sweet Heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us,
Filling us with Your love,
And for these blessings
We lift our hearts in praise,
Without a doubt we'll know
That we have been revived
When we shall leave this place.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

MARTY WHEELER BURNETT-KINGSFOLD SETTING

Handbell Accompaniment, Chip Allen & Ben Russell

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Hearing the words"*

REV. PHILLIPS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

"GOD OF AUTUMN," KATRINA CROSBY

God of autumn,
help us to be more like nature,
accepting the changing seasons;
like the changing of the trees:
not a dying as life sometimes feels,
but a stripping bare in preparation for inner growth,
knowing that to shed the outer layers
will reveal the strength that is hidden underneath.

God of autumn,
it's so hard to let things go:
the shields,
the camouflage,
the flimsy covers...

We cannot hide from you;
you are our strength,
you see our inner beauty.
You see beyond the human dressings
and wish to clothe us in your love.

*God of autumn,
help us to be more like nature,
Accepting the changing seasons
not because they are out of our control,
but because they are in your hands.*

This and all things we pray in the name of the One
who taught us to pray together in the language in which
we are most familiar, saying:

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.*

O Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end;
Be Thou forever near me,
My Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle
If Thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If Thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel Thee near me!
The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
The tempting sounds I hear;
My foes are ever near me,
Around me and within;
But Jesus, draw Thou nearer,
And shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear Thee speaking
In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion,
The murmurs of self will;
O speak to reassure me,
To hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
Thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised
To all who follow Thee
That where Thou art in glory
There shall Thy servant be;
And, Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
My Master and my friend.

***SENDING**

Friends, may we go forth into this autumn having encountered God's Word
That we may live into it,
Loving our neighbors as ourselves,
and our God with everything we've got.
Amen.

***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: *Profession of Faith*

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Tuesday, October 17th 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, November 4th 11:00am – 2:00pm 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, hay rides, games, trunk or treating, and BBQ. 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.

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, October 8th - Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:45 – Adult Sunday School – Not meeting this week

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

Wednesday, 11th

6:30 –Choir Practice

Sunday, October 15th - Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

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

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

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Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

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Class of 2023:

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Class of 2025:

Donna Mitchell-Ayers
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Staff

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