



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

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October 9, 2022 – 11:00 am

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



"Bald Eagle," David Louis

You saw what I did to the Egyptians, and how I lifted you up on eagles' wings and brought you to me.
So now, if you faithfully obey me and stay true to my covenant, you will be my most precious possession out of all the peoples, since the whole earth belongs to me.
Exodus 19:4-5 (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 Kimberly Bracken Long ed. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Vol. 2 (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2014).

PRELUDE: *Herr Jesu Christ, wahr' Mensch und Gott*

FRIEDRICH WILHELM ZACHAU

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN #9:** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

HENRY SLOANE COFFIN

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. **(Refrain)**

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. **(Refrain)**

***OPENING SENTENCES**

Ps. 19:1-4

The heavens declare the glory of God!
The skies proclaim God's handiwork.
The day pronounces God's glory without a sound,
the night expounds God's knowledge without a word,
and yet their voice goes out through all the earth.
Let us join our voices with the voice of creation
in declaring God's glory!

Let us worship our God.

***GATHERING PRAYER**

Creator God, the heavens radiate your glory! You have set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a joyful bridegroom from his wedding canopy. May we emerge from night's waiting with such rampant joy that we too radiate your glory throughout this day. In the name of the Son of righteousness who has risen with healing in his wings. **Amen.**

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God who speaks,
your law is perfect,
reviving the soul;
***your commandment is clear,
enlightening the eyes.***
May your Spirit illumine this Word
that our eyes may be opened
and our souls revived.
In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 5:17

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1173

EXODUS 19:3-7; 20:1-17

PEW BIBLE, PAGES 89,90-91

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

***DOXOLOGY #593:** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

THOMAS KEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

***BLESSING OUR GIFTS**

***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

Friends, let us come together to tell the truth about ourselves. Please pray with me.

Rescuing God, you brought us out of the land of captivity, out of the house of slavery. Forgive us when we make divine the machine of production, crafting idols from the excess of consumption. Forgive us when we consider ourselves so grand that we do not rest and enjoy your presence, defining ourselves by our ability rather than your love. Forgive us when we esteem ourselves so little that we dare not rest and sit with ourselves, exposed, without the cloak of productivity. Forgive us when we deem our species so central that we do not rest and halt consumption, decimating Earth, denying her Sabbath and integrity.

Forgive us through Christ, who redeems us from the brokenness of slavery that we might enjoy your presence, creation, and community.

A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Righteousness does not come from our own doing or not doing. Righteousness comes from God. Through the faithfulness of Christ, our Lord, we are forgiven! **Amen.**

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE: #837 (GLORY TO GOD): *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

ELISHA A. HOFFMAN

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Master, Savior, Jesus*

CHRIS OVERBY

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Agreements"*

REV. PHILLIPS

PASTORAL PRAYER

...that all we may know:
*you are the Lord our God,
who brought us out of the land of Egypt,
out of the house of slavery...*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

So now, as Jesus taught us, let us pray in the language we are most familiar with, saying:

*...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.*

*CLOSING HYMN #720 (GLORY TO GOD): *Jesus Call Us, O'er the Tumult*

CECIL FRANCES ALEXANDER

Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth
saying, "Christian, follow me."

Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."

In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."

Jesus calls us: by thy mercies,
Savior, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thy obedience,
serve and love thee best of all.

CHORAL BLESSING: *THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU

PETER C. LUTKIN

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord lift his countenance upon you,
and give you peace;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you.
Amen, amen.

POSTLUDE: *Praise Him! Praise Him!*

CHARITY BOYLES/ CHESTER ALLEN

** Please stand in body or spirit.*

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

Sunday, October 9th – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
11:00 – Worship (In-Person inside & Live Stream)

Wednesday, October 12th
□ 6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, October 16th – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

No Service today

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love learn serve



Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

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Class of 2022:

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