



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

[www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org)

[www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian)

October 15, 2023 – 11:00 am

*Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost*



"Cat sleeps on dog," Rikki's Refuge

But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to abandon you, to turn back from following after you. Wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.

Ruth 1:16 (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:** *He Leadeth Me*

THOMAS BLISS/WILLIAM B. BRADBURY

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #293:** *This is My Father's World*

MALTBIE D. BABCOCK

This is my Father's world,  
And to my listening ears  
All nature sings, and round me rings  
The music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world:  
I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;  
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world.  
Oh, let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world:  
The battle is not done:  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,  
And earth and heaven be one.

**\*OPENING SENTENCES**

"THE FRUITS OF LOVING," SCOTT BLYTHE

In the joy of conversations,  
in the laughter of jokes,  
in the risk of encountering personality,  
in the fear of exposing vulnerability,  
in the danger of loving,  
in the unpredictability of all relationships.

In the midst of all of these,  
we find strength for the way.  
Affirmation of our humanity,  
solace for our souls.  
We glimpse the deep potentials of life,  
the joy of growth, and the realization of our identity.

For the way of love is at cost,  
a way of pain, brutality and risk.  
But a way which is of life in all its fullness.  
A life which blossoms with the seed of our human potential.  
The life we were meant to lead is found.

Let us worship our God!

**\*GATHERING PRAYER**

God of love, help us as we gather to praise and worship you;  
to find ourselves down the path our lives were meant to lead.  
Journey with us as our potentials blossom.  
As the season changes, may we too change –  
becoming the people and the community you call us to be. **Amen.**

**\*RESPONDING TO OUR PRAYERS:** *Hear our Prayer, O Lord* (Choir 1<sup>st</sup> time; Congregation 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

Holy God, fill us with your Spirit that we may encounter you in these stories given to us by our ancestors in faith. Harvest in our minds those things you would have us hold to, that we may hear your voice in these stories. *Amen.*

## ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

**MARK 3:33-35**

PEW BIBLE, 1218

**RUTH 1:1-17; 4:13-17**

PEW BIBLE, 333-334;337

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 #550 (AAHH):** *Where He Leads Me*

E.W. BLANDY

Where He leads me I will follow,  
Where He leads me I will follow,  
Where He leads me I will follow,  
I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.

I can hear my Savior calling,  
I can hear my Savior calling,  
I can hear my Savior calling,  
"Take thy cross and follow, follow Me."

I'll go with Him through the garden,  
I'll go with Him through the garden,  
I'll go with Him through the garden,  
I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.

I'll go with Him through the judgment,  
I'll go with Him through the judgment,  
I'll go with Him through the judgment,  
I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.

Where He leads me I will follow,  
Where He leads me I will follow,  
Where He leads me I will follow,  
I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.

## TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

Let us come together to tell the truth about ourselves.  
Please join me in a time of silence as we bring our whole selves before our God,  
Confessing those things we need to confess,  
being present for that still small voice of the Spirit we need to hear.

*Silent Prayer*

## AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

"HARVEST WRAPPINGS," BERYL CHATFIELD

God hides his living seeds  
in rosy apples, ripening pears,  
and juicy oranges;  
in red tomatoes, rounded swedes  
and long, green dangling runner beans.  
To hang the trees with purple plums  
God sends the sun and rain in bouts,  
and vines with luscious grapes are decked  
while fields yield broccoli and spouts.

As harvest-time returns,  
the varied ways in which God wraps  
life-giving seeds  
make for a colorful display  
of fruit and flowers of every kind;  
beauty of pattern and design.  
This is a feast for all to share,  
filling our hearts with gratitude  
for God's incessant love and care.

So when, in many lands,  
we eat the fruit and sow the seeds  
in partnership with God,  
he feeds us with delicious food,  
renewing body, mind and soul,  
and blesses us in many ways.  
That we, in glad responsive love,  
Will give him joyful thanks and praise.

I proclaim to you in the name of our harvesting 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:** *With Songs of Rejoicing*

JOHANN SABASTIAN BACH/ARR. BY HAL H. HOPSON

(With songs of rejoicing sing praise to the Lord: For he has done marvelous things! Break forth into joy...)

**THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

**Sermon:** *"Chosen Families"*

REV. PHILLIPS

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

"HEAR AND PROVIDE," NATHAN WILLIAMS

...God of grace, *hear and provide.*

**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.*

**\*CLOSING HYMN #400 (AAHH):** *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

PAUL B. SMITH

I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus -  
No turning back, (no turning back,) no turning back!

Though none go with me, still I will follow,  
though none go with me, still I will follow,  
though none go with me, still I will follow -  
No turning back, (no turning back,) no turning back!

The world behind me, the cross before me,  
The world behind me, the cross before me,  
The world behind me, the cross before me -  
No turning back, (no turning back,) no turning back!

**\*SENDING**

"THE TIME THAT IS YOURS," DAVID HAMFLETT

God bless to you the time that is yours.  
God bless to you the time that is now.  
God bless to you the time that has been given.  
God bless to you each day,  
each hour,  
each passing moment,  
that you may pass it in his presence  
and find him in it.  
**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:** *Go Out With Praise*

DAVID PAXTON

---

*\* Please stand in body or spirit.*



# Our Faith Community @ Work

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

**Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Fall Festival – Recreation Area**

Save the date! Our Fall Festival is back! More information to come.

**Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> - Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

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

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

Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>

6:30 –Choir Practice

Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> - Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

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

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

# bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



### Session

**Moderator:** Rev. Jon Phillips

**Clerk:** Randy Cousins

**Treasurer:** Glenn Patterson

1500 S. Main Street  
Graham, NC 27215

[www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org)

336.227.4041

### Class of 2023:

Chip Allen  
Randy Cousins  
Shelby Smith

### Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell  
Kim Snyder  
Tracey Troxler

### Class of 2025:

Donna Mitchell-Ayers  
Tina Patterson  
Nancy Purcell

### Staff

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Jon Phillips – [pastor@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@bethanypreschurch.org)

Chaplain: Rick Purcell – [chaplain@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:chaplain@bethanypreschurch.org)

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – [music@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:music@bethanypreschurch.org)

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – [admin@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:admin@bethanypreschurch.org)

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – [finance@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:finance@bethanypreschurch.org)

Scan this QR code for fast, safe, and reliable online giving:



*Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation*

**PLEASE RECYCLE THIS BULLETIN IN THE BASKETS PROVIDED AT THE DOORS.**