



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

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

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October 20, 2024 – 11:00 am

*Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost*



The master said to the servant, 'Go to the highways and back alleys and urge people to come in so that my house will be filled. Luke 14:23 (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.*

**PRELUDE: #138:** *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*

REGINALD HEBER

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,  
though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;  
only Thou art holy, there is none beside Thee,  
perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING SENTENCES

Since the earliest of days, we have been reassured:

**“Victory belongs to God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”**

And so we continue to join our voices with the angels:

**“Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor and power and might be to our God, forever and always. Amen.”**

Rejoice, you heavens, and all who dwell within; the Lord is coming soon.

**“Let all who have ears to hear, listen!”**

**\*OPENING HYMN #276:** *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

THOMAS OBEDIAH CHISHOLM

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;  
As Thou hast been Thou forever will be

### **Refrain:**

Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. **(Refrain)**

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **(Refrain)**

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

### TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

**Merciful God, The weight of the world and all that is wrong rests heavily upon us. When we struggle to find hope, when we give in to despair, forgive us. Merciful God, the weight of the world and all that is wrong does not rest equally upon everyone. When we are reluctant to give up what we have, when we fail to hear the cries of the oppressed, forgive us. Merciful God, make us people of holy resistance. (Silent prayer)**

### AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

BASED ON 1 TIMOTHY 1:15

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,  
**that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.**  
Children of God, hear and believe the good news:  
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

# HEARING GOD'S WORD

## A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, we join the psalmist as we say, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105). As we hear your Word read and proclaimed today, may our hearts be illumined by your Holy Spirit. May our lives and actions reflect the light of your Word that others may follow your path, also. Amen.

## ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

### LUKE 14:15-24

PEW BIBLE, 1270

The Word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

## THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Don't forget to R.S.V.P."*

Rev. SCOTT LAWSON

\*HYMN #476: *O Worship the King*

ROBERT GRANT

O worship the King, all glorious above!  
O gratefully sing God's power and God's love;  
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,  
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,  
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space,  
His chariots of heaven the deep thunderclouds form,  
And bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.

The earth with its store of wonders untold,  
Almighty, Thy power hath founded of old;  
Hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,  
And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;  
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;  
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,  
Our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend.

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

## AN OFFERING OF OUR PLEDGES

### BLESSING OUR GIFTS

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### 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 #400: *When We Are Living*

SPANISH MELODY

When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,  
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.  
Both in our living and in our dying,  
we belong to God; we belong to God.

Through all our living, we our fruits must give.  
Good works of service are for offering.  
When we are giving, or when receiving,  
we belong to God; we belong to God.

'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,  
when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,  
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,  
we belong to God; we belong to God.

Across this wide world, we shall always find  
those who are crying with no peace of mind,  
but when we help them, or when we feed them,  
we belong to God; we belong to God.

### \*SENDING

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*\* Please stand in body or spirit.*



# Our Faith Community @ Work

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### **Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</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, October 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **October 30<sup>th</sup> The Women of Bethany Church Gathering**

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am in the Fellowship hall.

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the Month.

Consider donating your plastic and paper bags.

## This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>                      Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost  
11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>  
6:30 - Choir Practice -

Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>                      Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost  
11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)



### 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

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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)

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