



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

October 22, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost



“Then they will reply, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and didn’t do anything to help you?’ Then he will answer, ‘I assure you that when you haven’t done it for one of the least of these, you haven’t done it for me.’”
Matthew 25:44-45 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Welcome to our service of worship! Join in with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength . . . don’t hold back! Sing from your toes! Pray from your guts. Worship the Eternal Creator from your soul. It’s not about perfect music. It’s not about the perfect prayer. It’s about joining the holy roar of a community honestly wrestling with what it means to follow their Creator.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Gymnopedie I*

ERIK SATIE

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:** *Jesus, We Are Here* (see next page)

PATRICK MATSKENYIRI

Jesus, We Are Here

392

Jesu, tawa pano

1 Je - sus, we are here; Je - sus, we are here; Je - sus,
1 Je - su, ta - wa pa - no; Je - su, ta - wa pa - no; Je - su,

Leader: Wel - come, Je - sus.
Mam - bo Je - su.
we are here; we are here for you.
ta - wa pa - no; ta - wa pa - no, mu zi - ta re - nyu.

2 Savior,... 3 Teacher,... 4 Spirit,...

When coming to worship involves long and possibly dangerous travel, "we are here" voices a powerful commitment as well as a desire to build community with those who have gathered. Some of that meaning can be grasped if this song is sung in parts, especially in the original Shona.

TEXT and MUSIC: Patrick Matsikenyiri, 1990

Text and Music © 1990, 1996 Patrick Matsikenyiri (admin. General Board of Global Ministries t/a GBCMusik)

JESUS, TAWA PANO

Irregular

* CALL TO WORSHIP

We come, for God gathers us here, with that community called faith:

where the hungry are served first, where the thirsty drink life's water.

We come, for God welcomes us here into that home called grace:

where the naked are clothed in robes of hope; where the stranger is embraced as the long-lost prodigal.

We come, for God reunites us here, sisters and brothers in that family called love:

where the imprisoned model justice, where the sick are cradled in God's peace.

* HYMN OF PRAISE #210: *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

ST. ANNE

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Searcher of the scattered: where the bullies and biased have gorged themselves at cruelty's banquet, you will serve them justice for dessert. Where the wounded are turned away by indifference, you will bandage them in the swaddling clothes of hope. Where the hungry press their foreheads against the windows at Chez Plenty, you will open wide the doors, having made reservations for us all.

Bringer of justice: when we would push the outsiders further away, you pull them closer to your heart. When we would shove the next-to-nothings aside to get to the front of the line, you pick them up to keep them next to you. When we scatter our gifts, throwing them away on foolishness, you gather them up and give them back to us saying, 'here, try again.'

Spirit of common sense: as soon as we wander into the shadows of selfishness, you open the eyes of our hearts so we can see that place called home. As soon as we think we can find you only in the rich and powerful, you humble us with the grace of Jesus.

God in Community, Holy in One, gather us into your presence, even as we pray.

They are the promises stretching back into the dim recesses of time, yet as new as this very moment. When we lose our way, God searches for us until we are found. When we hurt others, God brings healing to all. When we sin, God forgives us. Let us hold these promises close to our hearts, as we confess those things we try to hide.

We stock the food pantries, but brush aside those who hunger for friendship. We give our hand-me-downs away, but overlook those whose hopes have been stripped away. We glad-hand those just like us, but turn a deaf ear to our neighbors who 'talk funny.'

Forgive us, Hope of the ages. You persistently search for us in the side streets of the world, gathering us up and bringing us home, so we may be drenched in the waters of your bottomless pool of forgiveness, watched over by your Child, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

God searches for the lost,

and finds us;

God invites the hungry to the table,

and feeds us;

God sends Jesus,

and frees us from death's prison;

God forgives all who sin,

and heals us with mercy and grace. Thanks be to God. 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 #335: *Though I May Speak*

O WALY WALY

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *Peace, from Music for the Royal Fireworks*

HANDLE

* THE DOXOLOGY:

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS AND 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.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

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 PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***Why Church? Reason Two: Real People***

Text: Matthew 25:31-46

REV. JOHNSON

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1207

LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

* **CLOSING HYMN #422:** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

BEACH SPRING

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *Prelude in F Major*

BUXTEHUDE

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



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 **Kim Mitchell-Ayers**. 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:

- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)
- *Homiletics Online* website (www.homileticonline.com)

Today, we continue on 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:

- October 15th: *Why Church? Reason One: Community (Worship)*
- **Today: 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)*

Next Sunday, October 29th is time for another **5th Sunday @ Bethany** celebration! This will include a delicious **5th Sunday Breakfast at 9:00 am**. Our worship that morning will be a little more casual, with lots of music, and will also include the Sacrament of Baptism, and welcoming of new members! Mark your calendars and join us for the joyous occasion. Anyone wishing to help prepare breakfast, please see **Ron Kimrey** or **Bobby Peele**.

The Session has called for a **Congregational Meeting** to immediately follow worship on **next Sunday, October 29th**, for the purpose of acting on the recommendation of the Nominating Committee regarding election of elders for the class of 2020, and to act on a recommendation of the Session regarding sale of the rental property across Highway 87. **The Nominating Committee** will put into nomination elders for the Class of 2020, **Chip Allen and Sandy Cook**.

Our Choir and Music Director, Chris Bagley are away this weekend participating in a retreat for small and medium size church choirs at Lake Junaluska. In their absence, we are delighted to welcome as guest organist **Bill Herndon**. Here is a brief bio: Bill taught himself to play the piano at age 4. He began organ studies in the ninth grade with Henry B. Whipple at First Presbyterian Church of High Point. He studied with Dr. Robert E. Glasgow at the University of Michigan School of Music. He's held positions at several area churches, including Lexington's Second Reformed UCC and Greensboro's Congregational UCC. A licensed electrician, Bill works for the US Postal Service maintaining industrial electrical, mechanical, heating, and air conditioning systems and operates a small handyman business serving the Triad. Previously, Bill worked with NCDOT-Rail on station improvements from Charlotte to Rocky Mount. He shares his life today with eleven rescue dogs in a 1925 fixer-upper special in High Point's historic West End neighborhood.

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
	Ruby Martin	

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: **Coolmee Presbyterian, Mocksville; Glendale Springs Presbyterian; Pittsboro Presbyterian.** Please keep these churches and ministries in your prayers this week.

TEACH Ministry: (Lead Elders: Brandon Troxler and Karen Maxwell)

The **"What is the Bible?" Book Study** meets each Tuesday (except with the Session meets) at 7:00 here at the church.

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:

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

Tuesday, the 24th:

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

Wednesday, the 25th:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 29th:

- Stewardship Emphasis Season - III
- 9:00 - 5th Sunday Breakfast
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship / with Sacrament of Baptism and Welcoming New Members

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

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love learn serve



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Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org

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Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org



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