



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

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October 22, 2023 – 11:00 am

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost



"Praise (taken at Nytrov Square in Copenhagen)," oldbrushes

Praise the LORD!

Praise God in his sanctuary!

Praise God in his fortress, the sky!

Praise God in his mighty acts!

Praise God as suits his incredible greatness!

Psalm 150:1-2 (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: *Lift Thine Eyes* (from "Elijah")

FELIX MENDELSSOHN-ARR. BY MARK L. WILLIAMS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN #482:** *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

JOACHIM NEANDER

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Praise Him in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires ever have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen sound from His people again,
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

***OPENING SENTENCES**

"PSALM 150," THOM M SHUMAN

Hallelujah!

Praise God with street rap.
Praise God with Bach cantatas.

Praise God with tattooed hands.
Praise God with arthritic hands.

Praise God with smiling eyes.
Praise God with stuffy noses and pocked filled with hankies.

Praise God in stained-glass sanctuaries.
Praise God in public houses.

Let every living, breathing,
big and tall,
short and small,
beloved creature
praise God.

Hallelujah!

Let us worship our God!

***GATHERING PRAYER**

Holy God, you alone are truly worthy of our praise.
Gather us in that together, our joyful noises may be for you
a beautiful symphony of praise and adoration,
and that in our worship, we may truly know that we are your children. **Amen.**

***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

As we come to your word this day, O God, make peace in our hearts
so that we may truly hear you, and follow you,
for it is in serving you that we find life abundant. *Amen.*

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

MARK 11:8-10

PEW BIBLE, 1232

2 SAMUEL 5:1-5; 6:1-5

PEW BIBLE, 387; 388

PSALM 150

PEW BIBLE, 781

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 #345:** *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*

JOHN G. WHITTIER/FREDRICK C. MAKER

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word,
Rise up and follow Thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee
The silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love!

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and Thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm!

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"WE KEEP YOU AT ARM'S LENGTH," TERI PETERSON

Let us come together to tell the truth about ourselves.

*You, Lord, are closer to us than breathing, nearer than hands and feet.
And yet we so often try to keep you at arm's length, even as we beg for you to be with us.
We close the door to protect our privacy, believing security can be gained by keeping others out.
We stand outside, believing you don't really invite us in... and if you do, certainly not along with them.*

*When we take a step back, insisting on both physical and emotional distance
in the name of what is proper, forgive us.
When we believe that surface relationship is plenty deep enough,
and protect your call to be fully real with one another and with you, forgive us.
When we rely on custom as a way to keep ourselves apart, forgive us.*

Close the gap between us, Lord, and show us what true love does.

Silence

Open wide the door of life, O God.
and give us courage to walk through.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

I proclaim to you in the name of our Holy 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: *Acclamation (Psalm 150)*

FROM "GOSPEL MASS," ROBERT RAY

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Hallelujah"*

REV. PHILLIPS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

"MARVELOUS THINGS," NATHAN WILLIAMS

God in heaven: *your kingdom come.*

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 #447:** *Lead On, O King Eternal*

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER

Lead on, O King eternal,
The day of march has come;
Henceforth in fields of conquest
Thy tents shall be our home:
Through days of preparation
Thy grace has made us strong,
And now, O King eternal,
We lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal,
Till sin's fierce war shall cease,
And holiness shall whisper
The sweet amen of peace;
For not with swords' loud clashing,
Nor roll of stirring drums;
With deeds of love and mercy
The heavenly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King eternal:
We follow, not with fears,
For gladness breaks like morning
Where'er Thy face appears;
Thy cross is lifted over us;
We journey in its light:
The crown awaits the conquest;
Lead on, O God of might.

***SENDING**

"GO NOW," RUTH BURGESS

Go now
Go with God's blessing
Go in justice and love.

Go now
Go and love your neighbor
God and respect the earth

Go now
Go and befriend strangers
Go and make peace

Go now
It is time
Go and walk with God. ***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: *Joy Unending*

LANI SMITH

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Saturday, November 4th 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, 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.

Tuesday, November 7th 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

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 22nd - Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

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

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

Wednesday, October 25th

6:30 –Choir Practice

Sunday, October 29th - Twenty-second 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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love learn serve



Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

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