



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

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October 29, 2023 – 11:00 am

*Reformation Sunday*



"Rehoboam's Insolence," Hans Holbein the Younger, 1530

Whoever wants to be great among you will be your servant. Whoever wants to be first among you will be the slave of all, for the Human One didn't come to be served but rather to serve and to give his life to liberate many people."

Mark 10:43b-45 (CEB)

## GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Welcome to our service of worship. Today is Reformation Sunday, the Sunday where we commemorate not only Martin Luther's posting of his 95 Thesis to the church door in Wittenberg on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1517, but the entire Reformed tradition that sprang from that act of theological critique. 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! Today's liturgy is from the World Communion of Reformed Churches, "2023 Reformation Sunday Liturgy, 'Hope and a Future,'" <http://wcrc.ch/ReformationDay>. Note that we are participating in this liturgy along with Reformed Christians all over the world today.*

### TRINITY CHIMES

**PRELUDE:** *A Still Small Voice*

STEVEN SCOTT

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #260: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God***

MARTIN LUTHER

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing;  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;  
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;  
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us:  
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,  
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth:  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,  
His kingdom is forever.

**\*OPENING SENTENCES**

***Praise the Lord!***

Happy are those who have God as their helper, whose hope is in the Lord, maker of heaven and earth.

***For God is faithful; the Lord gives justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry.***

The Lord will reign forever, for all generations.

***Praise the Lord!***

**\*GATHERING PRAYER**

"PRAYER FOR REFORMATION SUNDAY," DANIEL HAYWARD,  
(ADAPTED FROM RICHARD BAXTER'S SAVOY LITURGY OF THE ENGLISH PRESBYTERIANS, 1661)

Eternal God, infinite in power, wisdom, and goodness: Let the desire of our souls be to you; let us draw near to you with our hearts, and not only with our lips; and worship you in spirit and truth. Let your word be spoken and heard by us as the word of God. Give us attentive, hearing ears, and open, believing, understanding hearts, that we may no more refuse your calls, or disregard your merciful, outstretched hand, or slight your counsels, but be more ready to hear. Put your laws into our hearts, and write them in our minds, and let us all be taught by you. Let us magnify you with thanksgiving, and triumph in your praise. Let us rejoice in your salvation, and glory in your holy name. Open our lips, O Lord, and let our mouths show forth your praise. And let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord and only Savior. ***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 Spirit, pour out upon us wisdom and understanding,  
that, being taught by you in Holy Scripture,  
our hearts and minds may be opened to receive  
all that leads to life and holiness.  
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

## ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

**MARK 10:42-45**

PEW BIBLE, 1231

**1 KINGS 12:1-17; 25-29**

PEW BIBLE, 439-441

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 #438 (GLORY TO GOD):** *Rock of Ages*

AUGUSTUS M. TOPLADY

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee.  
Let the water and the blood  
from thy wounded side which flowed  
be of sin the double cure,  
cleanse from guilt and make me pure.

Not the labors of my hands  
can fulfill thy law's demands.  
Could my zeal no respite know,  
could my tears forever flow,  
all for sin could not atone.  
Thou must save, and thou alone.

While I draw this fleeting breath,  
when my eyelids close in death,  
when I soar to worlds unknown,  
see thee on thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee.

**HYMN NOTE:** There is a legend that Augustus Toplady was inspired to write this hymn after finding shelter from a thunderstorm in a cleft in a rock at Burrington Combe in Somerset, England in 1776. While evidence to support that story is lacking, it does provide a vivid image through which to understand the hymn. Christ and His redemptive work on the cross are like that cleft in the rock, where we can find shelter from the deluge of sin's guilt and power.

## TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

Sisters, brothers, kindreds in Christ,  
God created us good and in God's own image,  
that is true righteousness and holiness,  
so that we might  
truly know God, our creator,  
love God with all our heart,  
and live with God in eternal happiness,  
to praise and glorify God.

*When we see God's beautiful holiness,  
we recognize our brokenness.  
When we hear God's commandments,  
we recognize our failure to live in righteousness.  
When we see God's light and truth,  
we recognize that we live among shadows and lies.  
When we hear God's promises of hope,  
we recognize that fear, despair, and hopelessness grip our world.  
Let us, therefore, confess our sins and ask for God's mercy.  
Let God's words illumine us with grace and truth in Jesus,  
our Lord.*

Thus says the Lord:  
Seek welfare wherever you are,  
and pray to the Lord  
for your welfare shall be found in the welfare of the community.

*Silence*

*Merciful God,  
when we focus only on seeking our own welfare;  
when we live in fear of tomorrow;  
when we forget that your plans of welfare are not only for us,  
we become covetous, hoarding your blessings and destroying the earth, in your mercy,  
**Forgive us.***

Thus says the Lord:  
See, I am making all things new.  
It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega,  
The Beginning and the End.

*Silence*

*God of the past, present, and future,  
the brokenness of our past still creates divisions among churches,  
preventing us from welcoming those who are different from us,  
from working together for the unity of the Body of Christ  
and the renewal of our congregations.  
May your Holy Spirit set our gaze to the future with hope  
and reform our vision according to your will.  
Trusting the fulfillment of your promises,  
we are empowered to seek the welfare of all creation  
and to become your co-workers in making all things new,  
as we await for the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in glory.  
In your mercy,  
**Forgive us.***

Lord, have mercy upon us. (Choir)  
**Lord, have mercy upon us. (Congregation)**

Christ, have mercy upon us. (Choir)  
**Christ, have mercy upon us. (Congregation)**

Lord, have mercy upon us. (Choir)  
**Lord, have mercy upon us. (Congregation)**

**AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE**

Sisters and brothers, kindred in Christ,  
hear the good news!

Know that in Jesus,  
God embraces you, forgives you,  
and strengthens you to live a renewed life.  
Words of grace from the Lord.

*There is no condemnation  
for those who are in Christ Jesus.  
For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus  
has set you free from the law of sin and death.  
Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.  
The old life has gone;  
a new life has begun.*

***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:** *My Tribute (Piano solo)*

ANDRE CROUCH/ARR. BY DINO KARTSONAKIS

**THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

**Sermon:** *"Peace and Unity"*

REV. PHILLIPS

**THE APOSTLE'S CREED**

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.***

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
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.*

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSIONS

...Lord, in your mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*

#### 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 #411:** *Arise, Your Light is Come!*

RUTH DUCK

Arise, your light is come!  
The Spirit's call obey;  
Show forth the glory of your God,  
Which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come!  
Fling wide the prison door;  
Proclaim the captives' liberty,  
Good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come!  
All you in sorrow born,  
Bind up the broken-hearted ones  
And comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come!  
The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing;  
God's power will make us strong.

#### **\*SENDING**

As you leave the sanctuary today,  
may you know the hope to which God has called you,  
experience the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints  
and trust his incomparably great power for us who believe.

**\*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.*

**REFORMATION SUNDAY: OCTOBER 29**

# 1963

## A Year of Presbyterian Reform

“The churches have long pronounced, and they’ve said it ever since the New Testament was written, that we’re for a non-segregated church and a non-segregated society—but it’s been mostly talk. And during this year of 1963 it’s clear that this crisis is a national crisis and that the pattern, the segregated pattern of life needs to be broken.”

On July 4, 1963, Stated Clerk of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. (UPCUSA) Rev. Eugene Carson Blake and African American Elder Furman Templeton approached Gwynn Oaks Amusement Park in Baltimore. The pair, along with other civil rights activists, were arrested for trespassing.

Months before Blake and Templeton’s attempt to desegregate the Maryland amusement park, the 175th UPCUSA General Assembly created the Commission on Religion and Race (CORAR). The new commission would be the focal point of the UPCUSA’s concern for race relations and would work with interfaith and ecumenical groups to address racism in the United States. Headed by Gayraud Wilmore, CORAR would also design “comprehensive and coordinated strategy for direct and cooperative action.”

Blake and Templeton’s action, captured on 16mm film and available in Pearl Digital Collections, is just one of the visible acts of protest and reform enacted by the UPCUSA that year. On August 28, Blake would join over 200,000 protestors at the March on Washington where he would speak alongside Martin Luther King, Jr., and other religious and civic leaders.

For more Reformation Sunday resources, and to view the digitized 16mm film of Blake’s arrest, visit [www.history.pcusa.org/rs](http://www.history.pcusa.org/rs)



Eugene Carson Blake entering a police van after being arrested at Gwynn Oak, 1963.

 **PRESBYTERIAN**  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
The National Association of the PC(USA)



# Our Faith Community @ Work

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### **Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> 11:00am – 2:00 pm 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 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.

### **Tuesday, November 7<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

### **Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> 11:00am Stewardship Sunday - Sanctuary**

Our 2024 Stewardship Campaign kicks off today in worship!

### **Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> After Worship - Stewardship Lunch – Fellowship Hall**

Join us for lunch after worship and hear more about our 2024 Stewardship Campaign.

Your pledges are how we are able to do all the things we do as a small church, and are especially critical as we search for our next pastor.

### **Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> TBD Trunksgiving**

Introducing our drive-thru food drive. Just drive on up and pop the trunk, and we'll do the rest.

We are collecting food for SAFE Alamance. We are doing this in conjunction with our friends at Shiloh Presbyterian, who will also be collecting at this time.

### **Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> 11:00am Brass Sunday - Sanctuary**

Brass Sunday is also back! Join us for a worship featuring our wonderful brass ensemble. We will be blessing our pledges on this Sunday as part of our Stewardship Season.

### **Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm Joint Thanksgiving Service – Shiloh Presbyterian Church**

We are joining Shiloh Presbyterian Church this evening for a Thanksgiving Service.

The service is located at Shiloh, 2638 Grand Oaks Boulevard, Burlington, NC.

### **Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> 11:00am Advent 1 - Sanctuary**

Our Advent season begins with a Hanging of the Green in worship.

### **Throughout Advent - Holiday Respite - Sanctuary**

We are opening our Sanctuary to anyone who needs a moment of respite, meditation, and prayer during the Holiday Season. Pastor Jon or an Elder will be available to pray:

**Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9-11am**

**Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> – 9-11am**

**Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> – 5-7pm**

**Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> – 11-1pm**



## This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> - Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost & Reformation Sunday  
9:45 – Adult Sunday School - Bible 101 - Evie C. Marshall classroom

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

Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>  
6:30 –Choir Practice

Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>  
11:00am - 2:00pm –Fall Festival

Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> - Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost & All Saints & Souls Day  
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

### 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

1500 S. Main Street  
Graham, NC 27215

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

336.227.4041

### 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)

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