



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

October 31, 2021 – 11:00 am

Reformation Sunday



“Building the Traditions”

Anton Werner
Luther at the Diet of Worms, 1877

“Now the LORD my God has given me peace on every side, without enemies or misfortune.”
1 Kings 5:4 (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.

Today we commemorate Reformation Sunday, the Sunday where we celebrate our heritage as part of the Reformed tradition on the anniversary of Martin Luther’s posting of the 95 Theses in 1517. The insert from the Presbyterian Historical Society highlights a major Reformation event from 500 years ago. Our liturgy this morning remembers our past and is taken from John Calvin’s Form of Church Prayers, first published in Geneva, Switzerland in 1542.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *All Creatures of Our God and King*

GREGG SEWELL (BASED ON “LASST UNS ERFREUEN”)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Ps. 124:8

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

Amen.

With true and believing hearts,
let us give worship and praise to God
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

*** OPENING HYMN #457: *I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art***

ATTR. JOHN CALVIN

I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art,
my only trust and Savior of my heart,
who pain didst undergo for my poor sake;
I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.

Thou art the King of mercy and of grace,
reigning omnipotent in every place:
so come, O King, and our whole being sway;
shine on us with the light of thy pure day.

Thou art the Life, by which alone we live,
and all our substance and our strength receive;
O comfort us in death's approaching hour,
strong-hearted then to face it by thy power.

Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness,
no harshness hast thou and no bitterness:
make us to taste the sweet grace found in thee
and ever stay in thy sweet unity.

Our hope is in no other save in thee;
our faith is built upon thy promise free;
O grant to us such stronger hope and sure
that we can boldly conquer and endure.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*Almighty and ever gracious God,
since all our salvation depends upon your holy Word:
therefore grant that our hearts may be set free from worldly things,
so that we may with all diligence and faith hear your Word,
rightly understand your gracious will,
and in all sincerity live according to the same,
to your praise and glory;
through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

JOHN 2:19-21

1 KINGS 5:1-5; 8:1-13

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1292

PEW BIBLE, PAGES 426; 431

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

Brothers and sisters, let us present ourselves before the Lord, confessing our faults and sins.

Lord God, eternal and almighty Father: We acknowledge before your holy majesty that we are poor sinners, conceived and born in guilt and corruption, prone to do evil, unable of our own power to do good. Because of our sin, we endlessly violate your holy commandments. But, O Lord, with heartfelt sorrow we repent and turn away from all our offenses. We condemn ourselves and our evil ways, with true sorrow asking that your grace will relieve our distress.

Have compassion on us, most gracious God, Father of mercies, for the sake of your son Jesus Christ our Lord. And in removing our guilt, also grant us daily increase of the grace of your Holy Spirit, and produce in us the fruits of holiness and righteousness pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Brothers and sisters, you know that God, being full of goodness and mercy, loved the world so greatly that he gave his only Son, who said plainly that he had come to save that which had been lost. That good Savior has promised us that everything we ask in his name will be given us, and that if we forgive others their sins his Father will forgive our own. Believe, therefore, that when we ask God's mercy in the name of our Lord Jesus, and when we forgive our neighbor, our Lord forgives us, and, through the faith we have in Jesus Christ, our hearts are cleansed.

May Jesus, the true Savior of the world, who died for us and is seated in glory at the right hand of the Father, dwell in your hearts through his Holy Spirit, that you be wholly alive in him, through living faith and perfect love.

Amen.

* RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE #695 (GLORY TO GOD HYMNAL): *Change My Heart, O God*

EDDIE ESPINOSA

Change my heart, O God,
Make it ever true;
Change my heart, O God,
May I be like you.

You are the Potter,
I am the clay;
Mold me and make me,
This is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God,
Make it ever true;
Change my heart, O God,
May I be like you.

* SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM (1562) – QUESTION 1

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong – body and soul, in life and in death – to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready now on to live for him.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

* **A Doxology #428:** *We Give Thee but Thine Own*

WILLIAM W HOW

We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

* **HYMN OF THE DAY #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
does 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.
You 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 has 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!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.*

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Now Thank We All Our God*

WILLIAM ALLEN PASH (BASED ON HIS TUNE "MIDDLEBROOKS")

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Building the Traditions"*

REV. PHILLIPS

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN #460: *Holy God, We Praise Your Name*

IGNACE FRANZ

Holy God, we praise thy name.
Lord of all, we bow before You.
All on earth Your scepter claim;
all in heaven above adore You.
Infinite Your vast domain,
everlasting is Your reign.

Hark, the glad celestial hymn,
Angel choirs above are raising.
Cherubim and seraphim,
In unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heavens with sweet accord:
Holy, holy, holy Lord.

All apostles join the strain
As Your sacred name they hallow.
Prophets swell the glad refrain,
And the blessed martyrs follow,
And, from morn to set of sun,
Through the church the song goes on.

Holy Father, Holy Son,
Holy Spirit, three we name You;
While in essence only One;
Undivided God, we claim You,
And adoring bend the knee,
While we own the mystery.

* SENDING

The Lord bless and keep you
The Lord make his face to shine upon you
And be merciful to you.
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
And keep you in virtuous prosperity.
Amen.

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE: *Praise Him! Praise Him!*

CHARITY BOYLES (BASED ON "JOYFUL SONG")

* *Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WORSHIP Ministry: (Lead Elders: Nancy Purcell and Helen Brown)

WELCOME to this service of worship at Bethany Presbyterian Church (PCUSA). 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).

“I will show love to those who were called unloved and, to those who were called ‘not-my-people’, I will say ‘you are my people’ and they will answer, ‘you are our God.’” (Hosea 2:23) Bethany Presbyterian Church is a place where the mind is nourished as well as the spirit, and where we affirm the dignity and worth of every person. As we are all created in the image of God, we believe discrimination is incompatible with Christ’s Gospel of unconditional love. While we celebrate our Presbyterian identity, we acknowledge that we are not alone on the path to understanding God. We invite conversations that move us to seek a deeper understanding of life in the Spirit. **Be who you are and be welcome here.**

A Note About the Offering: As we have returned to worship as the pandemic has been becoming less and less a threat, we have continued the practice of not passing the offering plates at the time of the offering during our service, thus decreasing the threat of spreading germs. Instead, you are invited to make your contribution in one of four ways: drop it in the offering plate that is located at the narthex door (before worship) and in the narthex (following worship); mail it in to the church; drop it off at the church in person; or, use our quick and secure online giving platform. This can be accessed through our website, or by scanning the QR code on the last page of this bulletin. Thanks for your generosity and cooperation.

As the threat of the pandemic does ease somewhat, we are still not completely out of the woods. Recently the CDC adjusted the guidelines for wearing masks, suggesting that all persons - vaccinated or not - wear masks indoors in areas that are experiencing more infections. We will continue to urge our congregation to use their own best judgment in whether to wear a mask in worship, always remembering our hope to keep all worshippers healthy and free from infection.

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elders: Randy Cousins and Tina Patterson)

Our ongoing prayer list is below. Please let the church office know if there are any changes.

Bethany Members

Linda Abplanalp
Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Shelvia Russell
Eleanor Thompson

Christopher Bagley
Sylvia Donley
Ruby Martin
Mike Sutton

Katherine Bayliff
Henry Flythe
Joyce & Norman Mize
Nancy Sutton
Ida Whitney

Friends of Bethany

Carol Brooks
Bill Faucette
Christy Lutterloh
Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Alex Thomas
Deborah & Larry

Janie Holt Clapp
Ben Johnson
Gaynell McCollum
Norma Proctor
John & Ann Sutton
Randy Thompson

Jack Cook
Grace Johnson
Anne McDaniels
Shannon Russell
Tiffany Tauchren
Teresa Wilborn
Frank Wrenn

TEACH Ministry: (Lead Elders: Tracey Troxler and Shelby Smith)

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) - NOT CURRENTLY MEETING DUE TO COVID

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.

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: Chip Allen, Ben Russell, and Bill Abplanalp)

Elders of the Month for October are **Ben Russell** and **Bill Abplanalp**.

Anniversaries & Birthdays

- Sue and Ron Kimrey – October 12th
- Shelby and Danny Smith – October 12th

- Carolyn Thompson – October 4th
- Lila Dampier - October 7th
- Robert Sykes - October 8th
- Barbara Cousins - October 11th
- Pat Flythe - October 11th
- Salina Russell - October 11th
- Mandy Snyder- October 13th
- Lauren Kimrey - October 17th
- Lisa Donley - October 22nd
- Joan Perdue - October 22nd
- Eli Smith – October 24th
- Brenda Sykes - October 25th
- Christopher Bagley – October 31st
- Lou Crutchfield – October 31st

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (as scheduled)
- 11:00 – Worship (In-person and Live Stream)

Sunday, November 7th All Saints and Souls Sunday
Daylight Savings time ends (move clocks back an hour)

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (as scheduled)
- 11:00 – Worship (In-person and Live Stream)

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell
Ben Russell
Tracey Troxler

Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp
Helen Brown
Tina Patterson

Class of 2023:

Chip Allen
Randy Cousins
Shelby Smith

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Staff

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Jon Phillips - pastor@bethanypreschurch.org

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – music@bethanypreschurch.org

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – admin@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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