



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina
www.bethanypreschurch.org
www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

November 5, 2023 – 11:00 am
All Saints and Souls



All the angels stood in a circle around the throne, and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell facedown before the throne and worshipped God, saying,

“Amen! Blessing and glory
and wisdom and thanksgiving
and honor and power and might
be to our God forever and always. Amen.”
Revelation 7:11-12 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Welcome to our service of worship. Today we commemorate those saints in our community and in our lives who we have lost recently. 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, *Winter: Liturgical Resources for November, December, and January* (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2016); and *LiturgyLink*, <https://www.liturgylink.net>.*

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *At the Worship Hour*

EDWARD BROUGHTON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #526: *For all the Saints

WILLIAM WALSHAM HOW

For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

***OPENING SENTENCES**

"WE ARE PART OF EACH OTHER," RUTH BURGESS

Those who have died live in their friends and families,
those who have died live in you,
those who have died live in me.

Living and dying we are part of each other,
touched by eternity,
circled in love.

Let us worship our God!

***GATHERING PRAYER**

"WE GIVE THANKS," FIONA BARKER

Generous God
we thank you for the pointers and signs
that remind us of your love,
your constancy
and call to action.

We give thanks
for those wise, wonderful,
and often ordinary, people
who have altered the paths of our lives. **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

Faithful God, how blessed are those
who hunger and thirst for righteousness.
Sanctify us by your Word and Spirit
so that we may glorify you
in the company of the faithful;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 34:1-10, 22

PEW BIBLE, 688,689

REVELATION 7:9-17

PEW BIBLE, 1496

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 #364** *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*

LESBIA SCOTT

I sing a song of the saints of God,
Patient and brave and true,
Who toiled and fought and lived and died
For the Lord they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
And one was a shepherdess on the green:
They were all of them saints of God, and I mean,
God helping, to be one too.

They loved their Lord so dear, so dear,
And God's love made them strong;
And they followed the right, for Jesus' sake,
The whole of their good lives long.
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest,
And one was slain by a fierce wild beast;
And there's not any reason, no, not the least
Why I shouldn't be one too.

They lived not only in ages past,
There are hundreds of thousands still;
The world is bright with the joyous saints

Who love to do Jesus' will.
You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea,
In church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea;
For the saints of God are just folk like me,
And I mean to be one too.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

Let us come together to tell the truth about ourselves.

*Eternal God, in every age you have raised up people to live and die in faith.
We confess that we are indifferent to your will. You call us to proclaim your name,
but we are silent. You call us to do what is just, but we remain idle.
You call us to live faithfully, but we are afraid.*

*In your mercy, forgive us. Give us courage to follow your way,
that joined with those from ages past, who have served you with
faith, hope, and love, we may inherit the kingdom you promised in Jesus Christ.*

Silence

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

I proclaim to you in the name of our eternal 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: *O Great Joy in the Morning*

MAURICE L. HUDSON/ARR. BY WILLIAM H. COLLINS, JR.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Homily: *"Victory belongs to the Lamb"*

REV. PHILLIPS

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS IN SACRAMENT AND LIGHT

We will remember those who have gone on before us on this commemoration of All Saints and Souls. After the reading and naming of those in our congregation we have lost this year, we will begin our Communion liturgy. You will be invited forward to take Communion, and once you have, you may light a candle in memory of someone you have lost who you would like to remember.

A READING

ADAPTED FROM JOHN DONNE'S MEDITATION XVIII IN DEVOTIONS UPON EMERGENT OCCASIONS.

The church is catholic, universal, so are all her actions; all that she does belongs to all. When she baptizes a child, that action concerns me; for that child is thereby connected to that body which is my head too and ingrafted into that body whereof I am a member. And when [the church] buries a person, that action concerns me. All [of humanity] is of one author, and is one volume; when one [person] dies, one chapter is not torn out of the book, but translated into a better language; and every chapter must be so translated. God employs several translators; some pieces are translated by age, some by sickness, some by war, some by justice; but [the Lord's] hand is in every translation, and [God's] hand shall bind up all our scattered leaves again for that library where every book shall lie open to one another. As therefore the bell that rings to a sermon calls not upon the preacher only but upon the congregation to come, so this bell calls us all...

No [one] is an island entire of itself; every[one] is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were. Any[one's] death diminishes me, because I am involved in [hu]mankind, and therefore never send to know from whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.

The church bell tolls.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Come all who give thanks for the gift of life...
...crying into laughter

*We join hands
with the living
who are learning to love;*

*we dance
with the dead
whose vision still lives;*

*we pause
with the angels
in remembrance.*

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. ***And also with you.***
Lift up your hearts. ***We lift them to the Lord.***
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God...
...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might;
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord... Accept this living sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

For great is the mystery of faith:

*Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.*

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine... As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

Number us among your saints, O God, and join us with the faithful of every age, that strengthened by their witness and supported by their fellowship, we may run with perseverance the race that is set before us, and we may with them receive the unfading crown of glory when we stand before your throne of grace. Give us strength to serve you faithfully until the promised day of resurrection, when with the redeemed of all the ages we will feast with you at your table of glory.

The names of each of the Saints from our congregation we've lost in the last year will be read. After each name is read, the church bell will toll.

We now remember those we have lost:

Ida Whitney
Sylvia Donley
Judy Holmes

And everyone whose memory we hold in our hearts today

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

You are invited to come forward to receive Communion. After you partake, you are invited to light a candle in the memory of those in your life you have lost at any time who you would like to remember today.

COMMEMORATING IN SILENCE

After all have taken Communion and had an opportunity to light a candle, we will hold a time of silence remembering the over seven million people worldwide who have lost their lives to COVID-19.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

"PRAYERS FOR AN ALL SAINTS' COMMUNION," ELIZABETH BAXTER

Lover, beholder of my being; Lover, reaching out to me; Lover, beckoning me to love; ***You feed me.***
Jesus, calmer of the distressed; Jesus, lifter of those who fall; Jesus, carrier of the weak; ***You feed me.***
Spirit, quencher of my thirst; Spirit, companion in my loneliness; Spirit, guardian of my soul; ***You feed me.***

In solidarity with the saints ***we have shared this meal.***
In confidence with the faithful ***we have gathered our prayers.***
In faithfulness with those you ***love you have made your presence known and we have been fed. Amen.***

*CLOSING HYMN #441: *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*

TIMOTHY DWIGHT

I love Thy kingdom, Lord,
The house of Thine abode,
The church our blessed Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

I love Thy church, O God;
Her walls before Thee stand,
Dear as the apple of Thine eye,
And graven on Thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall,
For her my prayers ascend;
To her my cares and toils be given,
Till toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy
I prize her heavenly ways,
Her sweet communion, solemn vows,
Her hymns of love and praise.

Sure as Thy truth shall last,
To Zion shall be given
The brightest glories earth can yield
And brighter bliss of Heaven.

*SENDING

"PRAYERS FOR AN ALL SAINTS' COMMUNION," ELIZABETH BAXTER

We join hands of blessing
with saints and angels
beautiful and plain
wise and foolish
weak and strong

We receive a blessing
from each other
forgiving and forgiven
understanding and understood
healing and healed

This is God's blessing
to us and through us
for the earth...
and for all longing to be loved.

***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: *God is Our Refuge and Strength*

FRANKLIN RITTER

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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 12th 11:00am Stewardship Sunday - Sanctuary

Our 2024 Stewardship Campaign kicks off today in worship!

Sunday, November 12th 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 18th 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 19th 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 19th 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 3rd 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 2nd – 9-11am

Saturday, December 16th – 9-11am

Saturday, December 9th – 5-7pm

Wednesday, December 20th – 11-1pm



ALLHALLOWTIDE

HALLOWEEN + ALL SAINTS + ALL SOULS

WHAT IS ALLHALLOWTIDE?

Allhallowtide is the traditional name for the Christian liturgical season that occurs this time of year, dedicated to remembering those who have gone on before us in death. This season has been celebrated in the western Christian tradition since the 8th century from October 31st to November 2nd. This season incorporates All Hallow's Eve (Halloween), All Saints' Day, and All Soul's Day. Particularly for Christians in the British Isles, Allhallowtide brought together the commemoration of the saints and martyrs that the church has held since at least the 4th century, although at different times of the year, along with the regional indigenous harvest festival of Samhain and Germanic indigenous festivals commemorating the dead.

All Hallow's Eve is the night before All Saints' Day and historically included a variety of customs like ringing church bells for souls in purgatory, parading in the streets wearing black and ringing a bell to remind everyone to remember the dead, baking what were called soul cakes in remembrance of all the baptized dead, and carrying around lanterns made from turnips to ward off evil spirits (jack-o'-lanterns). In some contexts, people would dress up in costumes to avoid being recognized by any vengeful ghosts.

All Saints' Day, beginning that morning, is a feast day held to remember the saints and martyrs of the church. Different parts of the church celebrated in different ways, including through special worship services and the veneration of relics. Originally the adoration of the martyrs (which goes back to the 4th century) was celebrated around Easter or Pentecost and wasn't standardized to November 1st for the entire Western church until the 9th century by Pope Gregory IV. Prior to this, the celebrations were more regionally focused.

All Soul's Day extends the commemoration of the saints to all who have died in the faith. Its commemoration historically included visits to the gravesites of loved ones and prayer.

In the contemporary Anglican tradition, Allhallowtide includes Remembrance Sunday, the commemoration of those who served in the two World Wars which occurs on our Veteran's Day.

HOW DO PRESBYTERIANS UNDERSTAND ALLHALLOWTIDE?

While we as Presbyterians have not celebrated this season as much as our more liturgical siblings like the Roman Catholic Church have historically, we currently do celebrate All Saints' Day throughout our denomination. We bring together the focus on remembering the faithful departed of All Soul's into the commemoration of the saints in All Saints' as, in the Reformed tradition, we understand that *all* who are followers of Jesus Christ are the saints, not just the particular people the church has recognized as being special for one reason or another. While Halloween has become largely secular, many of its practices come directly from the Christian celebrations of the beginning of Allhallowtide, and some traditions, like our Trunk or Treating yesterday, are a direct descendant of that.

Our commemoration of All Saints and Souls today in worship is one where we remember those we have lost in our church and in our lives. We celebrate this morning the lives of all the saints, those known to the world, those known to us, and those known only to our God. Our celebration this morning remembers the great cloud of witnesses in every generation, including and especially those we lost in the past year.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, November 5th - Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost, All Saints & Souls Day & Communion

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

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

Wednesday, November 8th

6:30 –Choir Practice

Sunday, November 12th - Twenty-four Sunday after Pentecost, Stewardship Sunday & Lunch

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

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

After Worship Stewardship Lunch in Fellowship Hall

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

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