



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

November 10, 2024 – 11:00 am

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost



Who is wise and understanding among you?
Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. James 3:13

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.

PRELUDE: #138: *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*

REGINALD HEBER

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,
though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
only Thou art holy, there is none beside Thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.

The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long. (Psalm 146)

***OPENING 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.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

God is ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
Let us turn to God in honesty and humility, ready to confess our sins. (Nehemiah 9:17)

**Merciful God, forgive our systemic sins, the way we build and support and collaborate with oppression.
Open our eyes to the injustice of wealth inequality. Open our hearts to righting our societal wrongs.
Forgive our excuses, our apathy, our votes cast only for our benefit, or that of our nation's.
Help us follow Christ in prioritizing the poor and vulnerable. Help us build your beloved community
where all belong, and all may flourish. Amen.**

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

BASED ON 1 TIMOTHY 1:15

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.
Children of God, hear and believe the good news:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

HEARING GOD'S WORD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. As we approach your Word, may we be ready to receive the message you intend for us today. Amen. (adapted from Psalm 19:14)

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

JAMES 3:13-18

PEW BIBLE, 1472

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Get Wisdom"*

Rev. SCOTT LAWSON

*HYMN #420: *God of Grace and God of Glory*

JOHN HUGHES

God of grace and God of glory,
On Thy people pour Thy power.
Crown Thine ancient Church's story,
Bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil 'round us,
Scorn Thy Christ, assail His ways.
From the fears that long have bound us,
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

Cure Thy children's warring madness,
Bend our pride to Thy control.
Shame our wanton selfish gladness,
Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal,
Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal.

Set our feet on lofty places,
Gird our lives that they may be,
Armored with all Christ-like graces,
In the fight to set men free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
That we fail not man nor Thee,
That we fail not man nor Thee.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

AN OFFERING OF OUR PLEDGES

BLESSING OUR GIFTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 :** *Go, My Children, With My Blessings*

JAROSLAV VAJDA

Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are My own.
In My love's baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing, You are My own.

Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son's story; Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.
Here My Spirit's power filled you; Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.

*SENDING

May we leave this house of worship emboldened by the Spirit
redeemed by God's Grace and reminded that the Body of Christ surrounds
us to for fellowship, help and support.
May the grace, hope, peace and love of the God the Creator, Redeemer
and Sustainer be with us now and always. Amen

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Tuesday, November 12th 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 17th 11:00am Brass Sunday - Sanctuary

Brass Sunday is also back! Join us for a worship featuring our wonderful brass ensemble.

Sunday, November 24th 11:00am Stewardship Sunday

We will be blessing our pledges on this Sunday as part of our Stewardship Season.

Sunday, November 24th 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.

Tuesday, December 3rd The Women of Bethany Church Gathering

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, December 3rd at 10:30am in the Fellowship hall.

Saturday, January 11, 2025 4:00pm Organ Concert - Sanctuary

S.A.F.E. (Southern Alamance Family Empowerment)

How we can help S.A.F.E. for the month of **November**? They are asking for **shelf stable sides for Thanksgiving and Christmas meals.**

S.A.F.E. will be closed the 1st and 5th Saturday of the Month.

Consider donating your plastic and paper bags.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, November 10th Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Thursday, November 14th
6:30 - Choir Practice

Sunday, November 17th Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost – Brass Sunday
11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)



Session

Moderator: Rev. Scott Lawson

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell
Kim Snyder
Tracey Troxler

Class of 2025:

Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Tina Patterson
Nancy Purcell

Class of 2026:

Chip Allen
Jean Payne
Ben Russell

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