



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

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November 12, 2023 – 11:00 am

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost



"Chick 6 Days Old," Tasmin Cooper

How can I give you up, Ephraim?
How can I hand you over, Israel?
How can I make you like Admah?
How can I treat you like Zeboiim?
My heart winces within me;
my compassion grows warm and tender.

Hosea 11:8 (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: *Seeking the Savior*

GREGG SEWELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN #462:** *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*

CHARLES WESLEY

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Day-star, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return
Till Thy mercy's beams I see,
Till they inward light impart,
Cheer my eyes and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine;
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, Radiance divine;
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.

***OPENING SENTENCES**

PSALM 146:9

The LORD watches over the strangers;
God upholds those who are in need.

Let us worship our God!

***GATHERING PRAYER**

"A PRAYER FOR LATE AUTUMN," RUTH BURGESS

Walk with us, God,
through sharp frosty days
and bright crunch leaves
into winter.

Rest with us
by warm firesides
and tell us stories
into the night.

Take us out at night
and show us the stars
and fill us
with wonder.

Bless us and our families
our friends
and our neighbors
with love and courage.

And never let us forget
the stranger
who needs to share our wealth,
our shelter
and our hope.
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

"LIVING AND ACTIVE," NATHAN WILLIAMS

Almighty God,
your Word is living and active,
and the stories of our lives bear witness to your Good News.
We thank you for these words, of scripture and testimony.
Open us to hear your voice within these words,
and guide us as we respond in faith.
We pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

MARK 10:13-14

PEW BIBLE, 1230

HOSEA 11:1-9

PEW BIBLE, 1100

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 #304** *Jesus Love Me!*

ANNA BARTLETT WARNER

Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.

Refrain

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know,
As He loved so long ago,
Taking children on His knee,
Saying, "Let them come to Me." **(Refrain)**

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"LIMITED LOVE," TERI PETERSON

Let us come together to tell the truth about ourselves.

*Holy Love, first and last, you offer yourself to us completely and call us to your life.
Yet we are afraid, for your Way demands much of us. We confess that we are often
quick to judge and slow to forgive. We confess that we choose that which does not satisfy,
even as you offer us abundant life. When our fear overrides your call, forgive us.
When we act from our own limited love rather than your expansive grace, forgive us.
Reach down to us again, lift us up as a mother lifts a child to her cheek.
Cast out our fear and fill us with the breath of your Spirit,
that we may live the love we see in your Son, Jesus Christ,
in whose perfect name we continue to pray in the coming silence.*

Silent Prayer

Amen.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

I proclaim to you in the name of our loving 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: *Come Follow Me*

SALLY K. ALBRECHT, JAY ALTHOUSE

(The kingdom of heaven is near. As you have received, so then you must give. Be not afraid with the Lord
at your side, for Jesus died so we may live. He said, "Come follow me.")

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"A Parent's Love"*

REV. PHILLIPS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

"A PRAYER RESPONDING TO THE WAR IN ISRAEL AND GAZA," TERI MCDOWELL OTT
"AFTER AND AFTER: A POEM-PRAYER FOR VETERANS DAY," ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN

Today we will pray two prayers for peace: one for the conflict in Israel and Palestine, and one for our Veterans.

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 #425: *Lord of Light, Your Name Outshining*

HOWELL ELVET LEWIS

Lord of light, your name outshining all the stars and suns of space,
use our talents in your kingdom as the servants of your grace.
Use us to fulfill your purpose in the gift of Christ your Son.
Lord of light, as in highest heaven, so on earth Your will be done.

By the toil of faithful workers in some far outlying field,
by the courage, where the radiance of the cross is still revealed,
by the victories of meekness, through reproach and suffering won.
Lord of light, as in highest heaven, so on earth Your will be done.

Grant that knowledge, still increasing, at your feet may lowly kneel.
With your grace our triumphs hallow, with your charity our zeal.
Lift the nations from the shadows to the gladness of the sun -
Lord of light, as in highest heaven, so on earth Your will be done.

By the prayers of faithful watchers, never silent day or night,
by the cross of Jesus, bringing peace to all, and healing light,
by the love that passes knowledge, making all your children one,
Lord of light, as in highest heaven, so on earth Your will be done.

*SENDING

"A STILL CENTER," CHRIS POLHILL

Be still
and listen to the day,
touch the breeze
with the quiet in your soul.

Let the turning turbulence
of the hurly-burly rushing,
the busy dizzy people,
pass you by.

God bless you
with a quiet whisper,
which in all the day's going
keeps a calm silent center
in your being.

***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: *Bless the Lord, O My Soul*

ARR. BY FRANKLIN RITTER

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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.

Tuesday, November 28th 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, 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

This Week's Calendar:

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

Wednesday, November 15th
6:30 –Choir Practice

Sunday, November 19th - Twenty-four Sunday after Pentecost & Brass Sunday
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

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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