



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

November 15, 2020 – 11:00 am
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost



*“Make sure no one repays a wrong with a wrong, but always pursue the good for each other and everyone else. Rejoice always. **Pray continually.** Give thanks in every situation because this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

1 Thessalonians 5:15-18 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

“Perhaps we have all said this at some time in some particular context: ‘Enough is enough.’ We say this when circumstances drive us into a corner. We’re forced to say, ‘Enough.’ At that point in time something changes. But often, we are not likely to say ‘Enough is enough’ when it comes to money. Somehow, we never have enough money. Few people ever call a halt to the quest for wealth and say, ‘You know what? I have enough. I’d like to spend less time making money and more time making a difference.’” - Homiletics Online for November 11, 2018

PRELUDE: *Thanks to God*

LANI SMITH / JOHN A. HULTMAN

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

AN OFFERING OF PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*(Please take a moment to **socially distantly** share the peace of Christ with your neighbor.)*

* GATHERING SONG #333: *Seek Ye First*

LAFFERTY

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!*

*Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia!*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the Lord's Day, the day of wonder and grace.

This is the day to worship the One who calls us here.

This is the Lord's Day, the day we are given joy and peace.

This is the day promised to us, the day of healing and renewal.

This is the Lord's Day, and it has come just in time!

This is the day we gather with hope, with faith, with love!

* OPENING HYMN #551: *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.

All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.

God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.

Come to God's own temple, come; raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit unto God's praise to yield,

wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown.

First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear.

Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the harvest home;

from each field shall in that day all offenses purge away;

give the angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,

but the fruitful ears to store in God's garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home.

Gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,

there forever purified, in thy presence to abide:

come, with all thine angels, come; raise the glorious harvest home!

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-18

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Now, in the silence, when we struggle to control our lives, may we, once again, empty ourselves of our pride and fears, to be filled with your hope.

Now, in these moments, when we cannot let go of our worries and doubts, may we, once again, open our hands to hold your faith.

Now, on this day which is only and always your gift to us, may we, once again, live into your kingdom.

Now, as we lift our hearts to you, God in Community, Holy in One, we once again pray with full hearts.

When we remember all the mistakes we have made, all the careless words we have spoken, all the contempt we have given to those around us, we have trouble looking God in the eye. But God gazes at us with mercy and love, waiting to forgive us, even as we hesitate to speak of the brokenness of our hearts.

Again we must confess our struggles to be faithful disciples. Entrusted with all your gifts, we become fearful once again of misusing them, missing the chance to be a blessing to others.

Invited to dance in the light of your love, we stand against the wall once again, keeping company with our old friend, sin.

Called to be emptied for those who struggle in life, we fill ourselves once again, with scorn for the poor choices they make.

Have mercy, Journeying God, have mercy on us. Once again, open our eyes to your kingdom in our midst, so we might discover that your day of hope and grace has already come in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

This is the good news: God intends for us to find life, to embrace hope, to receive forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Servant.

The end of our journey is not rejection and emptiness, but the fullness of grace and hope in our God. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

* **RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE:** *Glory to God, Whose Goodness shines on Me*

PAUL M. VASILE

582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Capo 3: (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)
B^b F B^b F B^b F Gm F



1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
2 World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)
F B^b E^b B^b Gm7 C7



and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D) (F#) (Bm)
C7 F A Dm



and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm)(A7) (D)
Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F



As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

* SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

THE APOSTLES' CREED

As the people of God gathered in this place, who are we?

We are a community of believers, called by God to WORSHIP, SERVE, TEACH, and SUPPORT.

With the whole church, let us say what we believe. Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

MOMENT FOR MISSION: STEWARDSHIP III - SERVE

MORGAN TROXLER

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

* **A DOXOLOGY:** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

BEACH SPRING

*God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.*

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

* **HYMN OF THE DAY:** *God, We See What You Have Given*

NETTLETON / CAROLYN WINFREY GILLETTE

*God, we see what you have given; signs of grace are everywhere!
All around are gifts from heaven — gifts enough for all to share.
We are stewards of your bounty, called to give as we've received;
And your blessings have been plenty from the day we first believed.
We are stewards of the richness that you send from heav'n above.
For in Christ, you gave up greatness, humbly showing us your love.
In a manger — gift from heaven! On a cross — with love and pain!
You proclaimed we are forgiven; Now you send us in your name.
We are stewards of your welcome that you showed through Christ the Son.
In his living and his teaching, Jesus welcomed everyone.
To the outcast and the stranger, he showed hospitality!
By your Spirit, may we also give the welcome we've received.
We are stewards, sent out sharing, offering you our very best.
Through our serving and our caring may we give as we've been blessed.
God of love, may faithful living be much more than Sunday talk.
Send us loving, serving, giving; Help us daily walk your walk!*

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: *This is My Father's World*

M. D. BABCOCK / ARR. FRED BOCK

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *Pray Continually*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* **CLOSING HYMN #403:** *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

CONVERSE

*What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit; O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!
Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!
Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.*

* **SENDING**

Let us go forth to be God's faithful servants.

We will not hide our gifts but share them with everyone we meet.

Let us go forth to be the followers of Jesus.

We will not hold back our compassion, but will offer it to all.

Let us go forth to be the Spirit's hope and peace.

We will be the grace, the joy, the wonder others need in their lives.

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *Now Thank We All Our God*

MARTIN RINKART / JOHANN CRUGER



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.**

Audio Recordings of each Sunday’s sermons are available through a link on our website, on our Facebook page, or at www.buzzsprout.com/9198. A **Video Recording** of our Zoom Worship and our Facebook Live stream will be available on our Facebook page and on our website. Our **Tech Crew** serving this morning are: **Rick Purcell**, sanctuary audio and video; **John Johnson**, YouTube Live; and **Debbie Johnson**, Zoom host, moderator and Facebook Live.

We also rejoice that we have returned to **worshipping in person** in our beautiful sanctuary. Here are some guidelines to follow to ensure the health and safety of our congregation:

- **Masks must be worn at all times.**
- Please do not sit in any pews that have been blocked off. This is to make sure that social-distancing guidelines are being followed.
- Bulletins are available at the doors. They will not be distributed but you may pick one up as you wish. See the QR code to download our Interactive Digital Bulletin to your smartphone or tablet.
- The offering will not be collected but offering plates are available in the narthex. You may place your offering in the plates on your way out, or you may follow the QR code below to give online.
- Please refrain from physical interaction during our “meet and greet” time. Waves and virtual hugs are our new normal - at least for awhile!
- Although we normally encourage singing hymns with gusto, that might not be the wisest thing to do right now. Either sing softly through your mask, or hum.
- John will be at the door to greet following the service, but will not shake hands or hug . . . just an elbow bump and the knowledge that he’s smiling beneath the mask!

Resources used in today’s worship:

- *Glory to God* Presbyterian Hymnal
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)
- *Call to Worship* worship resource

Stewardship Season Sermon Series: This morning begins our four-week journey through **Stewardship Season 2020**. Our theme is **“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”** and is based on 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18. Each Sunday during this Stewardship Season one of our Generosity Team members will share a **Moment for Mission** focusing on one of our ministry areas. This morning we welcome **Morgan Troxler**. Here are the themes for each Sunday during the series:

- Sunday, November 1st: *Live in Peace*
- Sunday, November 8th: *Rejoice Always*
- **Sunday, November 15th: *Pray Continually***
- Sunday, November 22nd - Consecration Sunday: *Give Thanks*

Next Sunday, November 22nd is CONSECRATION SUNDAY. Each member should have already received a **Pledge Card** to indicate your financial commitment for the coming year. If you have not received one, they will be available next Sunday. It is always a moving moment when members come forward in a visible sign of their commitment, and place their cards on the Communion Table as an act of worship. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will not be having our luncheon after worship as is our custom. But the Generosity Team has been working hard to provide you with some surprises!

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.

Bill Faucette	Diane Miller	John & Ann Sutton
Jack Cook	Peter Slater	Ruby Martin
Joan Richardson	Joey Leake	Family of Shirley Lane
Teresa Wilborn	Shannon Russell	Ida Whitney
Tiffany Tauchren	Family of Mary Moore	Katherine Turner
Jean Berry	Barbara Cousins	Jeremy Harden
Christy Lutterloh	Pat Kennedy	Anne McDaniels
Eleanor Thompson	Mike Sutton	Alex Thomas
Nancy Sutton	Pete Campbell	Stewart Dillard
Norma Proctor	Ben Johnson	Shelvia Russell
Christopher Bagley	Grace Johnson	Carol Brooks
Randy Thompson	Frank Wrenn	Ritchie Fishburne
Frederica Beatty	Sylvia Donley	Janie Holt Clapp
Bill Abplanalp	Karen Maxwell	Family of Norman Whitney

TEACH Ministry: (Lead Elders: Karen Maxwell and Tracey Troxler)

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)

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 November are **Tracey Troxler** and **Helen Brown**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- **Stewardship Season III - Pray Continually**
- 9:45 - Faith Formation Hour (as announced per class)
- 11:00 - Worship

Tuesday, the 17th:

- 6:30 - Stewardship Dinner with Session, Staff, and Generosity Team

Wednesday, the 18th :

- 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal (not meeting)

Sunday, the 22nd:

- **CONSECRATION SUNDAY: GIVE THANKS**
- 9:45 - Faith Formation Hour (as announced per class)
- 11:00 - Worship

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Karen Maxwell

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2020:

Chip Allen
Randy Cousins
Karen Maxwell

Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell
Ben Russell
Tracey Troxler

Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp
Helen Brown
Tina Patterson

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love learn serve



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Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

Elder Emeritus: Bobby Peele

Elder Emeritus: Don Boggs

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