



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

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November 19, 2023 – 11:00 am

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Brass Sunday



"Añafiles de las Cantigas de Santa María," Alfonso X el Sabio,
c. 13th century CE

A shoot will grow up from the stump of Jesse;
a branch will sprout from his roots.
The LORD's spirit will rest upon him,
a spirit of wisdom and understanding,
a spirit of planning and strength,
a spirit of knowledge and fear of the LORD. Isaiah 11:1-2 (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: *Be Still, My Soul*

TUNE: FINLANDIA

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN #8:** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

GEORG WEISSEL/TUNE: TRURO

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates,
Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here!

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide
My heart to Thee: here, Lord, abide.
Let me Thy inner presence feel;
Thy grace and love in me reveal.

***OPENING SENTENCES**

"THANK YOU," RUTH BURGESS

Thank you
for food to share
for family
for friends
for smiles and stories.

Thank you
for good books
and music
for posters and paintings
and sculpture on the streets.

Thank you
for making me, me.
Thank you for being you.
Thanks for hope
and tears
and laughter.

*Thank you
for sunshine and snow
for stars
for moonlight
for frost on windows.*

*Thank you
for computers -
they're amazing!*

*Generous giver,
breath of life,
God of love
and surprises,
thank you.*

Let us worship our God!

***GATHERING PRAYER**

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts.
Give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,
that all people may know the glorious liberty of the children of God;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **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

Guide us, O God,
by your Word and Spirit

that in your light we may see light,
in your truth find freedom,
and in your will discovery our peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

MARK 12:1-3

PEW BIBLE, 1233

ISAIAH 5:1-7; 11:1-5

PEW BIBLE, 839;847

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF OUR PLEDGES

OFFERTORY: *Lead On, O King Eternal*

LANCASHIRE

***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 #376** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

CHARLES WESLEY/ TUNE: HYFRYDOL

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"STRANGE ECONOMY OF GRACE," THOM SHUMAN

God has a vision of a time and place where enemies become best friends, where the world is a playground for all children. But we know how we resist living in such a kingdom, for our eyes are blinded by sin.

Let us come together to tell the truth about ourselves, as we pray, saying,

***On this day we confess, God of righteousness, how we have not been your people.
When we are offered the opportunity to get between the poor and those who would shove them aside, we too easily step out of the way.
When we could stand up for those in need, we prefer to sit on the sidelines.
When we care called to be servant leaders, we chooses to act as if others should wait on us.***

Have mercy on us, Blessing God.

As we repent, we would see the kingdom which is in our midst.

***By your grace, we discover that in your strange economy of grace, all people matter;
by your love, we can bear fruit of compassion and hope;
by your peace, we can clothe others in your justice,
even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, wraps us in justice.***

Silence

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

We confess, and so we rejoice, for God has accepted us for who we are, and claimed us as God's own children.

***We lift our praise to God, who fills us with hope and grace.
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.***

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: *With a Voice of Singing*

MARTIN SHAW

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Giving Up on Gardening"*

REV. PHILLIPS

BLESSING OUR PLEDGES

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.*

***CLOSING HYMN #288:** *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

ISSAC WATTS/TUNE: ELLACOMBE

I sing the mighty power of God
That made the mountains rise;
That spread the flowing seas abroad
And built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
The sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command,
And all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord
That filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word
And then pronounced them good.
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed,
Where'er I turn my eyes;
If I survey the ground I tread,
Or gaze upon the skies!

There's not a plant or flower below
But makes Thy glories known;
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,
By order from Thy throne;
While all that borrows life from Thee
Is ever in Thy care,
And everywhere that we can be,
Thou, God, art present there.

*SENDING

As God's own, clothe yourselves with compassion,
kindness, and patience, forgiving one another
as the Lord has forgiven you,
and crown all these things with love,
which binds everything together
in perfect harmony.
Amen.

***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: *Crown Him With Many Crowns*

TUNE: DIADEMATA

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

We welcome today our guest brass musicians Ken Davis (Trombone), William Harris (Trombone), Brad Landiss (Trumpet), Charles Morgan (Trombone), David Palmer (Tuba), and Rusty Smith (Trumpet).

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 19th - Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost & Brass Sunday
9:45 – Adult Sunday School – Not meeting today

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

Sunday, November 19th –

6:00pm – Joint Thanksgiving Service with Shiloh Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, November 22nd

6:30 – No Choir Practice this week

Thursday, November 23rd

Thanksgiving - Church Office closed

Sunday, November 26th - Reign of Christ

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:

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Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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