



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

November 21, 2021 – 11:00 am

Reign of Christ



“Who Rules”

“A child is born to us, a son is given to us, and authority will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6 (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. Portions of today’s liturgy are taken from Ruth Burgess, Candles and Conifers (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2005).

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *A Medley of Thanks*

KEVIN KEIL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP

RUTH BURGESS, “THE RETURN OF THE KING”

In his days justice shall flourish, and peace, till the moon fails.

In his days justice shall flourish, and the voices of those oppressed will be heard. The poor will receive enough on which to live, and the rich will share gladly the abundance they received at the hand of God.

In his days justice shall flourish, and peace, till the moon fails.

The wolf will lie down with the lamb: the fierce will give way to the tame, the weak will protect the strong, the powerless will contain the power of the mighty.

In his days justice shall flourish, and peace, till the moon fades.

God will give judgement to the king, to the one who comes in the name of the Lord to establish peace and justice with integrity and with mercy.

Let us worship our God.

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

HENRY ALFORD

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

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 discover your peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

JOHN 8:12

ISAIAH 9:1-7

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1302

PEW BIBLE, PAGES 844

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

On this last Sunday of the Christian year, we focus on what's most important:

that Jesus, our Lord and Liberator, is sovereign over all creation and will come again

As a people seeking to follow Jesus with our whole lives, let us turn to him and tell the truth about ourselves.

Righteous God, you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all. We confess that we do not take his reign seriously in our lives and our world, living as if the powers and principalities of this world are owed our true allegiance. Our actions and inactions against neighbor and creation are indeed sins against you. We are a people fallen to the norms of the empire. Forgive us. Renew our commitments to you, and our neighbors, and all of creation. Remind us of the truth about ourselves - that we are all your beloved children. Reign in our lives, that your love may shine through us into all the world.

A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Hear the good news! Hope does not disappoint us, for God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us in baptism. Believe the good news and give thanks:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

* RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE: "ALLELUIA"

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Lord We Thank You, Lord We Thank You

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

* A Doxology: *Thank You, Lord*

Thank You, Lord.

Thank You, Lord.

Thank You, Lord.

I just want to thank you, Lord

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* HYMN OF THE DAY #155: *Rejoice, the Lord is King*

CHARLES WESLEY

Rejoice, the Lord is King!

Your Lord and King adore!

Rejoice, give thanks, and sing,

And triumph evermore:

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!

Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

God's kingdom cannot fail,

Christ rules o'er earth and heaven;

The keys of death and hell

Are to our Jesus given:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope!
For Christ the Judge shall come
To glorify the saints
For their eternal home:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

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: *Glory to God in the Highest*

DAVID SCHELAT

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Who Rules"*

REV. PHILLIPS

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

REMEMBERING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

THE THEOLOGICAL DECLARATION OF BARMEN – 8.13-15

"Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption
(1 Cor. 1:30.)"

As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the same seriousness is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to his creatures.

We reject the false doctrine, as though there were areas of our lives in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ, but to other lords – areas in which we would not need justification and sanctification through him.

* CLOSING HYMN #139: *Come, Thou Almighty King*

Come, Thou Almighty King,
Help us Thy name to sing,
Help us to praise:
Father, all-glorious,
O'er all victorious,
Come, and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.

Come, Thou Incarnate Word,
Gird on Thy mighty sword,
Our prayer attend:
Come, and Thy people bless,
And give Thy word success;
Spirit of holiness,
On us descend.

Come, Holy Comforter,
Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour:
Thou who almighty art,
Now rule in every heart,
And ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of power.

To Thee, great One in Three,
The highest praises be,
Hence evermore!
Thy sovereign majesty
May we in glory see,
And to eternity
Love and adore.

*** CLOSING RESPONSES**

RUTH BURGESS, "THE RETURN OF THE KING"

In his days justice shall flourish, and peace, till the moon fails.

Mercy and faithfulness shall meet and embrace, and the glory of God shall be revealed in beauty, in awe, and in wonder.

The King will establish his Kingdom.

The mighty hand of the king, mighty and strong in the battle with evil, shall be the hand of the healer: opening the eyes of those who are sleeping, raising people to their feet, and rejoicing in their well-being.

And the Spirit of God shall be with him

And upon his people. And they shall know that God has made his home with them. And he shall be their king and their God and they shall be his people: blessed beyond measure, made radiant in his light and at peace in body, mind and spirit. A people made whole by the return of their king. Amen.

*** POSTLUDE: *The Thankful Heart Rejoices***

EDWARD BROUGHTON

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



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.**

A Note About the Offering: As we have returned to worship as the pandemic has been becoming less and less a threat, we have continued the practice of not passing the offering plates at the time of the offering during our service, thus decreasing the threat of spreading germs. Instead, you are invited to make your contribution in one of four ways: drop it in the offering plate that is located at the narthex door (before worship) and in the narthex (following worship); mail it in to the church; drop it off at the church in person; or, use our quick and secure online giving platform. This can be accessed through our website, or by scanning the QR code on the last page of this bulletin. Thanks for your generosity and cooperation.

As the threat of the pandemic does ease somewhat, we are still not completely out of the woods. Recently the CDC adjusted the guidelines for wearing masks, suggesting that all persons - vaccinated or not - wear masks indoors in areas that are experiencing more infections. We will continue to urge our congregation to use their own best judgment in whether to wear a mask in worship, always remembering our hope to keep all worshippers healthy and free from infection.

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.

Bethany Members

Linda Abplanalp
Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Shelvia Russell
The Family of Eleanor Thompson

Christopher Bagley
Sylvia Donley
Ruby Martin
Mike Sutton

Katherine Bayliff
Henry Flythe
Joyce & Norman Mize
Nancy Sutton
Ida Whitney

Friends of Bethany

Carol Brooks
Bill Faucette
Christy Lutterloh
Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Alex Thomas
Deborah & Larry

Janie Holt Clapp
Ben Johnson
Gaynell McCollum
Norma Proctor
John & Ann Sutton
Randy Thompson

Jack Cook
Grace Johnson
Anne McDaniels
Shannon Russell
Tiffany Tauchren
Teresa Wilborn
Frank Wrenn

TEACH Ministry: (Lead Elders: Tracey Troxler and Shelby Smith)

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) - NOT CURRENTLY MEETING DUE TO COVID

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 October are **Ben Russell** and **Bill Abplanalp**.

Anniversaries & Birthdays

- Helen & Bill Brown – November 25th

- Randy Cousins – November 2nd
- Reis Smith – November 7th
- Pat Kennedy – November 9th
- Susie Hunley – November 11th
- Joyce Mize – November 15th
- Becky Eatmon – November 19th
- Nancy Sutton – November 21st
- Karen Maxwell – November 22nd
- John Snyder – November 26th
- Brandon Troxler – November 28th

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (as scheduled)
- 11:00 – Worship (In-person and Live Stream)

Sunday, November 28 – First Sunday of Advent:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (as scheduled)
- 11:00 – Worship (In-person and Live Stream)

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell

Ben Russell

Tracey Troxler

Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp

Helen Brown

Tina Patterson

Class of 2023:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Shelby Smith

1500 S. Main Street
Graham, NC 27215

www.bethanypreschurch.org

336.227.4041

Staff

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Jon Phillips - pastor@bethanypreschurch.org

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – music@bethanypreschurch.org

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – admin@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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