



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

November 22, 2020 – 11:00 am

Christ the King



*"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

Welcome to our service of worship! Join in with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength . . . don't hold back! Sing from your toes! Pray from your guts. Worship the Eternal Creator from your soul. It's not about perfect music. It's not about the perfect prayer. It's about joining the holy roar of a community honestly wrestling with what it means to follow their Creator.

PRELUDE: *Give Thanks*

HENRY SMITH

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 #354: *Guide My Feet*

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

Guide my feet while I run this race; (yes, my Lord!)

Guide my feet while I run this race; (yes, my Lord!)

Guide my feet while I run this race,

For I don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

Hold my hand . . . Stand by me . . . I'm your child . . . Search my heart . . . Guide my feet . . .

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the Lord God who looks with kindness on us.

We are the inheritors of the promises made long ago to our ancestors.

Blessed be the Lord God who gathers us here in this place.

From across the street, from halfway around the world, God brings us home to the heart of grace.

Blessed be the Lord God who has remembered us.

Scoffers and singers, watchers and wigglers, we are those redeemed by God.

* 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

Gathering God: when we have only a few pennies of hope in our pockets, you multiply us into a blessing. When the world whispers seductively to us, you tell us of your joy for us. When everyone has forgotten even who we are, you shout out our name with delight: "My Beloved!"

Dawn from on high: when we would divide people by class, by race, by age, you cast your lot with the outcasts of society. When we get lost from the muddled directions the world gives us, you lead us down that path called Peace.

Spirit of wisdom: when we grow impatient with all the trivial matters of life, you surround us with serenity. When the world puts us on the route to sin, you transfer us to the streets of the kingdom. We know that we have not lived as God hopes. But however fragmented we become, God longs to hold us together in grace and peace.

In these moments we bring to you all the ways we have not lived as your people: we stand by watching while those in need struggle to survive; we cast our lots with those who worship power and success; we offer insults rather than words of grace to those who care for us; we scoff at your words which call us to a different lifestyle.

Forgive us, God of Mercy, for not knowing what we do to you, to others, to ourselves. Speak to us through Jesus Christ, our King and our Savior, who bears words filled with your tender mercy and gracious hope.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

This is the good news: God remembers! Not our sins, not our foolish lives, not our rebellion. God remembers us - and redeems us!

God prepares the way for us - the way to grace, to hope, to new life. Joyfully, we offer our thanks to God. 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.

* **AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR CONSECRATION SUNDAY**

ALLEN AND SARA EWING-MERRELL 2004

We believe in God, Creator of the universe, Giver of every good gift, Author of life itself.

We believe in Jesus Christ, who reminded us of the coming of God's kingdom, who commanded us to care for those in need, who taught us to store up treasures in heaven, not on earth, and who gave us the example of self-giving love.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who inspires us to faithful stewardship of God's gifts, in whom we live and move and have our being, by whom all things are possible.

We believe that God has given us gifts to be shared freely and generously, in a spirit of love and joy. We acknowledge that we are merely stewards of all that is God's, caretakers of God's home. We believe that faithful stewardship is an act of worship, a means of praising God who has blessed us so abundantly. We believe that God has great things in store for us, for it is in giving that we receive. Amen.

MOMENT FOR MISSION: STEWARDSHIP IV - SUPPORT

SETH SMITH

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 #404: *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

GEORGE ALLEN / THOMAS DORSEY

*Precious Lord, take my hand; lead me on, help me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light;
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.
When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near;
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall;
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

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: *Thanksong*

PETE AND CINDY CARLSON

GLENN PATTERSON, SOLOIST

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *Give Thanks*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN #555: *Now Thank We All Our God*

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

During the final hymn, you are invited to bring forward your Commitment Card for 2021 and place it on the communion table. If you do not have a card, they are available in the Narthex.

*Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.
O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.*

* SENDING

Now, God sends us out to sow seeds,
to nurture the kingdom into full bloom.
Now, Jesus sends us out to heal hearts,
so hate, greed, and apathy are no longer a part of our reality.
Now, the Spirit encourages us to cheerfully give,
so that Christ's message of love and compassion can be spread throughout the world.

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE: *The Grateful Heart Rejoices*

FRANKLIN RUTTER



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.

“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; **Glenn Patterson**, YouTube Live; **Tina Patterson**, Zoom host and moderator; 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)
- *Homiletics Online* (www.homileticonline.com)

Stewardship Season Sermon Series: This morning concludes our four-week journey through **Stewardship Season 2020**. Our theme has been **“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 has shared a **Moment for Mission** focusing on one of our ministry areas. This morning we welcome **Seth Smith**. 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**

This morning 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 are available in the narthex. 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!

Next Sunday, November 29th marks the First Sunday of Advent: As we make our way through the season on our way to the manger, let us pause to “rediscover the significance of Christmas.”

Using the themes outlined in Adam Hamilton’s outstanding study, John will guide us through the season with a Sermon Series based on these themes, as well as a time of conversation and study during the Sunday school our prior to worship. Here are the themes and schedule:

- November 29th: Luke 1:26-38 - *Presidents and Kings*
- December 6th: Matthew 1:18-21, Luke 2:8-14, Genesis 3:1-13, Romans 7:18-25 - *The Savior and Our Need for Saving*
- December 13th: Matthew 1:22-25, Hebrews 1:1-4; 4:14-16 - *Emmanuel in the Midst of a Pandemic*
- December 20th: John 1:1-5, 9-14, Isaiah 58:1-10 - *Light of the World, Word of God, and Lord*

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:

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

Wednesday, the 18th :

- 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal (not meeting)

Thursday and Friday, the 26th and 27th:

- Church Office closed for Thanksgiving Holidays

Saturday, the 28th:

- 10:00 - Sanctuary decorating for the holidays

Sunday, the 29th:

- **First Sunday of Advent**
- 9:45 - Faith Formation Hour (as announced per class)
- 11:00 - Worship / Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

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

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



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Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org
Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – music@bethanypreschurch.org
Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@bethanypreschurch.org
Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

Elder Emeritus: Bobby Peele

Elder Emeritus: Don Boggs

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