



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

[www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org)

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November 24, 2024 – 11:00 am

*Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Pentecost*

*Stewardship Sunday/Reign of Christ*



Every good gift, every perfect gift, comes from above.  
These gifts come down from the Father, the creator of the heavenly lights,  
in whose character there is no change at all. (James 1:17 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!*

### TRINITY CHIMES

**PRELUDE:** *With Grateful Hearts*

WILLIAM BARNETT

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #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!

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*OPENING SENTENCES**

BASED ON REVELATION 1:5-6

What brings us together in this place?

**To worship Christ, who loves us,  
who freed us from our sins by his blood  
and who made us a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father.**

To him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

**Amen.**

Let's prepare our hearts and minds to worship Jesus Christ, our king

**\*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 1<sup>st</sup> time; Congregation 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

Holy Spirit, we pray that you enter into the hearts, minds, and souls of those who hear these words of Scripture. Illuminate the eternal essence of your being through our hearing of it, and through your power, transform this ink into the stuff of new life. Amen

## ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

### PSALM 93

PEW BIBLE, 738

### JAMES 1:16-27

PEW BIBLE, 1469

The Word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

## AN OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

### OFFERTORY

#### \*DOXOLOGY #579: *Glory Be to the Father*

HENRY W. GREATOREX

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.

### \*BLESSING OUR GIFTS

#### \*HYMN OF THE DAY #391 *Take My Life*

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL

Take my life, and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.  
Take my moments and my days;  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love.  
Take my feet, and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee,  
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing  
Always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips, and let them be  
Filled with messages from Thee,  
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold;  
Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect, and use  
Every power as Thou shalt choose,  
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine;  
It shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is Thine own;  
It shall be Thy royal throne,  
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee,  
Ever, only, all for Thee.

## TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

(BASED ON HEBREWS 4:15-16, BUT WITH A LITTLE TWIST ECHOING JOHN 18:33-37)

Christ sympathizes with our weaknesses. The one we call King in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

***Lord, however much we call you king, we fail to follow your call to us. We succumb to the political temptations of this temporary world, seeking power and security while you call us to service and hospitality, consuming your creation while you call us to care for it, hating our neighbors, who you call us to love. In our failure to claim you, we identify more with the nations on our passports than with your kingdom.***

***We pray that you reclaim us as your people, forgive us as your children, and continue to be our Lord and our hope for salvation***

*Silence*

## AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

BASED ON PSALM 93:5, REVELATION 1:5

Hear the good news:  
Jesus Christ loves us and has set us free from our sins.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, and by the certainty of God's decree,  
Know that we are forgiven!

***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 and Thank Him*

JEAN ANNE SHAFFERMAN

**THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

**Sermon:** *"God's Goodness"*

RICK PURCELL, CRE

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**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 #554:** *Let All Things Now Living*

KATHERINE K. DAVIS

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving  
To God the creator triumphantly raise.  
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
Who still guides us on to the end of our days.  
His banners are o'er us, His light goes before us,  
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night.  
Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished  
As forward we travel from light into light.

By law God enforces, the stars in their courses  
And sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,  
The deeps of the ocean proclaim him divine.  
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;  
With glad adoration a song let us raise  
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:  
"To God in the highest, Hosanna and praise!"

**\*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.**

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

EDWARD BROUGHTON

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*\* Please stand in body or spirit.*



# Our Faith Community @ Work

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### **Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> 11:00am Stewardship Sunday**

We will be blessing our pledges on this Sunday as part of our Stewardship Season. Please join us for lunch after the service in the Fellowship Hall. 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.

### **Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> 11:00am Advent 1: Hope - Sanctuary**

### **Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> The Women of Bethany Church Gathering**

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30am in the Fellowship hall. Lunch will be served.

### **Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> 11:00am Advent 2: Peace - Sanctuary**

### **Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 11:00am Advent 3: Joy - Sanctuary**

Our choir will bless us with a Christmas Cantata

### **Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> 11:00am Advent 4: Love – Sanctuary**

### **Saturday, January 11, 2025 4:00pm Organ Concert - Sanctuary**

### **S.A.F.E. (Southern Alamance Family Empowerment)**

How we can help S.A.F.E. for the month of **November**? They are asking for **shelf stable sides for Thanksgiving and Christmas meals.**

S.A.F.E. will be closed the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the Month.

Consider donating your plastic and paper bags.

## **This Week's Calendar:**

Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>      Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost – Stewardship Sunday

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

Lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall after the service

Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>

6:30 - Choir Practice

Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>      First Sunday of Advent, Communion & Pennies for Hunger

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

# bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



## Session

**Moderator:** Rick Purcell, CRE

**Clerk:** Randy Cousins

**Treasurer:** Glenn Patterson

## Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Tracey Troxler

## Class of 2025:

Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Tina Patterson

Nancy Purcell

## Class of 2026:

Chip Allen

Jean Payne

Ben Russell

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## Staff

**Pastor/CRE:** Rick Purcell – [pastor4bethany@gmail.com](mailto:pastor4bethany@gmail.com)

**Director of Music:** Christopher Bagley – [music@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:music@bethanypreschurch.org)

**Office Administrator:** Joy Saleeby – [admin@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:admin@bethanypreschurch.org)

**Bookkeeper:** Pam Hurt – [finance@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:finance@bethanypreschurch.org)

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