



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

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November 26, 2023 – 11:00 am

*Reign of Christ*



"Library Cobweb," [r\\_reeve](#)

As soon as the king heard what the Instruction scroll said, he ripped his clothes. "Go and ask the LORD on my behalf, and on behalf of the people, and on behalf of all Judah concerning the contents of this scroll that has been found. The LORD must be furious with us because our ancestors failed to obey the words of this scroll and do everything written in it about us." 2 Kings 22:11,13 (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, Winter: Resources for November, December and January (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2016); and LiturgyLink, <https://www.liturgylink.net>.*

### TRINITY CHIMES

**PRELUDE:** *Lily of the Valley*

ERIC LEWIS/TUNE: SALVATIONIST

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #139:** *Come, Thou Almighty King*

FELICE DE GIARDINI

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.

**\*OPENING SENTENCES**

"A NEW WORLD," LISA LOPEZ

Jesus said the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed; it starts out as a small thing, but grows and grows until it gives a home to the birds of the air.

***Can we believe a new day is coming? As surely as the sun rises over the horizon God is creating a new world.***

Jesus said the Kingdom of God is like that someone who casts seed on the ground, and then sleeps and wakes, day after day, while the earth produces the fruit from the seed that was cast.

***We do not know how God works out the fullness of redemption. But we know we are partners in that work.***

Praise the name of the Lord who still cares for the world!

***Praise the name of the Lord who leads with power and grace.***

Let us worship our God!

**\*GATHERING PRAYER**

Eternal God, you set Jesus Christ to rule over all things, and made us servants in your kingdom.

By your Spirit empower us to love the unloved, and to minister to all in need.

Then at last bring us to your eternal realm  
where we may worship and adore you  
and be welcomed into your everlasting joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **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

"SPEAK," STEPHEN M. FEARING

Come, Spirit of the Lord, and speak through us  
Send your Holy Word to be upon our tongues  
as your gospel upon our hearts.  
Speak to us, speak through us, speak among us,  
for we, your servants, are listening. **Amen.**

### ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

**LUKE 24:30-32**

PEW BIBLE, 1288

**2 KINGS 22:1-10; 23:1-3**

PEW BIBLE, 492-493;494

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

### AN OFFERING OF OUR PLEDGES

#### OFFERTORY

**\*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 #142:** *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*

EDWARD PERRONET

All hail the power of Jesus' Name!  
Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem,  
And crown Him Lord of all!  
Bring forth the royal diadem,  
And crown Him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,  
Ye ransomed from the fall,  
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,  
And crown Him Lord of all!  
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,  
And crown Him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe,  
On this terrestrial ball,  
To Him all majesty ascribe,  
And crown Him Lord of all!  
To Him all majesty ascribe,  
And crown Him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng  
We at His feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song,  
And crown Him Lord of all!  
We'll join the everlasting song,  
And crown Him Lord of all!

## TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"EVERYONE EXCEPT OURSELVES," NATHAN WILLIAMS

The kingdom of heaven is a realm of reconciling love.  
Trusting in the promise of reconciliation, let us come together to tell the truth about ourselves,

*O God, King of glory and Lord of justice,  
we confess that when we proclaim your coming,  
we are quick to envision your judgement  
for everyone except ourselves.  
You know, more than we can admit,  
how many times we have failed to serve you.  
We have ignored you when you sit begging;  
we have turned away when you starve to death;  
we have been all too happy to let your suffering go unnoticed.  
We have denied your sovereignty and exiled ourselves from the kingdom of heaven.*

*Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

*Silence*

## AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Sing with joy to the Lord,  
because our righteous judge  
is our loving Redeemer.  
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ,  
we are forgiven!

*Thanks be to God!  
By the power of the Holy Spirit  
we will live in joy and mercy.*

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: *We Have Come This Far By Faith*

J. PAUL WILLIAMS/JOSEPH M. MARTIN

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Dusting off the Old Words"*

REV. PHILLIPS

A LITANY FOR THE REIGN OF CHRIST

"FROM SEED TO SHOOT" NIKKI MACDONALD, *SPILL THE BEANS*

From seed to shoot  
God's kingdom is coming.  
***God's kingdom is coming near.***

Flourishing, blossoming  
God's kingdom is coming.  
***God's kingdom is coming near.***

From shoot to branch  
God's kingdom is coming.  
***God's kingdom is coming near.***

With wisdom and might  
God's kingdom is coming.  
***God's kingdom is coming near.***

Rooted and growing  
God's kingdom is coming.  
***God's kingdom is coming near.***

With justice and mercy  
God's kingdom is coming.  
***God's kingdom is coming near.***

With righteousness and faithfulness  
God's kingdom is coming.  
***God's kingdom is coming near.***

Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior,  
you pour out your power for the powerless  
and your salvation for the lost.

Remember us in your new creation,  
so that we may live in peace with you  
in the presence of the Holy One,  
to whom be all honor and glory,  
through you, in the Holy Spirit,  
now and forever.

We pray this and all things in the name of the One  
who taught us to pray, in the language most familiar to us:

## 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 #145:** *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart*

EDWARD HAYES PLUMPTRE

Rejoice ye pure in heart!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!  
Your festal banner wave on high,  
The cross of Christ your King.

### **Refrain:**

Rejoice! rejoice!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

Yes, on through life's long path,  
Still chanting as ye go;  
From youth to age, by night and day,  
In gladness and in woe. **(Refrain)**

At last the march shall end;  
The wearied ones shall rest;  
The pilgrims find their home at last,  
Jerusalem the blest. **(Refrain)**

Then on, ye pure in heart!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!  
Your festal banner wave on high,  
The cross of Christ your King. **(Refrain)**

**\*SENDING**

"CLOSING PRAYER," RODDY HAMILTON, *SPILL THE BEANS*

Christ is King.  
Christ reigns.  
but there in the background (can you hear it?),  
the whisper of the prophets.

Christ is King.  
Soon to be born among us,  
but let us go now  
as the year turns.

Christ reigns  
in the hopes of the people.

**\*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.

*\* Please stand in body or spirit.*



## Our Faith Community @ Work

### WHAT'S HAPPENING

**Tuesday, November 28<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

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9-11am**

**Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> – 9-11am**

**Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> – 5-7pm**

**Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> – 11-1pm**

**Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> 11:00am Advent 1: Hope - Sanctuary**

Our Advent season begins with a Hanging of the Green in worship.

**Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 11:00am Advent 2: Peace - Sanctuary**

We will have art in worship for the second Sunday in Advent.

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> 11:00am Advent 3: Joy - Sanctuary**

Our choir will bless us with a Christmas Cantata

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 11:00am Advent 4: Love – Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall**

Our service of Carols and Cookies. A kid-centric worship experience to help us welcome Christmas! Invite your families!

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 9:00pm Christmas Eve - Sanctuary**

A Christmas Eve Watchnight Vigil. Following the traditions of our mother Kirk, the Church of Scotland, this candlelight service will include Communion and conclude with our singing of Silent Night.

**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> 11:00am Christmas Brunch Church – Fellowship Hall**

The first Sunday of Christmas. Join us for Brunch Church as we continue to celebrate Christmas and welcome in the coming year.

## This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup> - Reign of Christ

9:45 – Adult Sunday School - Bible 101 - Evie C. Marshall classroom

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

Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> – First Sunday of Advent – Hanging of the Greens

9:45 – Adult Sunday School - Bible 101 - Evie C. Marshall classroom

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

# bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



### Session

**Moderator:** Rev. Jon Phillips

**Clerk:** Randy Cousins

**Treasurer:** Glenn Patterson

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### Class of 2023:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Shelby Smith

### Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Tracey Troxler

### Class of 2025:

Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Tina Patterson

Nancy Purcell

### Staff

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Jon Phillips – [pastor@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@bethanypreschurch.org)

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