



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

November 28, 2021 – 11:00 am

First Sunday of Advent: Hope



“Hearing Hope”

“I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the LORD; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope. When you call me and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. When you search for me, yes, search for me with all your heart, you will find me.

. Jeremiah 29:11-13 (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. Portions of today’s liturgy are taken from Sally Foster-Fullton, Hope Was Heard Singing, (Glasgow: Wild Goose Productions, 2013), and Ruth Burgess, Candles and Conifers, (Glasgow: Wild Goose Productions, 2005).

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Be Comforted, My People*

LANI SMITH

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

YOUNG ADULTS

We watch, we pray with hope:
for the coming of God with us
for the overturning of everything that has gone wrong
for the renewal of our lives and all of creation.

(light the first candle)

We light the first candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ
holding on to the promise of the light in hope
awaiting the very coming of hope
in the birth of a little child
to Mary and Joseph.

Let us await God's coming in hope.

OPENING SENTENCES*

I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD;
***they are plans for peace, not disaster,
to give you a future filled with hope.***

* **OPENING HYMN #2:** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

TIMOTHY DWIGHT

Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

***Holy God, our hope and strength,
by the power of your Spirit
prepare the way in our hearts
for the coming of your Word.
so that we may see the glorious signs
of your promise fulfilled;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

JOHN 14:27

JEREMIAH 29:1, 4-14

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1312

PEW BIBLE, PAGES 956

Lift up the gates eternal; lift up your voices:
The King of glory comes; the nation rejoices.

See, all the earth is God's, its people and nations;
God built it on the deeps and laid its foundations.

Lift up the gates eternal; lift up your voices:
The King of glory comes; the nation rejoices.

Come, lift your voices high: be lifted to glory;
the Lord our God approaches; come, shout the story.

Lift up the gates eternal; lift up your voices:
The King of glory comes; the nation rejoices.

Who is this glorious one, for whom we are waiting?
We wait the mighty Lord, our God celebrating.

Lift up the gates eternal; lift up your voices:
The King of glory comes; the nation rejoices.

Come, lift your heads with joy; come, lift up your tower;
the King of glory comes in full might and power.

Lift up the gates eternal; lift up your voices:
The King of glory comes; the nation rejoices.

Who is this King of glory of whom we're singing?
Our God, the Lord of Hosts, the victory is bringing.

Lift up the gates eternal; lift up your voices:
The King of glory comes; the nation rejoices.

PRAYER OF WAITING

SALLY FOSTER-FULTON, "WAITING IS PART OF EVERYTHING"

Every *second* we exist is a gift. Gone in a whisper, it will not come again... So, God of us all, we come to you and ask that you help us unwrap it, and teach us to share it, and call us to cherish it – this precious life we've been given.

And there are gifts we can offer each other: time, forgiveness, consideration... things we cannot purchase, but which are priceless. And there are lessons we desperately need to learn – about love that does what it says, about concern that changes our behavior, about this life we've been given that explodes in beauty when we understand how to give it up. During this time of Advent waiting, help us to realize that there are things that need doing now. Waiting is part of everything, but there are times when we are guilty of being stagnant.

When we withhold forgiveness, forgive us. When we withhold help or mercy or a kind word, forgive us. When we relax in our comfort zones even though it causes others pain, move us.

God upon whom we wait, wake us up.

During this time of Advent, help us to wait and watch and expect the unexpected: that the poor will be filled with good things, that the oppressed will receive justice, that you, God, and we, will intervene. We dare to expect that, because we wait on you, Lord, and waiting is a part of everything.

A TIME OF WAITING

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

As we wait upon the Lord,
know that you are loved.

* RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE: *While We Are Waiting, Come*

While we are waiting, come.
While we are waiting, come.
Jesus our Lord, Emanuel,
While we are waiting, come.

PREPARING OUR HEARTS IN HOPE

* A Doxology:

Doxology

For Advent

Em G C D7 G D G C G
Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures

5 Am Bm7 Em Am Em B7 Em A7 D Em
here - - be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise

10 D Bm G C Am D7 G D Em Bm G
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -

15 C D7 Em D G C G Am Em Bm Em
man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *With Grateful Heart*

MARK SCHWEIZER (TUNE: O WALI WALI)

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Hear Hope"*

REV. PHILLIPS

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN #478: *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven*

HENRY F. LYTE

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;
To His feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore His praises sing:

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favor
To His people in distress;
Praise Him still the same as ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Fatherlike He tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Widely yet His mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore Him:
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.

*** CLOSING RESPONSES**

RUTH BURGESS, "RESPONSES AND BLESSINGS FOR THE SUNDAYS OF ADVENT"

We walk in the wilderness searching for meaning.

May God baptize us with mercy and fire.

We walk in the city thirsting for justice.

May God baptize us with integrity and hope.

We walk toward Bethlehem seeking a Savior.

May God baptize us with holiness and joy.

And may the blessing of God, our judge, Maker, Savior, and Holy Spirit,
come upon us now, and remain with us forever. ***Amen.***

*** POSTLUDE: *Fling Wide the Door***

HENRY BALCOMBE/J.A. FREYLINGHAUSEN

** 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
Cindy Uzzo

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 November are **Nancy Purcell and Shelby Smith.**

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, December 5th - Second 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

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Staff

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Jon Phillips

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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