



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

December 4, 2022 – 11:00 am

Advent 2: Peace



"Shalom - Graffiti," Ze'ev Barkan

"But who knows? Maybe it was for a moment like this that you came to be part of the royal family."
Esther 4:14b (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: Liturgical Resources for November, December and January* (Glasgow: Wild Goose Productions, 2016).*

*During Advent we will be working on art together! You are invited to come forward at any point in the service and participate in the *décollage* we are creating. We will be tearing pieces from holiday ads and catalogues and adhering them to the base in the areas that are prepared (painted) for today. After the fourth Sunday of Advent, our work will be complete and our artist will touch things up and finalize the image, which we will display in the sanctuary throughout the Christmas season.*

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Be Comforted, My People*

LANI SMITH

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

"AS WE WAIT," JOAN REPPERT

As we wait for the gift of the Christ child,
as we pray for the ways we can give,
let us light this candle of peace,
and live as God wants us to live.

***LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE**

"ADVENT WREATH CEREMONY," TERI CAROL PETERSON

In the beginning was the Word –
spoken and breathed,
a promise made and kept.
***Speak it loud and clear –
God's promise is true!***
The Word was in the beginning,
and through him all things came into being.
***Eternal and near at hand,
already and not yet,
God's promise is the foundation of all life.***
Don't hold back!
Speak out, giving voice to God's peace that passes all understanding.

First two candles are lit

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

CHARLES WESLEY

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

PSALM 27: 5-6

Wait for the Lord

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 683

Taize Community

Refrain: *(sung 2x)*

Wait for the Lord,
whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord;
be strong; take heart!

For on the day of trouble the LORD shall shelter me in safety;
The LORD shall hide me in the secrecy of the holy place and set me high upon a rock.
Even now the LORD lifts up my head above my enemies round about me.

Therefore I will offer in the holy place an oblation with sounds of great gladness;
I will sing and make music to the LORD.

Refrain: *(sung 2x)*

Wait for the Lord,
whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord;
be strong; take heart!

ESTHER 4:1-17

PEW BIBLE, PAGES 619

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"PRAYER OF APPROACH AND ADORATION," LOUISE GOUGH

RESPONSE: *Da Pacem Cordium (Choir first time, then All 2x)*
Give peace to every heart.
Give peace to every heart.
Give pea-ce Lord.
Give pea-ce Lord.

Loving God,
in this season of excitement and weariness
open our hearts to your presence,
for we know you meet us and hold us:
in and beyond the busyness
in and beyond the glitter
in and beyond the rush.
When we are tired and frayed,
when we lose sight of what it's all about,
when we put ourselves first
and forget that you come to bring love,
come close and restore us
and forgive us, we pray.

Loving God,
mend our broken hearts
and help us to know
ourselves forgiven and loved.
In our thankfulness

help us to wait
and to watch for you,
faithfully and truly all our days. **Amen.**

A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE: *Da Pacem Cordium (All, sung 3x)*

Give peace to every heart.
Give peace to every heart.
Give pea-ce Lord.
Give pea-ce Lord.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *The Next Time He Comes (with Hallelujah, What a Savior!)*

PHIL BARFOOT/REBECCA J. PECK ARR. BY DAVE WILLIAMSON

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Peace for Such a Time As This"*

REV. PHILLIPS

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Hallelujah! The Lord our God Almighty reigns!
Let us rejoice and exult and give God the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come.
***Blessed are those who are invited
to the marriage supper of the Lamb.***

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. ***And also with you.***
Lift up your hearts. ***We lift them to the Lord.***
Let us give thanks to God our Maker
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy...
... who forever sing to the glory of your name:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might;
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.***

You are holy, O God of majesty,
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son...

...For great is the mystery of faith:
***Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.***

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

These are the gifts of God, for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

"INTERCESSIONS FOR ADVENT," KATHY CRAWFORD

Come, Lord Jesus,
into the shadows of our world;
a world where there is injustice, racial tension, and war,
where many people still lack the basics of food and clean water.

Come, Lord Jesus,
into the uncertain future of migrants
who risk everything to escape atrocities
yet know that they could still end up paying with their lives.

Come, Lord Jesus,
into our communities,
where many are struggling with debt
and food banks have become a lifeline for those in need.

Come, Lord Jesus,
into the shadows of our cities
where greed and discrimination
make misery in people's lives.

Come, Lord Jesus,
into our lives
and into the lives of those for whom we are concerned.

Bring comfort to the bereaved
and those who are struggling to cope with life on their own.

Come, Lord Jesus,
give reassurance where there is fear,
and confidence where there is doubt.
Wherever people are hurting,
come and let your light shine. **Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN #7: *Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth*

WALTER RUSSELL BOWIE

Lord Christ, when first you came to earth,
Upon a cross they bound you,
And mocked your saving kingship then
By thorn with which they crowned you;
And still our wrongs may weave you now
New thorns to pierce that steady brow,
And robe of sorrow round you.

O wondrous love, which found no room
In life, where sin denied you,
And, doomed to death, must bring to doom
The power which crucified you,

Till not a stone was left on stone,
And all a nation's pride, o'erthrown,
Went down to dust beside you.

New advent of the love of Christ,
Shall we again refuse you,
Till in the night of hate and war
We perish as we lose you?
From old unfaith our souls release
To seek the kingdom of your peace
By which alone we choose you.

O wounded hands of Jesus, build
In us your new creation;
Our pride is dust, our vaunt is stilled,
We wait your revelation.
O Love that triumphs over loss,
We bring our hearts before your cross;
Come, finish your salvation.

***SPOKEN CHARGE**

Prepare the way of the Lord! *Thanks be to God.*

POSTLUDE: *The Angel's Trumpet*

DENNIS ELIOT

* *Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

November 20th – December 18th - Bethany Angel Tree 2022

The Angel Tree will be up and loaded. This year we will be adopting Alamance Eldercare and Alamance Meals on Wheels clients. Please see handout for all the details.

November 27th – December 18th Advent Book Study

Join us for our 2022 Advent Study with *Holy Disruption: Discovering Advent in the Gospel of Mark* by Tracy S. Daub. We will meet every Sunday in Advent during the Sunday School hour beginning on November 27th (Advent 1). Books will be available from the office for \$11. Please register online (<https://www.bethanypreschurch.org/advent-devotional-2022.html>) or through the office by the Monday, November 7th to ensure we have a book for you.

Please come prepared to discuss the first chapter on November 27th. They are pretty short and our discussions will be based on the reading. We will meet at 9:45 in the Fellowship Hall.

November 27th – December 18th Advent

Let Joy or me know if you're interested in being a candle lighter or reader in the Advent season

December 17th – 2022 BLUE CHRISTMAS DAY OF PRAYER

Our sanctuary chapel will be open to the public on Saturday, December 17th from 9am to 9pm for prayer.

The holidays are a time of great joy and celebration for many. However, for a lot of people, they can also be overwhelming, stressful, depressing, and a reminder of those who we have lost.

You are invited to come and pray and experience a space of quiet respite and sanctuary in the midst of all the holiday busyness.

We are looking for people to help us do this - one person to act as a host who will help people get to the sanctuary and one person who will sit in the sanctuary and pray with people as requested. The sign up is in the Narthex. Talk to Pastor Jon if you have any questions

Scouts Looking for Storage Space

Pack and Troop 9 Scouts are looking for a Donor to provide a 1,000 Sq foot storage type building, or warehouse, to store the following Scout Equipment:

2 camping trailers , 1 sailboat (Sailing Merit Badge), 1 demo car (Automotive Merit Badge).

Space needed for security and protection from the weather.

Feel free to contact:

Jeff Benes - Committee Chair Cub Pack 9 & Troops 9

(336) 675-9086 cell

benes.nc@att.net

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

Sunday, December 4th – Advent 2: Peace
Communion

9:45 – Advent Book Study in Fellowship Hall
11:00 – Worship (In-Person inside & Live Stream)

Wednesday, December 7th
6:30 – Hand Bell & Choir Practice

Sunday, December 11th – Advent 3: Joy

9:45 – Advent Book Study in Fellowship Hall
11:00 – Worship (In-Person inside & Live Stream)

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love learn serve



Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

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Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp
Helen Brown
Tina Patterson

Class of 2023:

Chip Allen
Randy Cousins
Shelby Smith

Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell
Kim Snyder
Tracey Troxler

Staff

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

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