



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

December 5, 2021 – 11:00 am

Second Sunday of Advent: Peace



“Speak Peace”

“You will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and raise you up from your graves, my people. I will put my breath in you, and you will live. I will plant you on your fertile land, and you will know that I am the LORD. I’ve spoken, and I will do it.”
Ezekiel 37:13-14 (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: *Song of the Watchman*

EDWARD GRIEG

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

MITCHELL-AYERS FAMILY

We watch, we pray in peace:
for the coming of God with us
for peace among all nations and all peoples
for peace in our hearts, and our minds

(light the first and second candles)

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

Let us await God's coming in peace.

*** OPENING SENTENCES**

*"I will put my breath in you,"
says the LORD "and you will live.
I will plant you on fertile land,
and you will know that I am the LORD."*

*** OPENING HYMN #8: *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates***

GEORG WEISSEL

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates,
Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here!

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide
My heart to Thee: here, Lord, abide.
Let me Thy inner presence feel;
Thy grace and love in me reveal.

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 11:25-26

EZEKIEL 37:1-14

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1307

PEW BIBLE, PAGES 1052

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
Let There Be Peace on Earth
The peace that was meant to be

With God as our Father
Brothers all are we
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.

With ev'ry step I take
Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment and live
Each moment in peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me

PRAYER OF WAITING

SALLY FOSTER-FULTON, "THERE IS A VOICE CRYING OUT"

There is a voice crying out... Whose will we hear calling in the wilderness?

God of love, let that be the voice of peace – making straight our paths and giving us purpose; clearing the rubble of anger and prejudice that keeps us stumbling; building bridges of compassion where we find ourselves cut off and bewildered; finding ways to get through, move beyond, to forge ahead.
Peace has a powerful voice – let that be heard in the world's wilderness.

There is a voice crying out... Whose will we hear calling in the wilderness?

God of peace, let it be the voice of forgiveness – gathering us gently in its arms, washing us warmly in its calm, holding us sacredly in its hopefulness.
Forgiveness has the sound of sense about it in a world that so desperately needs to hear it.
May we open the ears of our hearts to her voice this day.

There is a voice crying out... Whose will we hear calling in the wilderness?

God of forgiveness, let it be the voice of justice – asking awkward questions, not taking no for an answer, not being satisfied with excuses and ineffectual mumblings.
Justice has the edge of persistence about it. Keep it coming, because we have stubborn ears.

God, it is said that people are like grass: they wither and fade -

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*

(Choir will sing through once and then congregation join in)

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

PREPARING OUR HEARTS IN PEACE

DONA NOBIS PACEM (GIVE US PEACE)

Dona nobis pacem, pacem.
Dona nobis pacem.

(Repeat as chant)

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 - jice! Re - jice! 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: *Advent Meditation (Incorporating DONA NOBIS PACEM)*

PATRICK M. LIEBERGEN

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Speak Peace"*

REV. PHILLIPS

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN #11: *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

PAUL GERHARDT

O Lord, how shall I meet You,
How welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet You,
My Hope, my heart's Delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy,
A lamp within my breast,
To do in spirit lowly
All that may please You best.

Love caused Your incarnation,
Love brought You down to me;
Your thirst for my salvation
Procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling,
That led you to embrace
In love all loves excelling
Our lost and fallen race.

A glorious crown You give me,
A treasure safe on high,
That will not fail nor leave me
As earthly riches fly.
My heart shall bloom forever
For You with praises new,
And from Your Name shall never
Withhold the honor due.

* CLOSING RESPONSES

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

We are pilgrims always journeying homewards.

May God walk with us along the roads.

We look for peace and cry for justice

May God make us peacemakers all our days.

We wait and long for the coming of Jesus.

May God fill us with wonder and with great hope.

May the Bright God of Peace bless us,

Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

* POSTLUDE: *Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall Come*

EDWARD GRIEG

* *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

Christopher Bagley
Sylvia Donley
Ruby Martin
Mike Sutton
Ida Whitney

Katherine Bayliff
Henry Flythe
Joyce & Norman Mize
Nancy Sutton

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 December are **Chip Allen** and **Tracey Troxler**.

Anniversaries & Birthdays

- Carolyn & Glenn Thompson – December 14th
- Anna Osborne – December 5th
- Henry Flythe – December 12th
- Brent Dampier – December 14th
- Erick Russell – December 23rd
- Pam Hurt – December 31st

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (as scheduled)
- 11:00 – Worship (In-person and Live Stream)

Sunday, December 12th - Third 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 – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org

Chaplin: Rick Purcell – chaplin@bethanypreschurch.org

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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