



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

December 6, 2020 – 11:00 am

Second Sunday of Advent



“As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”
Matthew 1:20-21 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Welcome to our service of worship! Join in with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength . . . don’t hold back! Sing from your toes! Pray from your guts. Worship the Eternal Creator from your soul. It’s not about perfect music. It’s not about the perfect prayer. It’s about joining the holy roar of a community honestly wrestling with what it means to follow their Creator.

PRELUDE: *Chant du Berger (Shepherd’s Song)*

GUSTAV MERKEL / ARR. LANI SMITH

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

AN OFFERING OF PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*(Please take a moment to **socially distantly** share the peace of Christ with your neighbor.)*

* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE AND CALL TO WORSHIP

We re-light this candle for Hope!

But why are we lighting a second candle?

We light a second candle for Peace!

And His name shall be called “Prince of Peace.”

Angels sang at His birth: Peace on earth, goodwill to all!

Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers. They shall be called children of God!”

[The Candle of Peace is lit.]

Sung to the tune of “The First Nowell”

*We gather ‘round in hope and faith
Looking for the savior for whom we pray.
We pray that we will see him near*

*Bringing forth life and justice for all in fear.
The candles glow, showing us God's light / Calling us forward, united in Christ.*

*We gather 'round so weary for peace
Hearing anger and distrust that will not cease –
Not cease 'til the day we reach out with grace
And see each as God's child for us to embrace.
The candles glow, showing us God's light / Calling us forward, united in Christ.*

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

HYFRYDOL

*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

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 1:18-21

LUKE 2:8-14

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

May these be the days when those who view the world differently may have fellowship together in peace; when people of all faiths and none will offer safety to each other.

May these be the days when bullies and the tormented will serve side by side at the shelter; when little ones will show grownups the paths we have forgotten to follow.

May these be the days when justice will put on the tool belt filled with faithfulness, peace, and healing; when the most vulnerable around us will shower us with a harvest of hope.

May these be the days, God in Community, Holy in One, when we will discover how near is your kingdom.

All too often, we believe God's vision of justice and peace is only for us, not those around us. We are sure others need to be cleansed and forgiven, but not us. Let us seek to live as if, indeed, the kingdom is coming near, as we offer our prayers to the One who calls us to Advent living.

Goodness Incarnate, we must confess that we have not lived as your children. We muddy the clear waters of baptism with the waste of walking over those we claim we love. We sit in our lonely lives feasting on bitterness, when we could be feasting with those we are told not to trust. We wait for all our desires to be taken care of by you, while you hope we would fill the lives of others with your hope and peace.

Forgive us, God of this holy season, and help us to be as willing to draw near to others, so we might heal their brokenness, touch their loneliness, embrace their grief, and love them as you did when you came to us so long ago, as well as in these moments, in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Here is the good news: speak with the whispers of hope until it silences despair; sing the carols of compassion until all join in the chorus; shower others with wonder and delight and join in God's dance of grace.

Thanks be to God. We are forgiven! So, let us welcome others with open arms, just as we have been embraced in God's love and laughter. Amen.

* **RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #23:** *Angels We Have Heard on High* (refrain only)

GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

* **SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE**

ADAPTED FROM CONFESSION OF 1967

As the people of God gathered in these places, who are we?

We are a community of believers, called by God to WORSHIP, SERVE, TEACH, and SUPPORT.

With the whole church, let us say what we believe.

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

* **A DOXOLOGY:** *What Child Is This*

GREENSLEEVES

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own Him.

The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

HYMN OF THE DAY #43: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

FOREST GREEN

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.

*Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.*

*O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.*

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.*

*No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.*

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.*

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS AND 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.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *All Good Gifts*

STEPHEN SCHWARTZ / J. TEBELAK

BETHANY CHOIR / SYLVESTER ALLEN, SOLOIST

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***The Savior and Our Need for Saving***

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN #12: *People, Look East*

BESANCON

*People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.
Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Bird, is on the way.
Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.
Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

* SENDING

On this pilgrimage of uncertainty,
may we remember God has walked this road many times before.
As we live through these endless moments,
may we remember Jesus shares hope with us every day, every day.
In this season filled with isolation from others,
may we remember that the Spirit knows our loneliness and cradles us in love.

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE: *Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall Come*

JAMES DENTON



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.**

Audio Recordings of each Sunday’s sermons are available through a link on our website, on our Facebook page, or at www.buzzsprout.com/9198. A **Video Recording** of our Zoom Worship and our Facebook Live stream will be available on our Facebook page and on our website. Our **Tech Crew** serving this morning are: **Rick Purcell**, sanctuary audio and video; **Glenn Patterson**, YouTube Live; **Tina Patterson**, Zoom host and moderator; and **Debbie Johnson**, Zoom host, moderator and Facebook Live.

Resources used in today’s worship:

- *Glory to God* Presbyterian Hymnal
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)
- *Homiletics Online* (www.homileticsonline.com)

Please note that even though our Stewardship Season culminated with our wonderful Consecration Sunday worship two weeks ago, **Pledge Cards** are still being received in the church office. If you have not had an opportunity to submit your card, please do so as soon as possible so that plans for the coming year can proceed. You may mail your card in to the office (care of Pam Hurt), bring it by in person, or submit a secure pledge card online through our website. Thanks to all for your continued support for the ministry and mission of Bethany Presbyterian.

Today marks the Second Sunday of Advent: As we make our way through the season on our way to the manger, let us pause to “rediscover the significance of Christmas.”

Using the themes outlined in Adam Hamilton’s outstanding study, John is guiding us through the season with a Sermon Series based on these themes, as well as a time of conversation and study during the Sunday school our prior to worship. Here are the themes and schedule:

- November 29th: Luke 1:26-38 - *Presidents and Kings*
- **December 6th: Matthew 1:18-21, Luke 2:8-14, Genesis 3:1-13, Romans 7:18-25 - *The Savior and Our Need for Saving***
- December 13th: Matthew 1:22-25, Hebrews 1:1-4; 4:14-16 - *Emmanuel in the Midst of a Pandemic*
- December 20th: John 1:1-5, 9-14, Isaiah 58:1-10 - *Light of the World, Word of God, and Lord*

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.

Bill Faucette
Jack Cook
Joan Richardson
Teresa Wilborn
Tiffany Tauchren
Jean Berry

Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Joey Leake
Shannon Russell
Family of Mary Moore
Barbara Cousins

John & Ann Sutton
Ruby Martin
Family of Shirley Lane
Ida Whitney
Katherine Turner
Jeremy Harden

Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Christopher Bagley
Randy Thompson
Frederica Beatty
Bill Abplanalp

Pat Kennedy
Mike Sutton
Pete Campbell
Ben Johnson
Grace Johnson
Frank Wrenn
Sylvia Donley
Karen Maxwell

Anne McDaniels
Alex Thomas
Stewart Dillard
Shelvia Russell
Carol Brooks
Ritchie Fishburne
Janie Holt Clapp
Family of Norman Whitney

TEACH Ministry: (Lead Elders: Karen Maxwell and Tracey Troxler)

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)

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 **Tina Patterson**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- **Second Sunday of Advent**
- 9:45 - *Incarnation* Study Series (online only)
- 11:00 - Worship (online only)

Wednesday, the 9th :

- 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal (not meeting)

Sunday, the 13th:

- **Third Sunday of Advent**
- 9:45 - *Incarnation* Study Series (online only)
- 11:00 - Worship (online only)

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Karen Maxwell

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2020:

Chip Allen
Randy Cousins
Karen Maxwell

Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell
Ben Russell
Tracey Troxler

Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp
Helen Brown
Tina Patterson

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love learn serve



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Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org
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Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@bethanypreschurch.org
Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

Elder Emeritus: Bobby Peele

Elder Emeritus: Don Boggs

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Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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