



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

December 10, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent



“When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David’s house. The virgin’s name was Mary. When the angel came to her, he said, ‘Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!’”
Luke 1:26-28 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Zechariah freaked out when the other-worldly creature appeared to him. But Mary was simply “perplexed.” Why would such an incredible message come to a common girl just barely a woman? Then her reply to such a foretelling about her purpose in life was also simple: “Let it be so.” Have you ever struggled with finding your purpose and being at peace with it? Or are you yearning for more peace in your life and relationships? #morepeace in the world happens when all of us feel #morepeace within ourselves and live out that message each day.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Lo, How a Rose*

E. LEWIS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THRESHOLD MOMENT

Each Sunday in Advent our service will begin with a Threshold Moment. There will be some introductory words, the procession of the Advent Candle, and a choral introduction from the choir, followed by the sung congregational response “Do Not Be Afraid.” (see next page)

Score

Do Not Be Afraid

worshipdesignstudio.com/angels

Marcia McFee and Chuck Bell

Arranged by Chuck Bell

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody starts on G4 (labeled with a * above the staff), moves to F4, then E4, and then D4. The lyrics 'Do not be a - fraid.' are written below the notes. A double bar line follows, and the melody continues with G4, F4, E4, and D4. The second staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It starts with a measure rest (labeled with a '5' below the staff), then moves to G4 (labeled with a * above the staff), F4, E4, and D4. The lyrics 'Do not be a - fraid.' are written below the notes. A double bar line follows, and the melody continues with G4, F4, E4, and D4. The lyrics 'Do not be a - fraid.' are written below the notes.

* PRAYER, CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

Holy living God, blessed Jesus, guiding Spirit,

Alight within us your flame of peace this day.

[Advent Candle of Peace is lit.]

Grant us courage to be your messengers in the world, creating more peace in the midst of fear.

And with the angel messengers above us, among us, and within us, we sing:

[Sing "Do Not Be Afraid" refrain above.]

* OPENING HYMN #19: *To a Maid Engaged to Joseph*

ANNUNCIATION

AN OFFERING OF PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

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

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

God comes! Let us prepare the way. God comes to forgive us! Let us prepare our hearts as we confess our sins, saying,

We confess that whatever our fine might have been that it has been paid, yet we still insist on earning our way into your heart. We confess that you are beyond patient with us, but wish you would act quickly against those who hurt us. We confess that while your word will stand forever, it is our words of pain and anger that cause long term harm to others.

Your Messenger has come, crying out of your forgiveness and hope. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, you speak to us: not of punishment, but of peace; not of judgment, but of justice; not of a sentence, but salvation. And we offer our hearts in thanksgiving and hope.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Hear the Good News God speaks to you: I love you; I forgive you; I restore you to new life.

We will not ignore the fact that God comes: not to condemn, but to comfort us; not to scold, but to speak tenderly to us of hope, of love, of joy. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*** RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #40:** *Joy to the World!*

ANTIOCH

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.*

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *Emmanuel*

B. MCGEE / ARR. F. BOCK

*** A DOXOLOGY:** *(to the tune of O Come, O Come Emmanuel)*

VENI EMMANUEL

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all Spirit messengers below.
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

[Choral refrain to call us to prayer.]

In this moment, we pray for all those who are in need of peace.

[You are invited to name aloud the names of people and places that are in need of peace this day.]

We hear the message of God,

Do not be afraid.

In this moment we give thanks for all the ways we have experienced God's presence among us, in the words and actions that bring peace in the midst of fear.

[You are invited to turn your attention to the screen where there will be images of people giving aid, peaceful actions of protest, and visible examples of peace.]

For all who proclaim your reign on earth, we join their refrain,

Do not be afraid.

[Pastoral Prayer, followed by 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.

[Choral refrain to bring our prayers to an end.]

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG (@ HEART) / MOMENT FOR MISSION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION #53: *What Child Is This*

GREENSLEEVES

*What Child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!*

THE WORD SPOKEN: Luke 1:26-56 (adapted from *The Voice* translation)

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Canticle of the Turning* (paraphrase of Luke 1:46-58 – Magnificat)

R. COONEY / ARR. A. ORGAN

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the one who waits.*

You fixed your sight on the servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.

Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, And the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me.

And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.

Your very name puts the proud to shame, and those who would for you yearn,

You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.

Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.

The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;

There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:

God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.

This saving word that our forbears heard is the promise that holds us bound,

'Til the spear and rod be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. (Refrain)

THE WORD PROCLAIMED: NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE: #MOREPEACE

REV. JOHNSON

LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

* **CLOSING WORDS**

* **CLOSING HYMN #38:** *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

CAROL

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Score

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worshipdesignstudio.com/angels

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* **POSTLUDE:** *Light of Lights, Lord of Lords*

T. BIRCHWOOD

* *Those who are able may stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WORSHIP Ministry: (Lead Elders: Nancy Purcell and A. J. Campbell)

WELCOME to this service of worship at Bethany Presbyterian Church. 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.

Operating our audio and video systems this morning is **Rick Purcell**. Anyone wishing to join this team of volunteers please contact the church office at any time.

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.

Resources used in this morning's worship:

- *Worship Design Studio* (www.worshipdesignstudio.com)
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)
- *Homiletics Online* website (www.homileticonline.com)

If you have not submitted your **Pledge Card** for 2018, please do so at your earliest convenience. They can be brought by the church office at any time, or mailed to the church to the attention of Pam Hurt. Thank you for your continued support of the mission and ministry of Bethany Presbyterian!

Our **Advent worship series "Angels Among Us"** continues today. This will be an engaging and creative look at Advent, so you don't want to miss any Sunday. Here are the dates and themes:

- Advent 1 – December 3rd: Luke 1:5-25, 57-80 – **Make Ready a People: #morehope**
- **Advent 2 – Today: Luke 1:26-56 – Nothing is Impossible: #morepeace**
- Advent 3 – December 17th: Matthew 1:18-25 – **Do Not Be Afraid: #morejoy**
- Advent 4/Christmas Eve – December 24th: Luke 2:1-20 – **This Will Be a Sign: #morelove** (NOTE: Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year. The Sunday morning service will be a special Christmas presentation by our choir, while our 5:00 Christmas Eve Service will be our traditional service of communion and candle lighting, with the theme as noted above.)
- Sunday after Christmas – December 31st: Matthew 2:1-23 – **Get Up and Go: #morelife**

Do you have a smartphone? Are you on Facebook? If so, take a moment to **"check in" on Facebook**, letting your friends know that you are here at Bethany Presbyterian Church! It may seem like a small thing, but in reality, it is a wonderful message of evangelism and witness, as you let the cyber-world know what is important to you.

To the parents of young children: Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel that you must suppress those wiggles in God's house. **Please note that a professionally staffed nursery is available during the worship hour.** Here are some hints to make worship with your children more rewarding:

- Consider sitting towards the front where it is easier for little ones to engage. On the second pew nearest the choir loft, there are activities for children of all ages to keep busy with during the service.
- Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, musicians, and leaders.
- Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behavior by mimicking you.
- If you have to leave the sanctuary with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me!"
- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

- **To adult worshippers:** The presence of children is a gift to the church and they are a reminder that our church is growing! Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elder: Jean Payne)

Our ongoing prayer list is below. Please let the church office know if there are any changes.

Bill Faucette	Diane Miller	John & Ann Sutton
Faye Campbell	Jack Cook	Peter Slater
Frances Nolan	Polly & Dick Wilson	Joey Leake
Layla Benoklen	Teresa Wilborn	Shannon Russell
Ida Whitney	Tiffany Tauchren	Mary Moore
Rachel Poteat	Jean Berry	Barbara Cousins
Jeremy Harden	Christy Lutterloh	Pat Kennedy
Anne McDaniels	Eleanor Thompson	Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Mike Sutton	Nancy Sutton	Pete Campbell
Steward Dillard	Norma Proctor	Carolyn Thompson
Ben Johnson	Sandy Cook and niece Rachel	Shelvia Russell
Celeste Bayliff Agner	Erick Russell	Ruby Martin

Each week **Salem Presbytery** lists churches and other ministries that we are to lift up in prayer that week. A complete list can be viewed online at the presbytery website: www.salempresbytery.org. On the prayer list for this week are: **First Presbyterian, High Point; Fellowship Presbyterian, Greensboro; St. Paul Presbyterian, High Point**. Please keep these churches and ministries in your prayers this week.

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

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.

Young at Heart Class (Young at Heart Classroom – across from pastor's office)

Using the *Uniform Series*, this class engages in lively discussions pertaining to the biblically based curriculum. The class is taught by a very capable team of teachers.

Seeker's Class (Church Office)

The Seeker's Class is currently using the *Wired Word* curriculum, looking at current events as they relate to our faith.

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: Ron Osborne, Ron Kimrey, and Glenn Patterson)

Elders of the Month for December are **Karen Maxwell** and **Brandon Troxler**

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- **Second Sunday of Advent: #DoNotBeAfraid #morepeace**
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship / Lighting of the Advent Candle

Monday, the 11th:

- 10:00 – Circle #1
- 7:00 – Circle #3

Tuesday, the 12th:

- 7:00 – Session Meeting

Wednesday, the 13th:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 17th:

- **Third Sunday of Advent: #DoNotBeAfraid #morejoy**
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Rick Purcell

Treasurer: Ron Osborne

Class of 2017:

Ron Kimrey

Karen Maxwell

Class of 2018:

Glenn Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Brandon Troxler

Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell

Ron Osborne

Jean Payne

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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



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