



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

December 12, 2021 – 11:00 am

Third Sunday of Advent: Joy



“Celebrate Joy”

“Yes, you will go out with celebration, and you will be brought back in peace. Even the mountains and the hills will burst into song before you; all the trees of the field will clap their hands.”

Isaiah 55:1-13 (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: *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne*

DAVID PAXTON (TUNE: MARGARET)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

KIM SNYDER

We watch, we pray with joy:
for the coming of God with us
for joy in our lives and our communities
for joy in the world

(light the first, second, and third candles)

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

Let us await God's coming in joy.

*** 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."

Yes, you will go out with celebration,
and you will be brought back in peace.
Even the mountains and the hills will burst into song before you;
all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

Let us worship the LORD.

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

WALTER R. 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.

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 4:13-14

ISAIAH 55:1-13

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1293

PEW BIBLE, PAGES 901

* HYMN OF THE DAY #100: *Canticle of the Turning*

RORY COONEY

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 ones who wait
You fixed your sight on your 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 to 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 ev'ry tyrant from his throne
The hungry poor shall weep no more
For the food they can never ears
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 out forebears
Heard is the promise which holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod can be Crushed by God
Who is turning the world around. (REFRAIN)

PRAYER OF WAITING

SALLY FOSTER-FULTON, "THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD WANTS TO SHINE"

Light-shine, love-never-lost... it's almost time to be born.
*If the stories are true, you live in each of us
and come shining through in the most unexpected places.
Who will you be, where will you find us,
when you come and slip in beside?
Where will you bid us shine?*

Baby boy,
*we pray that we will see you for who you are
and that we will welcome you.
When you stand in the shoes of the poor,
we pray that we do not react with contempt or condescension.
When you come as a stranger,
we pray that we are not immediately suspicious.
When you look up at us in the face of a child,
we pray that we are patient and kind,
and remember what it's like
to be new to the planet.*

*As we wait for your birth,
as we wonder how and who you'll be this time,
we pray that we never stop looking for you
in the light of each other.*

When we fail,
*forgive and turn us around;
when we wander down the wrong paths,
guide our steps back.
The light of the world wants to shine –
keep us from being dim –
bid us shine.*

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 JOY

DOXOLOGY

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

Bb Major: B^b E^b B^b F⁷ B^b
A Major (Capo 1): A D A E⁷ A

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise
God all crea - tures here be - low. Praise
God a - bove, ye heav - en - ly host. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Come, Come, Immanuel*

JAY ALTHOUSE

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Celebrate Joy"*

REV. PHILLIPS

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* **CLOSING HYMN #15:** *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

LAURENTIUS LAURENTI

Rejoice! Rejoice, believers,
And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing
And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising
And soon He will draw nigh;
Up, watch with expectation,
At the midnight comes the cry.

See that your lamps are burning,
Replenish them with oil;
Look now for your salvation,
The end of sin and toil.
The marriage feast is waiting,
The gates wide open stand;
Arise, O heirs of glory,
The Bridegroom is at hand!

Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, Thou Sun so longed for,
Above this shadowed sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted,
We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption,
And ever be with Thee!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO ELECT OFFICERS

OPENING IN PRAYER NOMINATIONS FOR THE SESSION CLASS OF 2024 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

* CLOSING RESPONSES

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

We have felt the sun and rainfall;
We have watched flowers blossom.
May God bless us in the turning of the earth.
We have read the story of Jesus;
We have found answers to our questions.
May God bless us in the hearing of the scriptures.

We have been met by the Holy Spirit,
Our lives have been changed and challenged.
May God bless us in the living of our days.

So may the God of joy bless us,
Planter, Nourisher, and Fertilizing Spirit,
this day and for evermore. ***Amen.***

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

TOM BIRCHWOOD

* *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 19th - Fourth 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

Scan this QR code for fast, safe, and reliable online giving:



Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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