



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

December 16, 2018 – 11:00 am

Third Sunday of Advent



*“At that time, I will bring all of you back, at the time when I gather you.
I will give you fame and praise among all the neighboring peoples
when I restore your possessions and you can see them—says the LORD.”
Zephaniah 3:20 (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.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *He Shall Feed His Flock*

G. F. HANDEL

ADVENT INTRODUCTION: JOY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* 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.)

* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”

Therefore, we light again the Candle of Hope.

[The Candle of Hope is lit.]

We light again the Candle of Peace.

[The Candle of Peace is lit.]

But why are we lighting a third candle?

We light a third candle for joy! [*The Candle of Joy is lit.*] The pink candle helps us remember Mary and the joyous good news that the angel brought to her.

God so loved the world that God gave his only Son. Joy to the world!

* **GATHERING SONG:** *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* (stanzas 1-3)

WAYNE WOLD

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah 85

The musical score is written in G major, 6/8 time. It consists of three staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff has four lines of lyrics, the second staff has four lines, and the third staff has four lines. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: Am, Em, F, Dm, E, E7, Am, E, Am, E, Am, Dm, Esus, E.

1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the
2 Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the
3 Light three can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the
4 Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the

light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall bring sal -
light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall feed the
light ban - ish dark - ness. Lift your heads and
light ban - ish dark - ness. He is com - ing;

va - tion to Is - rael, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
tell the glad ti - dings. Let your light be shin - ing.

We gather because we are waiting.

We are waiting for the coming of Christ anew.

We work because we are waiting.

We are waiting for a world of love and justice.

We worship because we are waiting.

We are waiting for God, whose glory is about to be revealed.

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

TRURO

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

AN INVITATION TO THE WORD

As God has spoken through the prophets,

God speaks now to us.

Hear the word of the Lord.

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE:

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

This is the promise of God to our ancestors and to us.

Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1142

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Lord, we have come to this place from a world of demands and schedules. We have sought hope and peace and have found them here. Now we seek the inner joy that only your presence can bring to our lives. Open our hearts and our spirits to your love.

It is getting more and more difficult, Lord, for us to keep our attention on the holy things. Our lives are caught up in the planning, parties, gifts, and other such things. We get side-tracked too easily and exhausted, we fall into restless sleep.

The cries of those in need abound and we are overwhelmed by the need. Too often we turn a deaf ear because we feel we just can't meet all the needs that are presented to us. Heal our hearts and spirits, Lord. Help us understand that you do not ask us to heal everything but rather to find a simple way in which we might lighten someone else's burden, as you have lightened our lives.

You have brought hope and peace to us. Now cause us to rejoice in the wondrous things that you have done. Teach us to use our gifts for the common good, and that in helping, we find great and abundant joy.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

The messenger has been sent to us, proclaiming that there is One who is coming who will heal and lead us.

Know that this is a great gift from God, who has always and will always love you. Amen.

* RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #23: *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,

And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

(Repeat chorus)

* SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

ADAPTED FROM CONFESSION OF 1967

As the people of God gathered in this place, 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.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *Still, Still, Still*

G. DAVIDSON

* **A DOXOLOGY:** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,

And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Glo - - - - - ri-a, in excelsis Deo;

Glo - - - - - ri-a, in excelsis Deo.

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

HYMN OF THE DAY #13: *Prepare the Way*

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

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

MOMENT FOR MISSION

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *O Come, Lord Jesus, Come*

J. P. WILLIAM

O come, Lord Jesus, come. Come in all your splendor.

O come, Lord Jesus, come. Come now our Lord and Savior.

*O Day spring from on high even now draw nigh.
O come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*O come, Lord Jesus, come. Come, thou Rod of Jesse.
O come, Lord Jesus, come. Fulfill Isaiah's word.
A virgin shall conceive, and she will bear a son.
O come, Lord Jesus, come.
O come, o come Immanuel and ransom captive Israel.
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son on God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel. Shall come to thee, O Israel.
O star of Bethlehem, shine on us tonight.
O come, Lord Jesus, come. O come, Immanuel.*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED: WHEN FEAR GIVES WAY TO JOY

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

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

BESANCON

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall Come*

J. DENTON

* *Please 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 (PCUSA). Whether you are a member or a guest 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.**

For our children: Childcare is available during the entire worship hour for infants and preschool children. Children are invited and welcome to stay in the service, in whatever manner befits their person: they should feel free to squirm, whine, dance, sing, cry, pray, or otherwise make themselves known. Activities for children can be found at several locations throughout the sanctuary. See an usher if you can’t find one.

Audio and Visual Assistance: A hearing enhancement system is available for those who have a need. An usher will be happy to provide you with a receiver this morning. Large print bulletins are also available.

Please take a moment – members and guests – to sign the **Fellowship Pads** that are located on each row. If you are a guest, please share any contact information you wish to, so that we may be in touch.

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:

- *Homiletics Online* website (www.homileticonline.com)
- *Ministry Matters* website (www.ministrymatters.com)

Today is the **Third Sunday of Advent**, and we continue our journey to the manger. Our service this morning includes the **Lighting of the Advent Candles**, as we re-light the Candle of Hope and the Candle of Peace, and light the Candle of Joy.

You will want to note these events as we celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons:

- Next Sunday, December 23rd: **Service of Lessons and Carols** as part of our morning worship at 11:00 am
- Monday, December 24th at 5:00 pm: **Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service**

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.

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elders: Jean Payne and Sandy Cook)

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

Bill Faucette
Faye Campbell

Diane Miller
Jack Cook

John & Ann Sutton
Peter Slater

Frances Nolan
Shirley Lane
Ida Whitney
Rachel Poteat
Jeremy Harden
Anne McDaniels
Mike Sutton
Steward Dillard
Shelvia Russell
Ruby Martin
Katherine Turner
Deanna Yates

Joan Richardson
Teresa Willborn
Tiffany Tauchren
Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Levi Byrd
Katherine Bayliff
Randy Thompson
Foy Bayliff
Robert Sykes

Joey Leake
Shannon Russell
Mary Moore
Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Pete Campbell
Ben Johnson
Ruth Younts
Alex Thomas
Susie Hunley
Bill Abplanalp

This year our Advent journey will also include an **Advent Food Drive**. You are invited to bring non-perishable food items each of the four Sundays of advent and place them in the designated spot. These will be donated to a local charity for those in need of food for the holidays.

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.

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.

Our weekly Bible study, ***Disciple Bible Study: Into the Word, Into the World***, continues to meet each Tuesday at 7:00 (except for the second Tuesday of the month when the Session meets.)

SUPPORT Ministry: (Lead Elders: Ron Osborne, Chip Allen, and Glenn Patterson)

Elders of the Month for December are **Nancy Purcell** and **Glenn Patterson**.

Thank you to all who have submitted their pledges for the mission and ministry of Bethany for the coming year. For those who have not yet turned their pledges in, it's not too late. **Pledge cards** are available in the church office and can be returned to Pam Hurt or put in her mailbox. Thank you for your generosity.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

Tuesday, the 18th:

- 7:00 – Disciple Bible Study

Wednesday, the 19th:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 16th:

- **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship / Service of Lessons and Carols

Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Rick Purcell

Treasurer: Ron Osborne

Class of 2018:

Glenn Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Brandon Troxler

Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell

Ron Osborne

Jean Payne

Class of 2020:

Chip Allen

Sandy Cook

Karen Maxwell

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love learn serve



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Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – music@bethanypreschurch.org

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@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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