



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

December 19, 2021 – 11:00 am

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love



"The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth."

John 1:14 (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: *Chant Du Berger (Shepherd's Song)*

GUSTAV MERKEL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

CHOIR

We watch, we pray in love:
for the coming of God with us
for love in the hearts of all people
for the love of God to be manifest in all creation

light all four candles

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

Let us await God's coming in love.

*** OPENING SENTENCES**

In the beginning was the Word.
and the Word was with God
and the Word was God.

*** OPENING HYMN #1: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus***

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

***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

PSALM 130:5-8
JOHN 1:1-19

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

To a maid engaged to Joseph,
The angel Gabriel came.
"Fear not," the angel told her,
"I come to bring good news,
Good news I come to tell you,
Good news, I say, good news.

"For you are highly favored
By God, the Lord of all,
Who even now is with you.
You are on earth most blest,
You are most blest, most blessed,
God chose you, you are blest!"

But Mary was most troubled
To hear the angel's word.
What was the angel saying?
It troubled her to hear,
To hear the angel's message,
It troubled her to hear.

"Fear not, for God is with you,
And you shall bear a child.
His name shall be called Jesus,
God's offspring from on high.
And He shall reign forever,
Forever reign on high."

"How shall this be?" said Mary,
"I am not yet a wife."
The angel answered quickly,
"The power of the Most High
Will come upon you shortly;
Your child will be God's child."

As Mary heard the angel,
She wondered at his words.
"Behold, I am your handmaid,"
She said unto her God.
"So be it; I am ready
According to your Word."

PRAYER OF WAITING

SALLY FOSTER-FULTON, "ARE YOU THE ONE WHO IS TO COME?"

***"Are you the one who is to come,
or should we wait for another?"
And then we are asked the question:
"What do you hear and see?"...***

Loving God, we see our lover's smile, our children laughing, our tables full and our friends sitting around them. When we open our eyes, we see beauty at every turn – and are amazed that we pass it by so often.

***"Are you the one who is to come,
or should we wait for another?"
And then we are asked the question:***

“What do you hear and see?”...

Loving God, we see a world that waits – for justice to be done, for love to conquer all, for someone to do something for the lovers who fear and the children who cry, for someone to fill the empty tables and the flagging, exhausted souls of the ones who cannot see beauty through their despair. And we might shut them out, God.

Drown their calls by cranking up our Christmas carols – but your Advent challenge is persistent and the words have been turned on us:

***“Are you the one who is to come,
or should we wait for another?”***

And then we are asked the question:

“What do you hear and see?”

Help us to bring glad tidings, to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners. Guide our Advent waiting and our Christmas wanting.

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 LOVE

*** DOXOLOGY**

(Tune: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear)

(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 heaven- ly host. Praise Fa- ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

THE WORD IN MUSIC:

Advent Gift

He Shall Feed His Flock

O Come, Lord Jesus, Come

When Will the Little King Come?

Will We Know Him

duet w/Tina & Glenn Patterson

PATRICK M. LIEBERGEN

GEORGE F. HANDEL

J. PAUL WILLIAMS/DAVID ANGERMAN

RUTH ELAINE SCHRAM

NANCY PRICE & DON BESIG

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN #22: *Angels From the Realms of Glory*

JAMES MONTGOMERY

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant light: **Refrain**

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen His natal star: **Refrain**

All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One: **Refrain**

* CLOSING RESPONSES

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

We have walked in the wilderness; We have waited and wondered.

May God bless us as we wait for a child's cry.

We have seen injustice; We have brought God our questions.

May God bless us in darkness and light.

We have been bombarded with glitter and tinsel; We have looked for a Savior.

May God bless us as Christmas comes new.

Vulnerable God,

Risk-taker, Unborn Child and Holy Spirit

bles us with wonder, and justice and hope. ***Amen.***

* POSTLUDE: *Fling Wide the Door*

HENRY BALCOMBE

** 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)

Wednesday, December 22nd

- 6:30 – Choir Practice

Friday, December 24th

- 5:00 – Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 26th

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

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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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