



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

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December 23, 2018 – 11:00 am

Fourth Sunday of Advent



***A Service of Nine
Lessons and Carols***

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Eternal and most holy God, we praise and honor you as we gather in the name of your dear Son, Jesus. During this Advent season we sense your nearness in the songs we sing and in the words we hear from holy Scripture. May your light and peace radiate about us and within us as we worship you today. We praise and thank you for this house of worship and this body of your church. In expectation and joy, we worship you now and each day until Jesus returns to claim his own. Amen.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*

J. BOWRING / J. PARRY

ADVENT INTRODUCTION: LOVE

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

[The Candle of Hope is lit.]

We light again the Candle of Hope!

We light again the Candle of Peace!

[The Candle of Peace is lit.]

We light again the Candle of Joy.

[The Candle of Joy is lit.]

But why are we lighting a fourth candle?

We light a fourth candle for love!

Love came down to earth at Bethlehem. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

* GATHERING SONG: *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*

WAYNE WOLD

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah 85



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 come to glorify God, to rejoice in the One who saves us.

God comes, so we might believe, so we might be blessed.

Our hearts leap for joy! For God is coming to us in a child.

God comes for those who hunger for hope, for those who thirst for grace.

Holy is the One who comes in God's name, who fulfills every promise of God.

God comes to walk with those who follow in faith, to bring peace to a shattered world.

SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

* **OPENING HYMN #49:** *Once in Royal David's City*

IRBY

* **THE BIDDING PRAYER**

FIRST LESSON: GOD MAKES AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN

GENESIS III

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL #36: *In the Bleak Midwinter*

CRANHAM

SECOND LESSON: GOD MAKES A PROMISE TO ABRAHAM

GENESIS XXII

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: *Come, Come, Immanuel*

JAY ALTHOUSE

*Come, come Immanuel, a child and yet a king.
Born to reign forever; praise to Thee we sing.
Come, come, Immanuel and set Thy people free.
From sin and fear release us; find our rest in Thee.
Come, come, Immanuel, the Savior promised long.
Let every heart prepare a throne and every voice a song.
Come, come, Immanuel, let all go forth and tell
The story of the tiny King born in Israel.
Open the heavens wide; God sends a Son.
He is a tiny babe; the blessed Holy One.
O come, come, Immanuel, the Son of God to earth.
Let all who know and love Him celebrate the birth.
O come, come, Immanuel, the time is drawing near.
Salvation now is close at hand: the Son of God is here.*

THIRD LESSON: CHRIST'S BIRTH IS FORETOLD

ISAIAH IX

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL #47: *Still, Still, Still*

STILL, STILL, STILL

FOURTH LESSON: THE PEACE THAT CHRIST WILL BRING IS FORETOLD

ISAIAH XI

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *What Shall I Bring to the Lord?*

ROBERT C. LAU

*What shall I bring to the Lord when I come to worship Him?
Shall I bring my best as offering to Him?
What shall I bring?
What shall I bring to the Lord when I come to worship Him?
Will the Lord require something special from me?
Oh, what shall I bring for a King?*

*I could bring riches, power; now is the hour to lift our voices and sing.
I could bring wisdom, glory, I could tell the story of Jesus, my King.
But hear what the Lord says:
Do justice, have mercy, and walk humbly with your God.
What shall I bring to the Lord?
Walk with God.*

*** 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**

FIFTH LESSON: THE ANGEL GABRIEL SALUTES THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

LUKE I

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL #34: *In Bethlehem a Babe Was Born*

DISCOVERY

Verse 1 - Choir

Verses 2 & 3 - Congregation

SIXTH LESSON: MATTHEW TELLS OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

MATTHEW I

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL #38: *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

CAROL

SEVENTH LESSON: THE SHEPHERDS GO TO THE MANGER

LUKE II

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM AND CAROL: *Away in a Manger* (Morgan Troxler, solo) / *Silent Night, Holy Night* (#60)

MUELLER / STILLE NACHT

Verse 1 - Congregation

Verse 3 - Choir

Verse 4 - Congregation

EIGHTH LESSON: THE WISE MEN ARE LED BY A STAR TO JESUS

MATTHEW II

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: *The Jesus Gift*

GILBERT MARTIN

*Shall I gather emeralds, shall I bring Him gold?
Shall I shower diamonds, white-hard, bright-cold?
Shall I spangle jewels like stars above?
Give Him laughter, bring peace-filled laughter,
Offer Him warm laughter and love.
Simplest of gifts. Gentlest of hearts,
Kindness He'll use as He leads,
So, give Him these gifts, hand Him your hearts,
Honor His birth and you'll need no
Emeralds nor rubies, silver nor gold;
Neither bright diamond, white-hard, bright-cold.
Spangle not rich jewels like stars above;
You'll have laughter, sweet peace-filled laughter,
Simple warm laughter and love.*

NINTH LESSON: JOHN UNFOLDS THE MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION

JOHN I

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL #28: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

IN DULCI JUBILO

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.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* **CLOSING HYMN #31:** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *Angels, From the Realms of Glory*

H. T. SMART

* *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.

About our Service of Lessons and Carols

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Christ. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short readings from Genesis, the Prophetic books, and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, and special anthems from the choir.

The format was based on an order drawn up by Edward Benson, who later became Archbishop of Canterbury, but at that time was Bishop of Truro in Cornwall, for use on Christmas Eve in 1880.

Tradition says that he organized a 10:00 pm service on Christmas Eve in a temporary wooden structure serving as his cathedral and that the purpose of the service was to keep men out of the pubs.

The original liturgy has since been adapted and used by other churches all over the world. Lessons and Carols can most frequently be heard in Anglican churches. However, numerous Christian denominations have adopted this service, or a variation on this service, as part of their Christmas celebrations.

The best-known version is broadcast annually from King’s College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve. It features carols sung by the famous choir of King’s College. The festival was introduced in 1918 to bring a more imaginative approach to worship. It was first broadcast in 1928 and is now broadcast to millions around the world.

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to our dedicated and talented choir who have prepared this service for us, under the direction of our Director of Music, Christopher Bagley.

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

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**
- Sunday, December 30th at 9:00 am: **Fifth Sunday Biscuit Bar Breakfast**

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	Diane Miller	John & Ann Sutton
Faye Campbell	Jack Cook	Peter Slater
Frances Nolan	Joan Richardson	Joey Leake
Shirley Lane	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	Ben Johnson
Shelvia Russell	Levi Byrd	Ruth Younts
Ruby Martin	Katherine Bayliff	Alex Thomas
Katherine Turner	Randy Thompson	Susie Hunley
Deanna Yates	Foy Bayliff	Bill Abplanalp
Daniel Mitchell-Ayers		Robert Sykes

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.

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:

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

Monday, the 24th:

- Church Office Closed
- **5:00 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service**

Tuesday, the 25th:

- Church Office Closed - Christmas Day

Sunday, the 30th:

- 9:00 - Fifth Sunday Biscuit Bar Breakfast
- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

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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Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org
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Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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