



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

[www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org)

[www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian)

December 27, 2020 – 11:00 am

*First Sunday of Christmas*

But why did you  
need to search?  
You should have known  
that I would be  
in my Father's house.

– Luke 2:49

*“Jesus replied, ‘Why were you looking for me? Didn’t you know that it was necessary for me to be in my Father’s house?’ But they didn’t understand what he said to them.”*  
Luke 2:49-50 (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.*

### PRELUDE: *Love Came Down at Christmas*

ROBERT THYGERSON / F. MENDELSSOHN

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

He came as a baby, to bring laughter to children:

***He came for kids home from college; and for newborns at their mothers’ breasts.***

He was born in a stable, to bring hope to the poor:

***He came for those who need more than they have; and for those who could give away more than they dare.***

He was worshiped by shepherds, and gifted by kings:

***The Christ Child is born! Let us follow the star to find him.***

#### \* OPENING HYMN #41: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;*

*O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!*

*Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!*

*O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;*

*O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

*Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!*  
*O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*  
*Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!*  
*O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

### A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

##### LUKE 2:41-52

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.

***Thanks be to God!***

#### AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Wrap us in the shawl of compassion, so that this season of goodness and giving might last longer than the after-Christmas sales.

***Slip our hands into the gloves of humility, so we might join in your work of rebuilding communities, feeding the hungry, embracing the outsiders.***

Teach us your patient ways, so we would learn to notice what we have in common with others, rather than what divides us; so we might offer kindness in the face of bitterness and hurt.

***May all we do with our hands, our hearts, our minds, our feet, our lives be done in the name of the One who came that we might have life - even abundant life.***

Before we put away the ornaments and put the tree out by the curb, before we toss the cards and wrapping paper into the recycling bin, before we store the movies and music back in the closet, let us confess how quickly we forget the true meaning of this holy season.

***How patient You are with us, and how hard we find it to put up with the foolishness of others. In humility, You became one of us, and we keep wanting everything to be about us. You model a life of meekness in service to others, and we are convinced life is all about power and success. All creation sings of Your kindness, while we hurl angry words at those we say we care about the most.***

Yet, rather than becoming frustrated with us, You continue to forgive us. Clothe us with Your love, we pray, so we might be more compassionate towards others. Touch us with Your grace, so we might become more gentle people. Fill us with that peace which longs to reside in our hearts, even as we seek to continue our journey with the Child of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

#### AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

#### AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

In these moments, let God's peace dwell in your hearts. For God gives us hope, gives us peace, and gives us new life in the forgiveness of God's grace.

***We will be thankful, for in receiving God's forgiveness, we are enabled to live as faithful followers of Jesus Christ. Amen.***

#### \* RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #29: *Go, Tell It On the Mountain*

*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 these places, 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.

***God expressed love for all humankind through Israel, whom God chose to be a covenant people to serve him in love and faithfulness. When Israel was unfaithful, God disciplined the nation with judgment and maintained the covenant through prophets, priests, teachers, and true believers. These witnesses called all Israelites to a destiny in which they would serve God faithfully and become a light to the nations. The same witnesses proclaimed the coming of a new age, and a true servant of God in whom God's purpose would be realized. Amen.***

## AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

### \* A DOXOLOGY: *What Child Is This*

GREENSLEEVES

*So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own Him.*

*The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him.*

*This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;*

*Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!*

### \* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## HYMN OF THE DAY #31: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"*

*Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.*

*Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.*

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!*

*Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.*

*Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.*

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

## 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

### THE WORD IN MUSIC: *The First Noel / Pachelbel's Canon*

ARR. MICHAEL LAWSON

TINA AND GLENN PATTERSON, DUET

### THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***In My Father's House***

REV. JOHNSON

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

### \* CLOSING HYMN #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.*

*Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ;  
While field and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.*

**\* SENDING**

Let us go to praise our God!

***We will sing of God's hope as we offer compassion to the hurting.***

Let us go to praise the Brother of the poor!

***We will offer psalms of passion as we seek to lift others to new life.***

Let us go to praise the Spirit of humility.

***We will join in canticles of conciliation and peace for our broken world.***

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\* POSTLUDE: *A Christmas Potpourri***

JAMES MANSFIELD (VARIOUS CAROLS)



# 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](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org); on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](http://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.**

**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](http://www.buzzsprout.com/9198). A **Video Recording** of our Zoom Worship and our Facebook Live stream will be available on our Facebook page and on our website.

Resources used in today’s worship:

- *Glory to God* Presbyterian Hymnal
- *The Text This Week* website ([www.textweek.com](http://www.textweek.com))
- *Ministry Matters* website ([www.ministrymatters.com](http://www.ministrymatters.com))

Please note that even though our Stewardship Season culminated with our wonderful Consecration Sunday worship recently, **Pledge Cards** are still being received in the church office. If you have not had an opportunity to submit your card, please do so as soon as possible so that plans for the coming year can proceed. You may mail your card in to the office (care of Pam Hurt), bring it by in person, or submit a secure pledge card online through our website. Thanks to all for your continued support for the ministry and mission of Bethany Presbyterian.

**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.

Bill Faucette  
Jack Cook  
Joan Richardson  
Shannon Russell  
Katherine Turner  
Jeremy Harden  
Anne McDaniels  
Alex Thomas  
Stewart Dillard  
Shelvia Russell  
Carol Brooks  
Ritchie Fishburne  
Janie Holt Clapp

Diane Miller  
Peter Slater  
Joey Leake  
Ida Whitney  
Jean Berry  
Christy Lutterloh  
Eleanor Thompson  
Nancy Sutton  
Norma Proctor  
Christopher Bagley  
Randy Thompson  
Frederica Beatty

John & Ann Sutton  
Ruby Martin  
Teresa Wilborn  
Tiffany Tauchren  
Barbara Cousins  
Pat Kennedy  
Mike Sutton  
Pete Campbell  
Ben Johnson  
Grace Johnson  
Frank Wrenn  
Sylvia Donley  
Karen Maxwell

**TEACH Ministry:** (Lead Elders: Karen Maxwell and Tracey Troxler)

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: Chip Allen, Ben Russell, and Bill Abplanalp)

Elders of the Month for December are **Chip Allen** and **Tina Patterson**.

Please offer your thanks and appreciate to **Elder Karen Maxwell**, who is rotating off the Session and is also discontinuing her role as Clerk of Session. We appreciate her dedication to her church and to this important task.

## This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 - Faith Formation (as scheduled)
- 11:00 - Worship (online only)

Friday, the 1<sup>st</sup>:

- CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Sunday, the 3<sup>rd</sup>:

- 9:45 - Faith Formation (as scheduled)
- 11:00 - Worship (online only)

### Session

**Moderator:** Rev. John W. Johnson

**Clerk:** Karen Maxwell

**Treasurer:** Glenn Patterson

### Class of 2020:

Chip Allen  
Randy Cousins  
Karen Maxwell

### Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell  
Ben Russell  
Tracey Troxler

### Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp  
Helen Brown  
Tina Patterson

# bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



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### Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – [pastor@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@bethanypreschurch.org)  
Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – [music@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:music@bethanypreschurch.org)  
Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – [office@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:office@bethanypreschurch.org)  
Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – [finance@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:finance@bethanypreschurch.org)  
Elder Emeritus: Bobby Peele  
Elder Emeritus: Don Boggs

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*Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation*

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