



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

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

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

December 29, 2019 – 11:00 am

*First Sunday of Christmas*



*“When the magi had departed, an angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up. Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod will soon search for the child in order to kill him.’”*  
Matthew 2:13 (CEB)

## GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Christmas pageants are a tradition in churches across the land. Every Sunday school Christmas play has three characters: Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. There might be angels, shepherds and wise men. But there is one person who’s never in the Christmas pageant, and rightly so. Yet, it is important that we keep him in Christmas.*

### TRINITY CHIMES

**PRELUDE:** *Christmas Candles*

J. TROUTMAN

### 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.)*

**GATHERING HYMN #37:** *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

W ZLOBIE LAZY

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

***The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.***

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

***We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.***

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

***In him was life, and the life was the light of humanity.***

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

ADESTE FIDDLES

# OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

## A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

**MATTHEW 2:13-23**

This is the Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1170

### AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

On that not so silent night, you came to us like a night nurse on the pediatric floor, to gather us in your arms and swaddle us in your hope.

***On that not so silent night, you came to us to be cradled with the lost, to share a stable with outsiders, to confront the bullies who threaten our children.***

On that not so silent night, you came to us to lift us up and carry us to salvation, to help us persist in praising God, to share our lives with us. Be with us in all the nights and days to come. We know all that God has done for us, as well as all we could have done for others.

***We could proclaim your name, God of this holy season, but we spend too much time talking about celebrities. We could tell others about all your gracious deeds, but are comparing notes about the exploits of our favorite athletes. We could let your Word guide our lives, but instead we do what the politicians think is best.***

Why? Because we forget who we are called to be. But you remember, Faithful God. You remember that we put our trust in others, not you; you remember how we chase after idols, not follow you; you remember to save us in our distress, which is why you sent Jesus to us, our Lord, our Savior.

### AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

### AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

In the silence, in the dreams, in the wonder, in the words, God comes to save us and have mercy on us.

***It is fitting that we offer our thanks and praise to the One who forgives us. Thanks be to God! 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. Amen.***

### AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

**OFFERTORY:** *Still, Still, Still*

SALZBURG MELODY

\* **A DOXOLOGY #53:** *What child Is This* (verse 3 only)

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

**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 WORD PROCLAIMED**

Sermon: *Let's Keep Herod in Christmas*

REV. JOHNSON

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

\* **CLOSING HYMN #40:** *Joy to the World!*

ANTIOCH

\* **SENDING**

Praising God is not enough.

***And so we will go to offer practical help to our sisters and brothers.***

Joyful noises do not feed those around us.

***And so we will go with Jesus to the food pantries and shelters, to care for those forgotten by our society.***

Songs of thanksgiving do not replace service.

***And so we will go to share the peace of the Spirit with a broken, yet hopeful world.***

\* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

\* **POSTLUDE:** *The Joyful Morn*

G. BLAKE

\* *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 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.

**“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](http://www.buzzsprout.com/9198).

Resources used in today’s worship:

- *The Text this Week* website ([www.textweek.com](http://www.textweek.com))
- *Feasting on the Word* worship resources.

Mark your calendars for our two weeks from today, January 12<sup>th</sup>, as this will be the date for our **Installation of Officers**, as we install **Bill Abplanalp, Helen Brown, and Tina Patterson** to active service on the Session.

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 Randy Cousins)

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

Bill Faucette  
Jack Cook  
Joan Richardson  
Teresa Wilborn  
Tiffany Tauchren  
Jean Berry

Diane Miller  
Peter Slater  
Joey Leake  
Shannon Russell  
Mary Moore  
Barbara Cousins

John & Ann Sutton  
Ruby Martin  
Shirley Lane  
Ida Whitney  
Katherine Turner  
Jeremy Harden

Christy Lutterloh  
Eleanor Thompson  
Nancy Sutton  
Norma Proctor  
Katherine Bayliff  
Randy Thompson  
Frederica Beatty

Pat Kennedy  
Donna Mitchell-Ayers  
Pete Campbell  
Ben Johnson  
Alex Thomas  
Glenn Thompson  
Carol Brooks  
Robert Sykes

Anne McDaniels  
Mike Sutton  
Steward Dillard  
Shelvia Russell  
Foy Bayliff  
Ritchie Fishburne  
Janie Holt Clapp

**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: Ron Osborne, Chip Allen, and Ben Russell)

Elders of the Month for December are **A. J. Campbell** and **Ben Russell**.

Please offer a **word of thanks to these Session members** who are rotating off from active duty: **A. J. Campbell, Ron Osborne, and Jean Payne**. Ron is also completing his term as Church Treasurer, and **Rick Purcell** is completing his term as Clerk of Session. Our new treasurer beginning in January is Glenn Patterson, and our new Clerk of Session is Karen Maxwell.

## This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 - Sunday school for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship

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

- NEW YEAR'S DAY / CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Sunday, the 5<sup>th</sup>:

- 9:45 - Sunday school for all ages
- 11:00 - Worship

### Session

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

**Clerk:** Rick Purcell

**Treasurer:** Ron Osborne

### Class of 2019:

A. J. Campbell  
Ron Osborne  
Jean Payne

### Class of 2020:

Chip Allen  
Randy Cousins  
Karen Maxwell

### Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell  
Ben Russell  
Tracey Troxler

# 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)

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*Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation*

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