



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina
www.bethanypreschurch.org
www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

December 29, 2024 – 11:00 am
First Sunday of Christmas



Waiting

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. Know that you are loved and we are so glad you are here!

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *The Coventry Carol*

DAVID PAXTON

WELCOME

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN #40:** *Joy to the World*

ISAAC WATTS

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 fields 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

Teach us, O Lord, how to lead lives of holiness and godliness while, in accordance with your promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

This is the day that the Lord has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

OPENING RESPONSE: *While We Are Waiting, Come*

While we are waiting, come.
While we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel
While we are waiting, come.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

*HYMN OF THE DAY #53: *What Child is This?*

WILLIAM C. DIX

What Child is this who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading. **Refrain**

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. **Refrain**

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

Hear these words of the Apostle Peter, "Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord." With humble and trusting hearts, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Holy and merciful God, we confess we neglect to seek your wisdom for our lives. Instead, we think more highly of ourselves and our own knowledge, choosing to go our own way in this world. Lord, have mercy. We let the cares and concerns of this world crowd out the promise of your Word, that you are with us always. Christ, have mercy. We confess we face the future with uncertainty and misgivings. Help us put our trust in you so we may live faithful and obedient lives, as we depend on the wisdom of your Holy Spirit and the love of Christ to shape our lives and actions. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

The Lord is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings.
The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.
He fulfills the desires of all who fear him; he also hears their cry, and saves them.
Friends, hear and believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven!
Alleluia! Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of Wisdom, as the Scriptures teach us, truly it is the spirit in a mortal, the breath of the Almighty, that makes for understanding.
Send your Holy Spirit upon us as we hear your Word read and proclaimed, that we may be encouraged and strengthened to live lives worthy of our calling as your people. **Amen.**

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 148

PEW BIBLE, 780

LUKE 2:41-52

PEW BIBLE, 1246

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Congregational Christmas Hymns & Carols*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Waiting"*

RICK PURCELL, CRE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.*

AN OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY** (Tune: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*)

THOMAS KEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*BLESSING OUR GIFTS

***CLOSING HYMN #23:** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

JAMES CHADWICK

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo;
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song? **Refrain**

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. **Refrain**

***SENDING**

May you be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God.

May grace and peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.
Amen.

POSTLUDE: *Celebrate Christmas*

ROBERT J. HUGHES

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Tuesday, January 7th The Women of Bethany Church Gathering

The Women of Bethany Church will come together on Tuesday, January 7th at 10:30am in the Fellowship hall.

Saturday, January 11, 2025 4:00pm Organ Concert – Sanctuary

Tuesday, January 14th Alamance Co. Mobile Library

The Alamance County Public Libraries mobile library will be in the church parking lot 10:30 – 11:30. Please stop by and “check-out” this wonderful service the library has to share

S.A.F.E. (Southern Alamance Family Empowerment)

How we can help S.A.F.E. for the month of **January**? They are asking for **Mac & Cheese and Canned Soup**

S.A.F.E. will be closed the 1st and 5th Saturday of the Month.

Consider donating your plastic and paper bags.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, December 29th – First Sunday of Christmas

9:45 – Bible Study – The Chosen - Evie C. Marshall classroom

11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Wednesday, January 1st – New Years Day

Church Office Closed

No Choir Practice

Sunday, January 5th – Baptism of the Lord, Communion & Pennies for Hunger

9:45 – Bible Study – The Chosen - Evie C. Marshall classroom

11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

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love learn serve



Session

Moderator: Rick Purcell, CRE

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Tracey Troxler

Class of 2025:

Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Tina Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Class of 2026:

Chip Allen

Jean Payne

Ben Russell

1500 S. Main Street

Graham, NC 27253

www.bethanypreschurch.org

336.227.4041

Staff

Pastor/CRE: Rick Purcell – pastor4bethany@gmail.com

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – bethanypresmusic@gmail.com

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – admin@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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