



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

December 30, 2018 – 11:00 am

First Sunday after Christmas



“Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people.”

1 Samuel 2:26 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Because the Old Testament and New Testament readings for this Sunday tell the story of a boy in “church,” we thought we’d start there — with boys in church.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Holy Night, Blessed Night*

Q. SHY

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 SONG:** *Love Has Come*

BRING A TORCH

* CALL TO WORSHIP

We are brought together by the call of God,
the One who has loved us from the beginning.

We are bound together by the presence of the Spirit,
the One who has challenged us to love more deeply.

We worship together in the name of Christ,
the One who was Love made flesh.

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

ADESTE FIDELES

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

AN INVITATION TO THE WORD

As God has spoken through the prophets,
God speaks now to us.
Hear the word of the Lord.

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE:

1 SAMUEL 2:18-20, 26

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 340

This is Holy Scripture for God's people.
Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

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

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

Teach us your patient ways, Wisdom from on high, 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 whose birth we celebrate every day.

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, as we offer our prayers to our God, saying,

How patient You are with us, Loving Creator, 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 our 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 #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: *Mary Did You Know?*

MARK LOWRY / BUDDY GREENE

SYLVESTER ALLEN, SOLOIST

*Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your Baby Boy has come to make you new?
This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you.*

*Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy will calm the storm with His hand?
Did you know that your Baby Boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kiss your little Baby you kissed the face of God?*

*The blind will see. The deaf will hear.
The dead will live again.
The lame will leap. The dumb will speak
The praises of The Lamb.*

*Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy would one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your Baby Boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?
The sleeping Child you're holding is the Great, I Am.*

* **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**

* **HYMN OF THE DAY:** *My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout* (see page 7)

RORY COONEY / STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

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

MOMENT FOR MISSION

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *We Three Kings*

JOHN HOPKINS, JR.

RANDY COUSINS, SYLVESTER ALLEN, GLENN PATTERSON, TRIO

*We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star*

*Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign*

*Frankincense to offer have I
Incense owns a Deity nigh
Prayer and praising, all men raising
Worship Him, God most high*

*Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes of life of gathering gloom*

*Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb
Glorious now behold Him arise
King and God and Sacrifice
Alleluia, Alleluia
Earth to heav'n replies
O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED: *TWO BOYS IN CHURCH*

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

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

ANTIOCH

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *Joyful Christmas Day is Here*

T. OKAMOTO

* *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 **Brandon Troxler**. 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.

Resources used in this morning’s worship:

- *Homiletics Online* website (www.homileticonline.com)
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)

Next Sunday, **January 6th**, our service will include the **Installation of Officers**. (Since all three of our newly-elected officers have been previously ordained, the service will just be an installation service.) Please offer a word of thanks and prayers for **Randy Cousins, Tracey Troxler, and Ben Russell**, as they are installed next Sunday.

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
Faye Campbell
Frances Nolan
Shirley Lane
Ida Whitney

Diane Miller
Jack Cook
Joan Richardson
Teresa Wilborn
Tiffany Tauchren

John & Ann Sutton
Peter Slater
Joey Leake
Shannon Russell
Mary Moore

Rachel Poteat
Jeremy Harden
Anne McDaniels
Mike Sutton
Steward Dillard
Shelvia Russell
Ruby Martin
Katherine Turner
Deanna Yates
Daniel Mitchell-Ayers

Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Levi Byrd
Katherine Bayliff
Randy Thompson
Foy Bayliff

Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Pete Campbell
Ben Johnson
Ruth Younts
Alex Thomas
Susie Hunley
Bill Abplanalp
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.

Our weekly Bible study, ***Disciple Bible Study: Into the Word, Into the World***, has completed the first half of the study on Genesis and Exodus, and is taking a brief break over the holidays before resuming on **Tuesday, January 15th** with the second part of the study on Luke and Acts. Anyone wishing to join this study are certainly welcome. See John if you're interested!

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.

Please offer your expression of gratitude to those elders rotating off the Session as 2018 comes to an end. A huge thanks to **Sandy Cook, Glenn Patterson, and Brandon Troxler**.

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Canticle of the Turning

Em C D

1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -

Em C D Em

God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -

G D Em C Em

won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.

G D

You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the

Em C D Em

weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

G D Em C Em

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain

G D

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the

Em C D Em

fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the

C D Em C Em

dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

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

Monday, the 31st:

- Church Office Closed

Tuesday, the 1st:

- Church Office Closed

Wednesday, the 2nd:

- 7:00 – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, the 6th:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship / Installation of New Officers

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

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



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Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org

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Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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