



## Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

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December 31, 2023 – 11:00 am

*First Sunday of Christmas*

*Brunch Church*



"The table of Christmas in old cottage, Skansen in Sanok, Poland,"  
Przykuta

As Jesus passed alongside the Galilee Sea, he saw two brothers, Simon and Andrew, throwing fishing nets into the sea, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," he said, "and I'll show you how to fish for people."

Right away, they left their nets and followed him. Mark 1:16-18 (CEB)

## BRUNCH CHURCH

### COMING TOGETHER FOR WORSHIP

*Welcome to Brunch Church! Brunch Church is a new take on a very old way of doing worship, based on the Agape Meals of the earliest church. The inspiration for this service is taken from the service developed by Grace Commons, a former Missional Faith Community of Chicago Presbytery, written by Rev. Nanette Sawyer and Rob Clearfield, which in turn is based on the Dinner Church practice developed by St. Lydia's in Brooklyn.*

### PREPARING THE MEAL AND THE TABLE

*We prepare the meal and the tables together. When you are ready, please have a seat.*

### GATHERING AROUND THE LIGHT

*Welcome – we gather together to share a sacred meal just as the first followers of Jesus did. We will stand at our tables and face the candle and sing three times:*

**SONG #155 (GTG)** *“Raise a Song of Gladness” (sung twice)*

Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.  
Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to every heart.  
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!  
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!

**BLESSING THE MEAL**

*We bless our meal singing:*

**HYMN #513:** *Let Us Break Bread Together (verse 3, sung once)*

Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees;)  
Let us praise God together on our knees. (on our knees.)  
When I fall on my knees,  
With my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)

**BREAKING THE BREAD**

While Jesus was eating bread with his disciples, he took a loaf of bread, and after giving thanks to God for it, he broke it, gave it to them, and said:  
“Take, this is my body. Do this in remembrance of me.”

**HYMN #513:** *Let Us Break Bread Together (verse 1, sung once)*

Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees;)  
Let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees.)  
When I fall on my knees,  
With my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)

Holy food for Holy people. Share in the meal.

*We will now share the bread. You are welcome to lift your peace of bread and say to one another “**This is Christ’s body**” before eating.*

**BRUNCH AND COMMUNITY**

*Now, we eat together. We’ll spend the first part of our meal in conversation, then move into the scripture reading and our carol sing.*

**THE READING**

**MARK 1:1-20**

COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE

*Beginning of good news*

1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, God’s Son, <sup>2</sup> happened just as it was written about in the prophecy of Isaiah:

*Look, I am sending my messenger before you.*

*He will prepare your way,*

<sup>3</sup> *a voice shouting in the wilderness:*

*“Prepare the way for the Lord;  
make his paths straight.”*

### *John's preaching*

<sup>4</sup> John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. <sup>5</sup> Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. <sup>6</sup> John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> He announced, "One stronger than I am is coming after me. I'm not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

### *Jesus is baptized and tempted*

<sup>9</sup> About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. <sup>10</sup> While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. <sup>11</sup> And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."

<sup>12</sup> At once the Spirit forced Jesus out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup> He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among the wild animals, and the angels took care of him.

### *Jesus' message*

<sup>14</sup> After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee announcing God's good news, <sup>15</sup> saying, "Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!"

### *Jesus calls disciples*

<sup>16</sup> As Jesus passed alongside the Galilee Sea, he saw two brothers, Simon and Andrew, throwing fishing nets into the sea, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> "Come, follow me," he said, "and I'll show you how to fish for people."

<sup>18</sup> Right away, they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup> After going a little farther, he saw James and John, Zebedee's sons, in their boat repairing the fishing nets. <sup>20</sup> At that very moment he called them. They followed him, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired workers.

## **CAROL SING**

*This morning we will celebrate the Christmas Season with a Carol Sing!*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*For our time of prayer, we will begin and end with singing **HYMN 471** "O Lord, Hear My Prayer" (Glory to God):*

○ Lord, hear my prayer.  
○ Lord, hear my prayer.  
When I call, answer me.  
○ Lord, hear my prayer.  
○ Lord, hear my prayer.  
Come and listen to me.

*... 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.*

**HYMN 471** "O Lord, Hear My Prayer" (Glory to God):

○ Lord, hear my prayer.  
○ Lord, hear my prayer.  
When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer.  
O Lord, hear my prayer.  
Come and listen to me.

### **BLESSING THE CUP**

*We bless the cup at the end of our meal, just as Jesus did when he was at table with the disciples. Please make sure you have your cup for Communion ready.*

After supper, Jesus took the cup, and said, "This is the cup of the renewed covenant, sealed in my blood. Whenever you drink of it, do this remembering me.

*We lift our cups and sing:*

**HYMN #513:** *Let Us Break Bread Together (verse 2, sung twice)*

*Then everyone drinks from their cup.*

Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees;)  
Let us drink wine together on our knees. (on our knees.)  
When I fall on my knees,  
With my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me.)

**CLOSING CAROL:** *Joy to the World*

**DEPART IN PEACE**

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### **Session**

**Moderator:** Rev. Jon Phillips

**Clerk:** Randy Cousins

**Treasurer:** Glenn Patterson

### **Class of 2023:**

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Shelby Smith

### **Class of 2024:**

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Tracey Troxler

### **Class of 2025:**

Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Tina Patterson

Nancy Purcell

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### **Staff**

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