



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

January 7, 2018 – 11:00 am

Baptism of the Lord



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

Mark 1:9-11 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Got a resolution to keep your house a little cleaner this year? There are ways to make it sparkle with some "greener" cleaners you can find in your pantry. Need a little soul cleansing as well? John the Baptizer has just the thing for that, too.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *When Jesus Came to Jordan*

F. MEHRTENS / ARR. F. GREEN

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

AN OFFERING OF PEACE

May the Love of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(Please take a moment to share the peace of Christ with your neighbor.)

*** GATHERING SONG #41:** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

* CALL TO WORSHIP

On that first day, when time began:

you gave birth to creation; light danced through the darkness; the waters of hope flowed free and clear.

On that first day at the Jordan, when redemption began:

you spoke of life for all your children, as your Child stepped into the waters of forgiveness, dancing in hope with his cousin, John.

On this first day of the week, when we begin anew:

you call us to faithfulness, as we open our hearts to you, your voice claiming us as your own.

* **OPENING HYMN #356:** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

NETTLETON

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

You and I are now the ones who step forth out of the safe waters of baptism, to bring hope, to share a word of grace, to carry healing into the brokenness of the lives around us. Let us confess how we still struggle to follow in faith wherever Jesus leads us. Join me as we pray, saying,

Timeless God, you cast Light into sin's dark places and call us your Beloved. Forgive us: when we still linger in the shadows; when we treat others in hurtful ways; when we speak ill of your friends.

As he knelt in the waters of Jordan, you proclaimed Jesus as your Child, pointing to him as the way to you. Forgive us: when we put ourselves ahead of him; when we think he is no longer needed; when we fail to see him in the broken of our world.

Baptized and blessed in your living waters, you would have us be your servants in our time. Forgive us: when we fail to welcome the stranger; when we refuse to forgive as we should; when we believe we are too good to kneel down and tie the shoes of the lost, the least, the last, the little.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Touched by the waters of life, fed at the feast of grace and hope, embraced in the warmth of God's love and hopes - this is good news!

Blessed by baptism's tears, called to servanthood by the Beloved, filled with the peace of the Spirit, we are indeed God's people - redeemed, restored, refreshed to serve. Thanks be to God! Amen.

* **RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE:** *Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!*

TRADITIONAL

Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burden down. (Repeat)

I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burden down. (Repeat)

Fell like shouting, "Hallelujah!" Since I laid my burden down. (Repeat)

DEDICATION OF NEW BAPTISMAL FONT AND REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

INTRODUCTORY WORDS

BAPTISMAL FONT BLESSING AND DEDICATION

By your grace, O God, you have brought us into your covenant through the waters of baptism, and by the power of the Holy Spirit we are made members of the body of Christ, the church.

At this font may lives be claimed by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, for the work and witness of your people in this world. We did not choose you, O Lord, but you chose us.

Trusting in Jesus Christ, we dedicate this font in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

SCRIPTURE SENTENCES

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Sisters and brothers in Christ, our baptism is the sign and seal of our cleansing from sin, and of our being grafted into Christ. Through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ, the power of sin was broken and God's kingdom entered our world. Through our baptism we were made citizens of God's kingdom, and freed from the bondage of sin. Let us celebrate that freedom and redemption through the renewal of the promises made at our baptism. I ask you, therefore, once again to reject sin, to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, and to confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we were baptized.

RENUNCIATIONS

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

I do.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

I do.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

PROFESSION

With the whole church, let us confess our faith. Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Following the prayer, all those who wish to, may come forward reaffirm their baptismal covenant by receiving the mark of the cross on their forehead with the waters of baptism.

SERVICE OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

STATEMENT ON ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

PRAYER OF ORDINATION

Members of the congregation are invited to come forward for the laying on of hands during the Prayer of Ordination.

DECLARATION OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

WELCOME AND CHARGE

* **HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters*

Wash, O God, your sons and daughters, newborn creatures of your womb.

Number them among your people, raised like Christ from death and tomb.

Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light.

Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.

Every day we need your nurture; by your milk may we be fed.

Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.

God, renew us; guide our footsteps, free from sin and all its snares,

one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.

*O how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit-born.
By your grace, our lives we offer. Re-create us; God, transform!*

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

OFFERTORY: *Peace Like a River*

ARR. H. LIVINGSTONE, JR.

*** A DOXOLOGY:**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

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

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG (@ HEART) / MOMENT FOR MISSION

*** PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:** *I Love to Tell the Story*

HANKEY

*I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else could do.
I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *O Happy Day*

EDWIN HAWKINS

*O happy day when Jesus washed my sins away.
He taught me how to walk, fight and pray.
And live rejoicing everyday.*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *Cleaning Tips from John the Baptist*

REV. JOHNSON

Text: Mark 1:4-11

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1214

LEAVING TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

*** CLOSING HYMN:** *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry* (see next page)

WATERLIFE

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*** POSTLUDE:** *O Brightly Streaming Star*

J. DENTON

Please stand in body or spirit.

488 I Was There to Hear Your Born-ing Cry



1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry; I'll be there when
 2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word, I was there to
 3 "In the mid-dle a-ges of your life, not too old, no
 you are old. I re-joiced the day you were bap-tized to
 cheer you on. You were raised to praise the liv-ing Lord to
 lon-ger young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-
 see your life un-fold. I was there when you were but a
 whom you now be-long. If you find some-one to share your
 plete what I've be-gun. When the eve-ning gent-ly clos-es
 child with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of
 time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to
 in and you shut your wea-ry eyes, I'll be there as
 light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."
 make your vers-es rhyme from dusk till ris-ing sun."
 I have al-ways been with just one more sur-prise."
 4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry; I'll be there when you are old.
 I re-joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un-fold."

Originally created to accompany a video series on baptism, this hymn speaks in the imagined conversational voice of God, assuring the person being baptized of God's presence throughout the changing stages of life. It offers a reminder that baptism is a once-in-a-lifetime event.



Our Faith Community @ Work

WORSHIP Ministry: (Lead Elders: Nancy Purcell and A. J. Campbell)

WELCOME to this service of worship at Bethany Presbyterian Church. 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; on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian; or on Twitter by following [@bpresbyterian](https://twitter.com/bpresbyterian).

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.

Resources used in this morning's worship:

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

This morning is a big day in the life of Bethany, as we observe the **Baptism of the Lord Sunday**. Our worship includes the **Ordination and Installation of Elders, the Reaffirmation of our Baptismal Vows, and the Dedication of our New Baptismal Font**.

The **Service of Ordination and Installation** will take place during worship this morning as we ordain and install Ruling Elders in the Class of 2020. Being ordained and installed is **Chip Allen**, and being installed (having been previously ordained), are **Sandy Cook and Karen Maxwell**.

On this **Baptism of the Lord Sunday**, we rejoice that we can participate in the **Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant** as part of our worship. At the appropriate time, those who wish to may come to the baptismal font to receive the sign of the cross from the waters of baptism.

As we dedicate our new **Baptismal Font and Stand** this morning, we also pause to honor our history as we remember all those who were baptized from the previous font, which will remain as a prominent fixture in our sanctuary. This font was given in memory of **Winfred Bradley Long** by the Men's Bible Class. Winfred Long was **Diane Bullis' father**, and the font, as well as other furnishings in the sanctuary, was built by **Joseph Blair Long, Diane's grandfather**. The new font stand was built by **Will Bucher**, John and Debbie's son-in-law, who also built our Advent Candle stand.

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.

To the parents of young children: Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel that you must suppress those wiggles in God's house. **Please note that a professionally staffed nursery is available during the worship hour.** Here are some hints to make worship with your children more rewarding:

- Consider sitting towards the front where it is easier for little ones to engage. On the second pew nearest the choir loft, there are activities for children of all ages to keep busy with during the service.
- Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, musicians, and leaders.
- Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behavior by mimicking you.
- If you have to leave the sanctuary with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me!"
- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.
- **To adult worshippers:** The presence of children is a gift to the church and they are a reminder that our church is growing! Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elder: Jean Payne and Sandy Cook)

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

Bill Faucette	Diane Miller	John & Ann Sutton
Faye Campbell	Jack Cook	Peter Slater
Frances Nolan	Polly & Dick Wilson	Joey Leake
Layla Benoklen	Teresa Wilborn	Shannon Russell
Ida Whitney	Tiffany Tauchren	Mary Moore
Rachel Poteat	Jean Berry	Barbara Cousins
Jeremy Harden	Christy Lutterloh	Pat Kennedy
Anne McDaniels	Eleanor Thompson	Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Mike Sutton	Nancy Sutton	Pete Campbell
Steward Dillard	Norma Proctor	Carolyn Thompson
Ben Johnson	Sandy Cook and niece Rachel	Shelvia Russell
Celeste Bayliff Agner	Levi Byrd	Ruby Martin
	Ruth Younts	

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.

Young at Heart Class (Young at Heart Classroom – across from pastor's office)

Using the *Uniform Series*, this class engages in lively discussions pertaining to the biblically based curriculum. The class is taught by a very capable team of teachers.

Seeker's Class (Church Office)

The Seeker's Class is currently using the *Wired Word* curriculum, looking at current events as they relate to our faith.

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 Glenn Patterson)

Elders of the Month for December are **Karen Maxwell** and **Brandon Troxler**

The Bethany family extends warmest appreciation and gratitude to **Ron Kimrey**, who is rotating off of the Session as his term ends.

Attendance December 24 (morning): 66
Attendance December 24 (evening): 61
Attendance December 31: 43

Offering: ??
Offering: \$171.00 (to Allied Churches)
Offering: \$4,048.00

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 – Worship / Ordination and Installation of Elders / Dedication of New Baptismal Font / Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

Monday, the 8th:

- 10:00 - Circle #1
- 7:00 - Circle #3
- 7:00 - Circle #4

Tuesday, the 9th:

- 7:00 - Session Meeting

Wednesday, the 10th:

- 7:00 - Choir Practice

Sunday, the 14th:

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

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



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Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@bethanypreschurch.org
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