



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

JESUS IS _____.

August 23, 2020 – 11:00, *the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost*

“He said, And what about you? Who do you say that I am?”

Matthew 16:15(CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Loving God, thank you for the gift of this new day. You have blessed me in so many ways in days that have come before. Today I will look and listen for signs of your joy and gladness present in my life, in the lives of others, and in the beautiful world you garden. Amen.

PRELUDE: *I CALL HIM LORD*

Master, Redeemer, Savior of the world,
Wonderful, Counselor, Bright morning star,
Lily of the Valley, Provider and Friend,
He was yesterday, He’ll be tomorrow,
the Beginning and the end.
But the angel called Him Jesus, but I call Him Lord.

Dottie Rambo

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;
**I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks
to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;**
for you have exalted your name
and your word above everything.
**On the day I called, you answered me,
you increased my strength of soul.**
All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.
**They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
for great is the glory of the Lord.**

***OPENING HYMN: #442** *THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION*

S. J. Stone

The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the Word:
from heav'n he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with ev'ry grace endued.

Yet she on earth has union
with the God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of revelation, mere flesh and blood cannot reveal divine truth; only your Spirit can give that gift.
Be in my breath and voice, be in our ears and understanding, that through these words your Word
may be known. **Amen.**

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 16:13-20

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1192

Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Confident in this ever-gracious, never-failing help, we come before the Lord, confessing our sin and seeking forgiveness.

Lord, we grow hardhearted, seeing each other as competing for scarce resources rather than one human family created and cared for by you, our God of infinite abundance. We conform easily to the ways of the world, striving endlessly for those things that do not satisfy, practicing greed and participating in systems that hurt people and creation. You call us to another way, the way of Christ Jesus our Lord, a way of compassion and justice, love and service. You offer us a life of joy and grace, mercy and redemption, readily available to us when we repent and seek you and your righteousness first. We turn to you now, forgive and free us, we pray.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GRACE

We can trust that when we call out to God, God hears and responds. When we humble ourselves and honestly confess, God forgives and makes of us new creations. Friends, believe the good news, through Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Since we are justified by faith we have peace with God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.)

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

* SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

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: (from "A Brief Statement of Faith")

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, Fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

God has given us gifts to share; prophetic acts and acts of service, teaching and leading, encouragement, diligence, and cheerfulness, giving without strings attached.

Freely, then, we open our hearts, hands, and resources to a world in need.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, we thank you for the measure of faith you have given to each of us.

Increase in us generosity, compassion, and prophetic courage so we may continue to be your body in and for the world. With thanksgiving, we pray in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

* HYMN OF THE DAY: *There's Something About That Name*

Bill Gaither

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus; there's just something about that name
Master, Savior, Jesus, like the fragrance after the rain;
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, let all Heaven and earth proclaim
Kings and kingdoms will all pass away
But there's something about that name
Kings and kingdoms will all pass away
But there's something about that name

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LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: "Jesus is ____."

Rick Purcell, CLP

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN: *TAKE THE NAME OF JESUS WITH YOU*

Lydia Baxter

Take the name of Jesus with you,
Child of sorrow and of woe.
It will joy and comfort give you,
Take it then where'er you go.

[Refrain]

Precious name, O how sweet!
Hope of earth and joy of heaven;
Precious name, O how sweet!
Hope of earth and joy of heaven.

Take the name of Jesus ever
As protection ev'rywhere.
If temptations 'round you gather,
Breathe that holy name in prayer. [Refrain]

At the name of Jesus bowing,
When in heaven we shall meet,
King of kings, we'll gladly crown him
When our journey is complete.[Refrain]

*** CHARGE**

Jesus asks each of us: Who do you say that I am?
Answer his question, this day and all your days,
in every word you speak, with every action you perform.

*** BENEDICTION**

May God who restores, Christ who calls,
and the Spirit who empowers bless you
and increase your joy and gladness, now and always.

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WORSHIP Ministry: (Lead Elders: Nancy Purcell and Helen Brown)

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; on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian; or on Twitter by following [@bpresbyterian](https://twitter.com/bpresbyterian).

Obviously, due to the ongoing health crisis surrounding the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, we are not worshipping in person at this point in time, but rather gathering virtually using the Zoom meeting platform. Each week the congregation will be emailed a link by which everyone can join the meeting using their computer, laptop, smartphone, or tablet. John will lead worship in this manner, and congregants are invited to participate as they are able. For those who are unable to connect via Zoom, we are also hoping to be on Facebook Live as well. We are still trying to work out some glitches in that.

For those unable to get the link via email, it will also be on our Facebook page, and on our website.

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. A **Video Recording** of our Zoom worship will be available on our Facebook page and on our website.

Resources used in today's worship:

- *Feasting on the Word* worship resources
- *Ministry Matters* website (www.ministrymatters.com)
- *Homiletics Online* website (www.homileticonline.com)
- *the Presbyterian Outlook* (www.pre-outlook.org)

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elders: Randy Cousins and Tina Patterson)

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

Bill Faucette	Diane Miller	John & Ann Sutton
Jack Cook	Peter Slater	Ruby Martin
Joan Richardson	Joey Leake	Shirley Lane
Teresa Wilborn	Shannon Russell	Ida Whitney
Tiffany Tauchren	Mary Moore	Katherine Turner
Jean Berry	Barbara Cousins	Jeremy Harden
Christy Lutterloh	Pat Kennedy	Anne McDaniels
Eleanor Thompson	Mike Sutton	Alex Thomas
Nancy Sutton	Pete Campbell	Steward Dillard
Norma Proctor	Ben Johnson	Shelvia Russell
Christopher Bagley	Glenn Thompson	Carol Brooks
Randy Thompson	Darrell Holmes	Ritchie Fishburne
Frederica Beatty		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. (Classes will resume when we return to having church in person!)

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: Chip Allen, Ben Russell, and Bill Abplanalp)

Elders of the Month for August are **Tina Patterson** and **Ben Russell**.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 11:00 – Worship Online

Wednesday, the 26th:

- 7:00 – Choir Practice (not meeting)

Sunday, August 30th:

- 11:00 – Worship Online

bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Karen Maxwell

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2020:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Karen Maxwell

Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell

Ben Russell

Tracey Troxler

Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp

Helen Brown

Tina Patterson

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Staff

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

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – music@bethanypreschurch.org

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – office@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

Elder Emeritus: Bobby Peele

Elder Emeritus: Don Boggs

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Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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