



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian



“Cross? What Cross?”

August 30, 2020 – 11:00, *the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

“All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me.”
Matthew 16:24(CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Lord Jesus, I do not know what crosses may arise before me, but give me courage to resist systems of injustice, strength to reject structures of oppression, and wisdom to unmask powers of evil, that I may live as a faithful disciple whose life belongs to you. Amen.

PRELUDE: *REJOICE YE PURE IN HEART*

Colin Curtis

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP

O give thanks to the Lord, call on God’s name,
make known God’s deeds among the peoples.
Sing to the Lord, sing praises to God;
tell of all God’s wonderful works.

Glory in God's holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
**Seek the LORD and God's strength;
seek God's presence continually.**

Remember the wonderful works the Lord has done,
God's miracles, and the judgments the Lord uttered,
**O offspring of God's servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, the Lord's chosen ones.**

***OPENING HYMN: #92** *BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS*

S. J. Stone

Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty Rock
within a weary land;
a home within the wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat
and the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus
mine eye at times can see
the very dying form of One
who suffered there for me:
and from my stricken heart with tears
two wonders I confess,
the wonders of redeeming love
and my unworthiness.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Faithful God, how blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.
Sanctify us by your Word and Spirit so that we may glorify you
in the company of the faithful; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 16:21-28

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

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1193

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Jesus Christ overcame evil with good so that all people might be saved from sin.
Let us then confess our need for grace, confident of God's forgiveness.

**God of mercy, we confess that, like the disciples,
we set our minds not on divine things but on human things.
Doubting your loving care, we grab for more than we need.
Doubting your loving purposes, we shrink from living as your followers.
Doubting your loving plan, we become stumbling blocks in your creation.
Forgive us that we may gain new life in you, for it is in Jesus' forgiving name we pray.**

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GRACE

Jesus took up his cross for our salvation.
In return for our old life of sin,
he promises a new life of grace.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

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")

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

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

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,
to present yourselves as a living sacrifice,
holy and acceptable to God.
Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Merciful and gracious God, you abound in steadfast love and faithfulness.
With gratitude, we bring our gifts to you. Bless these gifts and bless our lives
that together we may share your mercy and grace for the world you dearly love. Amen.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *I'LL WALK WITH GOD*

NICHOLAS BRODSKY/PAUL FRANCIS WEBSTER

GLENN PATTERSON - SOLOIST

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: "Cross? What Cross?"

Rick Purcell, CLP

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

*** CLOSING HYMN: *I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS***

I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
no turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, I still will follow;
though none go with me, I still will follow;
though none go with me, I still will follow;
no turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me;
the world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me;
no turning back, no turning back.

*** CHARGE**

Go in peace to love and serve.
We take up our cross to follow in the way of Jesus, our Lord.

*** BENEDICTION**

The blessing of God be with you,
the love of Jesus fill you,
and the power of the Holy Spirit sustain you,
now and forevermore.

** 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 have not been 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, tablet or by telephone. 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 on Facebook Live as well. For those unable to get the link via email, it will also be on our Facebook page, and on our website.

As we continue to move through Phase 2 of our state's plan for reopening, we will be back to worship together in person on **Sunday, September 6th** - gathering at the Manse House in the parking lot under the tree. **We will meet at 9:00am for worship and Communion.** This will be John's first Sunday back after his sabbatical. Please bring lawn chairs or beach chairs to sit on - or whatever you wish to bring. Chairs will be available for those who don't have chairs to bring. You will be encouraged to observe social distancing and spread out in this beautiful setting. Parking will be available in the lot at the Manse House.

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	Grace Johnson	Carol Brooks
Randy Thompson	Frank Wrenn	Ritchie Fishburne

Frederica Beatty

Sylvia Donley

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, September 2nd:

- 7:00 – Choir Practice (not meeting)

Sunday, September 6th:

- 11:00 – Worship - Outside at Manse House

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love learn serve



Session

Moderator: Rev. John W. Johnson

Clerk: Karen Maxwell

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

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Class of 2020:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

Karen Maxwell

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

Class of 2021:

Nancy Purcell

Ben Russell

Tracey Troxler

Elder Emeritus: Bobby Peele

Elder Emeritus: Don Boggs

Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp

Helen Brown

Tina Patterson

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Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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