



# Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

[www.bethanypreschurch.org](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org)

[www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian)

September 20, 2020 – 11:00 am  
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



*“Don’t suppress the Spirit. Don’t brush off Spirit-inspired messages, but examine everything carefully and hang on to what is good.”*  
1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 (CEB)

## GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*O God of this and every morning, as I begin this day, call my name; as I step into this day, guide my feet; as I live this day, care for those I love; as I learn this day, teach me your ways. In Jesus’ name. Amen.* - From *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2* (p. 150). Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Kindle Edition.

**PRELUDE:** *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

WILLIAM CROFT / ARR. FRED BOCK

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### AN OFFERING OF PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

\* **GATHERING SONG:** *Rain Down*

JAIME CORTEZ

Rain Down 48

Capo 3: (D) (F#7) (Bm) (D7) (G)  
F A7 Dm F7 Bb

Rain down; rain down; rain down your  
love on your peo - ple. Rain down; rain  
down; rain down your love, God of life.

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Love the Lord your God,

***with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind!***

Love your neighbor as yourself,

***with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind!***

Do this and you will live!

***Let us worship God!***

\* **OPENING HYMN:** *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*

HOLY MANNA

## OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

**A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE**

**LUKE 10:25-37**

Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

***Thanks be to God.***

**AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS**

The psalmist asks a question: how long? How long will we live unjustly and show partiality, instead of loving as God has loved us? Trusting in that love, let us confess our transgressions to the Lord.

***Holy God, we are your sons and daughters, descendants of the God most high, yet, we do not behave to honor you and our actions belittle the love you have for us. We do not defend the weak or those without fathers or mothers.***

We do not uphold the poor or the oppressed. We do not commit to efforts to rescue the weak and the needy; we sometimes deliver them into solitude and neglect.

***Rise up to judge us, O God. We prefer your merciful justice, than living with guilt and fear. Straighten our path, so that we can be guided as a mother or a father guides beloved children.***

**AN OFFERING OF SILENCE**

**AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE**

The triune God's unconditional love does not seek appearances or conditions, but loves in such a way, that we are restored to health and to wholeness.

***Thanks be to God! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. 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)*

*Feel like shouting, "Hallelujah!" since I laid my burden down. (Repeat)*

\* **SAYING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE**

EXCERPTED FROM *THE 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.

***The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord. Amen.***

## AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

### OFFERTORY:

\* **A DOXOLOGY:** *We Lift Our Voices*

*We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.  
Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives: they are yours: we are an offering.  
All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.  
We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.*

DWIGHT LILES

\* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

\* **HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Christ Be Beside Me* (to the tune of "Morning Has Broken")

*Christ be beside me; Christ be before me; Christ be behind me, King of my heart.  
Christ be within me; Christ be below me; Christ be above me, never to part.  
Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me, shield in the strife.  
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising, Light of my life.  
Christ be in all hearts thinking about me; Christ be on all tongues telling of me.  
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me; in ears that hear me Christ ever be.*

BUNESSAN

### 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.***

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

### THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***The Digital Church: From Connection to Communion*** Photo #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9

REV. JOHNSON

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

\* **CLOSING HYMN #372:** *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

*Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.*

*Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.*

*Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.*

*Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.*

\* **SENDING**

Go and bear fruit! Go and do!

***We go so that we live a life that is worthy of the Lord.***

Give joyful thanks to God!

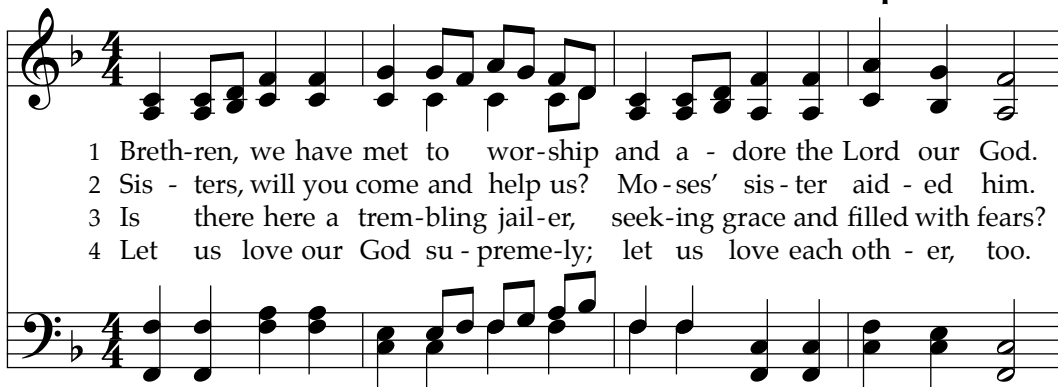
***We do so through loving our neighbor, through doing justice, through speaking out, and through defending those who are weak and oppressed.***

Go and bear fruit! Go and do!

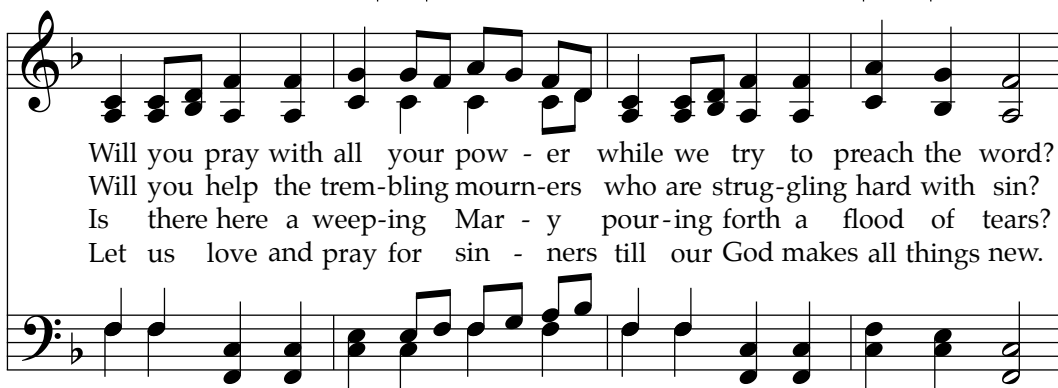
***We go to be connected and in communion with our brothers and sisters throughout the world.***

\* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

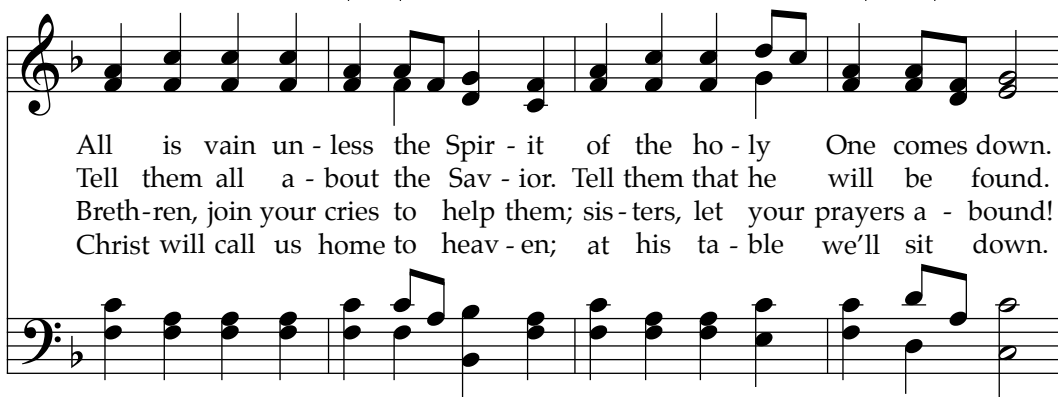
# Brethren, We Have Met to Worship 396



1 Breth-ren, we have met to wor-ship and a - dore the Lord our God.  
2 Sis - ters, will you come and help us? Mo-ses' sis-ter aid - ed him.  
3 Is there here a trem-bling jail-er, seek-ing grace and filled with fears?  
4 Let us love our God su - preme-ly; let us love each oth - er, too.



Will you pray with all your pow - er while we try to preach the word?  
Will you help the trem-bling mourn-ers who are strug-gling hard with sin?  
Is there here a weep-ing Mar - y pour-ing forth a flood of tears?  
Let us love and pray for sin - ners till our God makes all things new.



All is vain un - less the Spir - it of the ho - ly One comes down.  
Tell them all a - bout the Sav - ior. Tell them that he will be found.  
Breth-ren, join your cries to help them; sis - ters, let your prayers a - bound!  
Christ will call us home to heav - en; at his ta - ble we'll sit down.



Breth - ren, pray, and ho - ly man - na will be show-ered all a-round.  
Sis - ters, pray, and ho - ly man - na will be show-ered all a-round.  
Pray, O pray, that ho - ly man - na will be scat-tered all a-round.  
Christ will gird him-self and serve us with sweet man-na all a-round.





# 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 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](http://www.bethanypreschurch.org); on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian](http://www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian); or on Twitter by following @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.**

This morning we welcome our pastor Rev. John W. Johnson back from his 3-month sabbatical! In welcoming John back, we offer our sincere and heartfelt thanks to Commissioned Ruling Elder Rick Purcell for his leadership and guiding presence over the past three months!

**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](http://www.buzzsprout.com/9198). A **Video Recording** of our Facebook Live stream will be available on our Facebook page and on our website.

Resources used in today’s worship:

- *Glory to God* Presbyterian Hymnal
- *Feasting on the Word* Worship Companion (Year C, Volume 2)
- *Call to Worship* worship resource

**Post-Sabbatical Sermon Series:** This morning we continue a six-week sermon series, sharing insights that John has gleaned through his sabbatical focus of study - The Digital Church. There is also a study component of this series, as those who are interested are invited to gather each Sunday morning during the Sunday school hour for a lively discussion of the book on which this series is based: *“Digital Disciple: Real Christianity in a Virtual World.”* The book is available on Amazon. Here are the themes for each Sunday during the series:

- Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>: *The Digital Church: Virtual People*
- **Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>: *The Digital Church: From Connection to Communion***
- Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>: *The Digital Church: Remote Intimacy*
- Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>: *The Digital Church: Empty Minds and Disposable Bodies*
- Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>: *the Digital Church: Googling Prayer*
- Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>: *The Digital Church: Tech Sabbath*

**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  
Jack Cook  
Joan Richardson  
Teresa Willborn  
Tiffany Tauchren  
Jean Berry  
Christy Lutterloh  
Eleanor Thompson

Diane Miller  
Peter Slater  
Joey Leake  
Shannon Russell  
Mary Moore  
Barbara Cousins  
Pat Kennedy  
Mike Sutton

John & Ann Sutton  
Ruby Martin  
Shirley Lane  
Ida Whitney  
Katherine Turner  
Jeremy Harden  
Anne McDaniels  
Alex Thomas

Nancy Sutton  
Norma Proctor  
Christopher Bagley  
Randy Thompson  
Frederica Beatty

Pete Campbell  
Ben Johnson  
Grace Johnson  
Frank Wrenn  
Sylvia Donley  
Norm Whitney

Stewart Dillard  
Shelvia Russell  
Carol Brooks  
Ritchie Fishburne  
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.

**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.

Join us **each Thursday evening** for a new fall **Bethany Book Club**, as we engage in a discussion of the prominent issue of racism, and our response as followers of Christ. We will be reading and discussing the book ***Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race***, by Debby Irving. The book is available on Amazon. This study will be offered both in-person here at the church and virtually via Zoom. Watch your email for the Zoom link.

**SUPPORT Ministry:** (Lead Elders: Chip Allen, Ben Russell, and Bill Abplanalp)

Elders of the Month for September are **Karen Maxwell** and **Tracey Troxler**.

**Scan the QR code below to access and download our new Interactive Digital Bulletin.**



## This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 - *The Digital Church* study and discussion
- 11:00 - Worship - Sermon Series II - The Digital Church: From Connection to Communion

Wednesday, the 16<sup>th</sup>:

- 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal (not meeting)

Thursday, the 17<sup>th</sup>:

- 7:00 - *Waking Up White* book study

Sunday, the 27<sup>th</sup>:

- 9:45 - *The Digital Church* study and discussion
- 11:00 - Worship - Sermon Series III - The Digital Church: Remote Intimacy

### 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

# bethany presbyterian

love learn serve



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### Staff

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson – [pastor@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@bethanypreschurch.org)  
Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – [music@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:music@bethanypreschurch.org)  
Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – [office@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto:office@bethanypreschurch.org)  
Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – [finance@bethanypreschurch.org](mailto: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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## **Luke 10:25-37**

A legal expert stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to gain eternal life?"

Jesus replied, "What is written in the Law? How do you interpret it?"

He responded, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself."

Jesus said to him, "You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live."

But the legal expert wanted to prove that he was right, so he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus replied, "A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He encountered thieves, who stripped him naked, beat him up, and left him near death. Now it just so happened that a priest was also going down the same road. When he saw the injured man, he crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. Likewise, a Levite came by that spot, saw the injured man, and crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. A Samaritan, who was on a journey, came to where the man was. But when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. The Samaritan went to him and bandaged his wounds, tending them with oil and wine. Then he placed the wounded man on his own donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day, he took two full days' worth of wages and gave them to the innkeeper. He said, 'Take care of him, and when I return, I will pay you back for any additional costs.' What do you think? Which one of these three was a neighbor to the man who encountered thieves?"

Then the legal expert said, "The one who demonstrated mercy toward him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."





# We Lift Our Voices

## We Are an Offering

710

We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our  
 lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing. Lord, use our  
 voice - es; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our  
 lives; they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing.  
 All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we  
 give to you, we give to you. We lift our  
 voice - es; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you:  
 we are an of-fer-ing; we are an of-fer-ing.

This praise and worship song can best be understood as reflecting on and expanding 1 Chronicles 29:14b: "For all things come of you, [O Lord,] and of your own have we given you." There are also echoes of Paul's appeal for Christians to be living sacrifices (Romans 12:1).



# Christ Be Beside Me

# 702



1 Christ be be - side me; Christ be be - fore me; Christ be be -  
 2 Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all a -  
 3 Christ be in all hearts think - ing a - bout me; Christ be on



hind me, King of my heart. Christ be with - in me; Christ be be -  
 round me, shield in the strife. Christ in my sleep - ing, Christ in my  
 all tongues tell - ing of me. Christ be the vi - sion in eyes that



low me; Christ be a - bove me, nev - er to part.  
 sit - ting, Christ in my ris - ing, Light of my life.  
 see me; in ears that hear me Christ ev - er be.

This text adapts part of a traditional Irish prayer associated with St. Patrick (see also no. 6). Such a prayer for protection is known as a *lorica*, from a Latin word for “breastplate” or “armor.” It is set to a Gaelic melody that gained wide popularity in the 1970s.



# 729 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;  
 2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart;  
 3 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;  
 4 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.  
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.  
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.  
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,  
 In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.  
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.  
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.  
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Through its recurring phrase, “in my heart,” this poignant African American spiritual expresses the desire that our professed faith will not be superficial or hypocritical but will permeate the very center of our being, so that we may truly be the people God calls us to be.



*“Before the firefighters had finished snuffing the blaze, the community of students and alumni who had worshiped together for decades in the chapel re-formed online. All those who had for a day or a year or a lifetime called the chapel their spiritual home grieved together over the internet.*”



*Friends, acquaintances, guests, and visitors met, and I am certain that the great cloud of witnesses penetrated the tech and gave comfort to us mourners.”*  
- Adam Thomas



***“We connect with more people,  
more quickly, and more frequently  
than ever before.”***

**- Adam Thomas**



***“Following Christ through the terrain of the virtual world involves being aware of the presence of God encoded into this infrastructure and seeking out these deep connections.”***

**- Adam Thomas**



*“Human beings look separate because you see them walking about separately . . . if you could see humanity spread out in time, as God sees it, it would not look like a lot of separate things dotted about.*”





*It would look like one single growing thing - rather like a very complicated tree. Every individual would appear connected with every other."*

**- C. S. Lewis**



***“Followers of Jesus Christ make connections with God and one another by walking together along the path set by Jesus of Nazareth and expressed by his apostles.”***

**- Adam Thomas**



*“Connection happens when two or three gather. But connection turns into communion when, as Jesus says, ‘Two or three are gathered in my name, I’m there with them.’ Connection recognizes the weaving movement of God in and through our lives.*



*But connection turns into communion when we intentionally gather to celebrate that weaving movement. Thus, we participate in the weaving, in the communion, through our very celebration of it.”*  
- Adam Thomas



***“We must practice noticing God’s presence. The first step in this practice is training ourselves to assume that God happens to be wherever we are.”***

**- Adam Thomas**



*“First, we recognize the ease by which we can mimic the priest and the Levite online. Severing a connection is as easy as closing a browser or deleting a bookmark. The internet is a great platform for making these connections, but it’s just as easy to travel alone through virtual space.”*

**- Adam Thomas**



***“When we notice the presence of God in our virtual connections, we can borrow God’s steadfastness. And in the changes and chances of the tech-driven world, we can be loving, constant neighbors, anchoring one another in the ever-shifting landscape of virtual space.”***

**- Adam Thomas**

