



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

October 25, 2020 – 11:00 am

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost



“When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they met together. One of them, a legal expert, tested him. ‘Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?’”
Matthew 22:34-36 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

“The love commandment is the greatest of tweets. When Jesus says, ‘You shall love the Lord your God. You shall love your neighbor as yourself,’ he is giving us the center of who he is, and he is backing it up with his own life. He didn’t just tell us that God loved us. He showed us. And that helps us to know that God loves us.” - Homiletics Online for October 25, 2020

PRELUDE: *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

FANNY CROSBY

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: *I Love You, Lord*

LAURIE KLEIN

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to worship you; O my soul, rejoice.

Take joy, my King, in what you hear; may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

We are invited to share in Christ’s ministry of compassion.

We will widen our hearts so we might cradle the lost.

We are challenged to learn more about God each day.

We will open our minds so we might discern God’s dreams for us.

We are summoned to let the Spirit be planted within us.

We will deepen our souls so we might grow in love.

* **OPENING HYMN #430:** *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!*

DARWALL'S 148TH

*Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!*

Refrain:

In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

*Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme,
empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream! (Refrain)*

*Let courage be our friend; let wisdom be our guide,
as we in mission magnify the Crucified! (Refrain)*

*Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long! (Refrain)*

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

AN OFFERING OF SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 22:34-40

Holy wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF PRAYERS

Every generation has found its home in you, and discovered that every moment spent in your holy presence lasts beyond all imaginable time. You watch over us in the night, cradling us in your arms as tenderly as a nurse cares for her children, and her neighbor's.

Full of wisdom, you humbled yourself that we might learn to love those who have been swept aside by a callous and cruel world. Witness to God's grace, you call us to act in ways of love of peace to all we meet in this life.

In the fresh breeze on a summer's day; in the leaves dancing across autumn's lawns; in the crisp, new snowfall crunching beneath our feet; in the new life flowering in the spring; from everlasting to everlasting you proclaim God's grace to us.

God in Community, Holy in One, continue to be the dwelling place of our minds, our hearts, our souls.

We have been entrusted with the message of the gospel, but all too often act as if the memos from sin and death have more influence in our lives. Let us confess our sins, so we might know God's great love for us. As you know we stand on the edge of your promises and hopes, yet cannot seem to let ourselves cross over into the life you intend for us.

We seek praise from our families, yet are unable to tell them how much we love them; we care more about our needs and desires, than for the struggles of our neighbors; we think more about the trash we read and see than focusing on the Spirit of wisdom.

Forgive us, Everlasting God. Renew our lives with your grace; restore our hopes with your vision of tomorrow; refresh our spirits with your joy which comes to us new in each moment in the gift of your Child, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

AN OFFERING OF SILENCE

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

This moment, this morning, this day, and in all the days to come, God's compassion and hope fill our lives. What joyous good news!

Our hope is not in vain. God forgives our sins, and is the dwelling place for all people. Thanks be to God. Amen.

* **RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #355:** *Hear the Good News of Salvation*

NETTLETON

*Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.
Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.
Jesus Christ, how much I love You! Jesus Christ, You save from sin!
How I love You! Look upon me, love me still and cleanse within.*

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

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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. 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.

AN OFFERING OF OUR RESOURCES

*** DOXOLOGY:** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNDREDDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*** HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love*

GHANAIAN FOLK MELODY

Refrain:

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love; show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,

Master who acts as a slave to them. (Refrain)

Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race;

neighbors are near us and far away. (Refrain)

These are the ones we should serve; these are the ones we should love;

all these are neighbors to us and you. (Refrain)

Loving puts us on our knees, willing to wash others' feet;

this is the way we should live like you. (Refrain)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 IN MUSIC: *Jesus is All the World to Me*

WILL L. THOMPSON

PAIGE BUTTS, SOLO

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: ***The. Best. Tweet. Ever.***

REV. JOHNSON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

*** CLOSING HYMN #281:** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

CWM RHONDDA

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.

I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.

*Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.*

* **SENDING**

And now go forth, to love God with all your heart, your mind, your soul:

with passion, with prayer, with intelligence;

to love your neighbor:

with forgiveness, with service, with love;

and to love yourself:

with hope, with joy, with peace.

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE:** *I am Thine, O Lord*



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).

“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.**

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 and our Facebook Live stream will be available on our Facebook page and on our website.

Please note that **Daylight Saving Time ends next weekend!** Remember to “fall back” one hour on Saturday evening.

We also rejoice that we have returned to **worshipping in person** in our beautiful sanctuary. Here are some guidelines to follow to ensure the health and safety of our congregation:

- **Masks must be worn at all times.**
- Please do not sit in any pews that have been blocked off. This is to make sure that social-distancing guidelines are being followed.
- Bulletins are available at the doors. They will not be distributed but you may pick one up as you wish. See the QR code to download our Interactive Digital Bulletin to your smartphone or tablet.
- The offering will not be collected but offering plates are available in the narthex. You may place your offering in the plates on your way out, or you may follow the QR code below to give online.
- Please refrain from physical interaction during our “meet and greet” time. Waves and virtual hugs are our new normal - at least for awhile!
- Although we normally encourage singing hymns with gusto, that might not be the wisest thing to do right now. Either sing softly through your mask, or hum.
- John will be at the door to greet following the service, but will not shake hands or hug . . . just an elbow bump and the knowledge that he’s smiling beneath the mask!

Resources used in today’s worship:

- *Glory to God* Presbyterian Hymnal
- *The Text This Week* website (www.textweek.com)
- *Call to Worship* worship resource

Stewardship Season Sermon Series: Next Sunday morning, November 1st begins our four-week journey through **Stewardship Season 2020**. Our theme is ***“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”*** and is based on 1 Thessalonians 5:13-18. Watch for your November newsletter with more information and details. Here are the themes for each Sunday during the series:

- Sunday, November 1st: *Live in Peace*
- Sunday, November 8th: *Rejoice Always*
- Sunday, November 15th: *Pray Continually*
- Sunday, November 22nd - Consecration Sunday: *Give Thanks*

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 Wilborn
Tiffany Tauchren
Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Christopher Bagley
Randy Thompson
Frederica Beatty

Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Joey Leake
Shannon Russell
Family of Mary Moore
Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Mike Sutton
Pete Campbell
Ben Johnson
Grace Johnson
Frank Wrenn
Sylvia Donley
Norm Whitney

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

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 here to access and download our new Interactive Digital Bulletin.



This Week's Calendar:

Today:

- 9:45 - Faith Formation Hour (as announced per class)
- 11:00 - Worship

Wednesday, the 28th :

- 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal (not meeting)

Thursday, the 29th:

- 7:00 - *Waking Up White* book study (in person and via Zoom)

Sunday, the 1st:

- **Stewardship Season I - *Live in Peace***
- 9:45 - Faith Formation Hour (as announced per class)
- 11:00 - Worship

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
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

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS BULLETIN IN THE BASKETS PROVIDED AT THE DOORS.

I Love You, Lord

627

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to

The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is written in the treble clef and the accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to".

wor - ship you; O my soul, re - joice. Take

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "wor - ship you; O my soul, re - joice. Take".

joy, my King, in what you hear; may it be a

The third system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "joy, my King, in what you hear; may it be a".

sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

The fourth system of musical notation concludes the piece. The lyrics are: "sweet, sweet sound in your ear.".

This simple song of adoration provides a significant blend of individual and communal considerations, for although the text is written in the voice of one person, the music involves multiple voices singing in harmony. The resulting experience seems more shared than solitary.



305 Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

1 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
 2 Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns su - preme,
 3 Let cour - age be our friend; let wis - dom be our guide,
 4 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!

For Christ the Lord has led us through the a - ges long!
 em - power - ing us to catch the vi - sion, dream the dream!
 as we in mis - sion mag - ni - fy the Cru - ci - fied!
 For Christ the Lord has tri - umphed o'er the a - ges long!

In bold ac - cord, come cel - e - brate the jour - ney now and praise the Lord!

This text was the winner in a hymn competition sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Bicentennial Committee for the 1988–1989 observance, which had the theme “Celebrate the Journey.” The late 18th-century tune (first used with Psalm 148) is appropriately celebratory.



Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they met together. One of them, a legal expert, tested him. "Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?" He replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands."



203 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

Capo 3: (D) (A7)
Refrain F C7

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love; show

(D) (D/F#) (Em7) (A7) (D)
 F F/A Gm7 C7 F *Fine*

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

(D) (Bm) (Em) (A)
 F Dm Gm C

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
 2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and
 3 These are the ones we should serve; these are the ones we should
 4 Lov - ing puts us on our knees, will - ing to wash oth - ers'

(D) (Bm) (Em7) (A7) (D)
 F Dm Gm7 C7 F *to Refrain*

feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
 race; neigh-bors are near us and far a - way.
 love; all these are neigh-bors to us and you.
 feet; this is the way we should live like you.

Considering that this text comes from a part of the world where Christianity is not the primary religion gives these simple but powerful words even more depth and meaning. The tune name recalls the district in the Northern Region of Ghana where this tune was collected.



Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
 stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.

