



Bethel

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PCA

*Timeless Truths for our
Changing Community*

Organized 1764

Mission: “Bethel Presbyterian Church exists as a fellowship of believers to make disciples of all nations (Matt 28:18-20). Together, we strive to glorify our sovereign Lord through vibrant, God-centered worship; to build up one another by teaching God’s infallible Word; to equip every member for works of service; and to be salt and light by proclaiming the gospel in word and deed.”

Vision: All for the glory of God, Bethel Presbyterian Church will be a faithful resource church that is healthy and growing in order to multiply God’s kingdom locally, regionally, and internationally. We have a vision to reach and make disciples in our community and to further multiply gospel mission by equipping our leaders and our congregation for ministry and facilitating assimilation into the body of Christ.

Celebrating God’s Faithfulness...Advancing His Kingdom!

www.BethelChurchPCA.com

The Lord's Day Worship

Sunday, May 2, 2021

Preparation

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

Adoration

***The Call to Worship** Isaiah 41:10

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. NIV

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed; for I am your God, and will still give you aid; I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call you to go, the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow; for I will be with you, your troubles to bless, and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie, my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply; the flame shall not hurt you; I only design your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

"E'en down to old age all my people shall prove my sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love; and when hoary hairs shall their temples adorn, like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne.

"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose, I will not, I will not desert to his foes; that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no never, no never forsake."

The Invocation 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.

***The Hymn of Praise**

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

Trinity Hymnal #499

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood, from thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands can fulfil thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to thy cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the Fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

***The Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and Earth.

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

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.

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 6:10-18

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

NIV

Individual & Corporate Confession

Holy and merciful God, in Your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against You. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from Your ways. In wasting Your gifts, in forgetting Your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease You. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in Your light, and walk in Your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. This we pray, in His name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon Isaiah 53:6

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. NIV

Collection

Offertory Scripture & Giving of Our Lord's Tithes 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. NIV

Offertory Anthem

The Choir

***Doxology**

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Consecration

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Dr. Richard Belcher

When God Does Not Answer

Text: Psalm 88 (pew Bible p.925)

¹O LORD, the God who saves me, day and night I cry out before you. ²May my prayer come before you; turn your ear to my cry. ³For my soul is full of trouble and my life draws near the grave. ⁴I am counted among those who go down to the pit; I am like a man without strength. ⁵I am set apart with the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave, whom you remember no more, who are cut off from your care. ⁶You have put me in the lowest pit, in the darkest depths. ⁷Your wrath lies heavily upon me; you have overwhelmed me with all your waves. ⁸You have taken from me my closest friends and have made me repulsive to them. I am confined and cannot escape; ⁹my eyes are dim with grief. I call to you, O LORD, every day; I spread out my hands to you. ¹⁰Do you show your wonders to the dead? Do those who are dead rise up and praise you? ¹¹Is your love declared in the grave, your faithfulness in Destruction? ¹²Are your wonders known in the place of darkness, or your righteous deeds in the land of oblivion? ¹³But I cry to you for help, O LORD; in the morning my prayer comes before you. ¹⁴Why, O LORD, do you reject me and hide your face from me? ¹⁵From my youth I have been afflicted and close to death; I have suffered your terrors and am in despair. ¹⁶Your wrath has swept over me; your terrors have destroyed me. ¹⁷All day long they surround me like a flood; they have completely engulfed me. ¹⁸You have taken my companions and loved ones from me; the darkness is my closest friend. NIV

Response & Benediction

***The Hymn of Response**

“It Is Well with My Soul”

Trinity Hymnal #691

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

It is well with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul.

My sin - O the bliss of this glorious thought! -
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more;
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

O Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,
"Even so" - it is well with my soul.

**We stand, as we are able, to praise the Lord.*

We continue our plan to “spread out” with some gathering at home via YouTube live, some gathering in person in the Sanctuary and some gathering MASK ONLY in the Family Life Center. In the Sanctuary, we will sit/skip EVERY OTHER ROW in the main floor area downstairs. The downstairs back corner seating areas and the balcony are fully open. We are offering infant and toddler nursery during both Sunday School and Worship Service. We support whatever decision you make as each member takes responsibility for determining your confidence level as to continue gathering together online from your home or coming in person this week and in future weeks.

Updated Summary for continued consideration:

- * If you or a family member have been sick or are not feeling well, please worship from home online via our YouTube page.
- * Please prayerfully consider health guidelines established by governing authorities (anyone with existing health concerns and/or susceptible age range) and take personal responsibility for deciding when you are confident to gather in person. We want to encourage patience and we support whatever decision you make!
- * We will not pass offering plates; they will be located at door entrances/exits.
- * Worship guides available at door entrances (the words for scripture readings and hymns printed in worship guide).
- * Until further notice: No Children’s sermon.
- * Please feel free to wear masks or PPE if that is your preference.
- * Sanctuary seating in the downstairs back corner areas and the balcony are fully open.
- * Family households plan to sit together.
- * Worship in the Family Life Center is mask only; chairs are spread out for social distancing.

Nursery	<u>Infant</u>	<u>Toddler</u>	<u>Floater</u>
Today	Peggy Long	Marianne Falls	Lorie Holben
Nxt wk	Barbara Love	Jenifer Riddle	Jennifer Forrest
SEC			

If unable to find a replacement, please contact Judi Love, 803-628-1458, rossjudi99@yahoo.com

Happy Birthday this week to Janice Currence and John Mark Flanagan on 5/3, Patsy Black and Jordan Weatherby on 5/4, Anna Drechsler on 5/6 and Nicholas Whitesides on 5/8.

The Deacons Fund will be received in the vestibule following worship this morning.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Mrs. Marcia Trevino, who passed away on April 25.

Calvin and Libby Reese would like to thank everyone for their kindness and prayers during the illness and passing of Libby's mother.

This Week at Bethel:

Today: We would like to extend a warm welcome to Dr. Richard Belcher, Professor of Old Testament at Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte, NC.

Children's Catechism, 5:00 pm, FLC. Parents are welcome to stay and worship with their children and then gather for fellowship and prayer with Chris Wallace at the picnic shelter.

Monday: Men of the Covenant, 6:30 pm, will have a hamburger/hotdog cookout at the picnic shelter. This will be our last meeting until September 13. All Bethel men are encouraged to attend for a meal and fellowship.

Tuesday: Circle #1, 10:30 am, Sanctuary.

Diaconate Meeting: 7:00 pm, Sanctuary.

Upcoming:

New Members/Inquirers Class: May 16, May 23, June 6 and June 13 with Pastor Marcus during the SS hour (10:00-10:45am). Please call or email Lara in the office if you plan to attend.

Vacation Bible School: July 12-16. Registration is open and on our website. We are also looking for volunteers and prayer partners! The sign-up for volunteers can be found on our website, or at www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084da8aa2aa6fd0-2021. If anyone would like to work "behind the scenes" helping to set up and/or decorate the FLC, please contact Sheridan Miller (803-230-2294) or Ilse Wallace (704-747-4703).

Bethel Youth Group News:

Today: Youth Group is meeting tonight from 5:00-6:30 pm in the Basement! Bring a friend and plan to come for some fun fellowship and time in God's word/prayer together.

Building Plans Update:

We ARE currently working on building plan options AND we ARE making some progress. We will communicate updates with more information for congregational consideration and approval as soon as we can. Given current circumstances, we do not yet know when an appropriate time to begin this project might be... THANK YOU for your continued patience and prayers!

Anyone wishing to have your email address added to the church email loop, please send a request to office@bethelchurchpca.com.

Prayer Requests: Bobby Armstrong (brother-in-law of S. McCarter Mizell, cancer), Rick Duke (cancer) and wife Judy (friends of C. Davis), Judy Ferguson (healing from surgery), Margaret Ann Ferguson, Kathy Forester (E. Moseley's sister, breast cancer), Matthew Hall, Miriam Hovis, Mrs. Rita Jackson, Jan Kombs (friend of J. LeMoyne, stroke), Herb LeMoyne (J. LeMoyne's brother, Parkinson's disease), Dana Massey (advanced brain cancer, friend of S. Burns), Annie Mae McDaniel (Judy Ferguson's mother), Jim Pittman (V. Linder's brother, cancer) and Norm West.