



Bethel

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PCA

*Timeless Truths for our
Changing Community*

Organized 1764

Our Vision

Joyfully obeying the Great Commandments
by obediently living the Great Commission.

Welcome to Bethel!

*When you journey through Advent to Christmas,
you begin to see Jesus more fully. You recognize that His incarnation
was the beginning of the redemption of the world
and that His return is the completion of it.*

*Advent pulls those two moments together.
It overlays the joy of His arrival as a helpless babe
with the hope of His appearing as conquering King.
Both arrivals are anticipated in celebrating Advent.*

Glenn Packiam

**The LORD'S Day
Sunday, December 21, 2025**

www.BethelChurchPCA.com

~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

*Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign.
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name, Immanuel.*

Isaiah 7:14

Preparation

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Advent Wreath Lighting

The DeRousse family

The Silent Meditation and Prayer on Jeremiah 23:5

Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

Adoration

***The Call to Worship (Read Responsively)**

Psalm 96:1-9 ESV

Pastor: Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth! Sing to the LORD, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day.

People: Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the people! For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods.

Pastor: For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

People: Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts!

All: Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before Him all the earth!

All praise to thee, eternal Lord,
clothed in a garb of flesh and blood;
choosing a manger for thy throne,
while worlds on worlds are thine alone.

Once did the skies before thee bow;
a virgin's arms contain thee now:
angels who did in thee rejoice
now listen for thine infant voice.

A little child, thou art our guest,
that weary ones in thee may rest;
forlorn and lowly is thy birth,
that we may rise to heav'n from earth.

Thou comest in the darksome night
to make us children of the light,
to make us, in the realms divine,
like thine own angels round thee shine.

All this for us thy love hath done;
by this to thee our love is won:
for this we tune our cheerful lays,
and shout our thanks in ceaseless praise.

The Invocation**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.*

¹⁴Thus says the Lord: “The wealth of Egypt and the merchandise of Cush, and the Sabeans, men of stature, shall come over to you and be yours; they shall follow you; they shall come over in chains and bow down to you. They will plead with you, saying: ‘Surely God is in you, and there is no other, no god besides him.’ ”

¹⁵Truly, you are a God who hides himself, O God of Israel, the Savior.

¹⁶All of them are put to shame and confounded; the makers of idols go in confusion together.

¹⁷But Israel is saved by the Lord with everlasting salvation; you shall not be put to shame or confounded to all eternity.

¹⁸For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): “I am the Lord, and there is no other.

¹⁹I did not speak in secret, in a land of darkness; I did not say to the offspring of Jacob, ‘Seek me in vain.’ I the Lord speak the truth; I declare what is right.

²⁰“Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, you survivors of the nations! They have no knowledge who carry about their wooden idols, and keep on praying to a god that cannot save.

²¹Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the Lord? And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me.

²²“Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.

²³By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: ‘To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.’

²⁴“Only in the Lord, it shall be said of me, are righteousness and strength; to him shall come and be ashamed all who were incensed against him.

²⁵In the Lord all the offspring of Israel shall be justified and shall glory.”

Confession

The Call to Confession

Isaiah 1:13, 16-17 ESV

Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations—I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly. Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.

The Corporate Confession of Sin

O King of Glory, we confess that our praise of your majesty has often been faint, our performance as citizens of your Kingdom treasonous. For we have surrendered to the enemy by our secret and known sins. For our treason you died, Lord Jesus; for our restoration, you rose again. Draw us closer to you, that our eyes may catch the vision of your tears, and our hearts, the wonder of your grace. By the Holy Spirit's continuing discipline, by your amazing grace and abundant patience, may we be loyal and loving servants of the King. Amen.

The Silent Confession of Sin

***The Assurance of Forgiveness**

1 John 2:23-25 ESV

No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life. Receive the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth;

Refrain:

*Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Shepherds in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light: [*Refrain*]

Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star: [*Refrain*]

Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear: [*Refrain*]

All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son;
evermore your voices raising
to th'eternal Three in One: [*Refrain*]

Q. 53. How was Christ exalted in his ascension?

A. Christ's exaltation in His ascension began after His resurrection when He appeared to the apostles a number of times, talked to them about the kingdom of God, and commissioned them to preach the gospel to all nations. Forty days after his resurrection, in our human nature and as our head, He visibly went up into the highest heavens, triumphing over enemies. There He receives gifts for men, raises our minds, and prepares a place for us, where He Himself is and shall continue to be until His second coming at the end of the world.

Q. 54. How is Christ exalted by sitting at the right hand of God?

A. Sitting at the right hand of God exalts Christ as the God-man; He is advanced to the highest favor with God the Father with all the joy, glory, and power of this position over all things in heaven and earth. There Christ gathers and defends His church, subdues her enemies, provides His ministers and people with gifts and graces, and intercedes for them.

Collection

***The Offertory Scripture**

Psalm 24:1-2 ESV

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

The Offertory Anthem

The Choir

***The 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.*

***The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Consecration

The Children's Sermon

The Pastoral Prayer

***The New Testament Reading**

Philippians 2:1-11 ESV
(Pew Bible p. 1165)

The Sermon

*Christmas in the New Testament:
The Name Above All Others – Part 3*

Pastor Chris Donnelly

- I. The _____ of Christ's exaltation (v. 9a)
- A. Because Jesus _____ embraced disgrace to fulfill His mission, the Father _____ Him to the highest possible degree.
- B. Christ's _____ took place in His resurrection, ascension, and _____.
- II. The _____ of Christ's exaltation (v. 9b)
- A. The Father has _____ upon Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, the superlative _____ *Kyrios*.
- B. In context, this name _____ that Jesus of Nazareth has been installed in the place that properly belongs to God Himself as _____ of all creation.
- III. The _____ to Christ's exaltation (v. 10-11a)
- A. The only appropriate response to Jesus Christ is _____.

B. Being _____ is not enough, salvation is found only in the
_____ of Jesus Christ.

IV. The _____ of Christ's exaltation (v. 11b.)

A. Worshiping the Son gives _____ to the Father.

B. We _____ the model of Jesus because this is the road that leads to true
glory and fulfills our primary _____.

Sermon Notes:

Answer Key: demonstrates, good, exaltation, gift, name, purpose, Lord, extolled, glory, source, response, follow, conferred, coronation, purpose, willingly, name, worship.

***The Closing Hymn**

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

Trinity Hymnal #203

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. [*Refrain*]

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth. [*Refrain*]

***The Benediction**

***Postlude**

God be with you till we meet again; by his counsels guide, uphold you,
with his sheep securely fold you: God be with you till we meet again.

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

	Infants (0-2)	Toddlers (2-4)	Worship Training (5-7)
Today	Rebecca Wallace and Kimberly Richards	Laura, Brent, and Macie Clinton	Grace Benes and Ilse Wallace
Next Week	Ann Carol Love and Abby Chidester	Staci and Brett Brackett	Danielle Austin and Amanda Brummett

Worship Training is available for ages 5-7. Children will leave after the children's sermon to attend class in the Education Building. Parents are to pick them up after the worship service concludes.

Happy birthday today to Betsy Clinton! Happy birthday this week to Scott Wallace on 12/23; Ann Woodruff on 12/25; and Thomas Chidester on 12/26.

Welcome visitors! Please fill out a welcome card located in the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate.

We praise our great God and thank you for your faithful giving throughout the year! Let's finish 2025 strong so that we might begin the New Year on a solid financial footing. Please don't forget all tithes and offerings must be postmarked no later than Wednesday, December 31st, to be credited in the 2025 giving.

Please join us for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Wednesday, December 24th, at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

Women of Bethel, we have two openings on the WIC council, President Elect and Christian Education. Please join together in prayer and let us know as soon as possible if you can fill one of these roles in January. You will not serve alone! We are a team and would love to have you help us serve the Lord by serving our Bethel Church Family. If you are interested, contact Peggy Long at (704) 813-1116.

This Week at Bethel

Sunday:

Kids' Quest Christmas Caroling: 5:00 pm, meet at church

Youth: 5:00 pm

Wednesday:

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: 6:00 pm, Sanctuary

Next Week at Bethel

Youth: Sunday, December 28, 5:00 pm

Prayer requests:

- Recovery, healing, and strength: Helen Bean, Tammy Carrick, Betsy Clinton, Shirley Coker, Deke Cox, Cary Grant, Charlotte Jackson, Willie Keller, Joe LeMoyné, Barbara Love, Mary Love, Joy McCarter, Maxie McCarter, Eck Miller, Jenny Richards, Jackie Schropp, Kay Stewart, Scott Wallace, Larry Wilmoth, Diane Wyatt.
- We would be peacemakers: not contentious or eager for a fight and quick to make peace with others, to apologize to those we've offended, and to overlook offenses committed against us.
- Families and marriages: that the Lord would give us the strength to honor Him through our bodies as they are the temple of the Lord, and wisdom to continuously build a healthy spiritual life and marriage with Him at the center.
- Pastor Rick Wheeler and the congregation at **Trinity Presbyterian Church**, 651 Great Falls Highway, Chester, SC 29706, (803) 385-5724.