



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!

*Obsessing over the future is not how God wants us to live,
because showing us the future is not God's way. His way is to speak
to us in the Scriptures and transform us by the renewing of our minds.
His way is not a crystal ball. His way is wisdom.*

Kevin DeYoung

**The LORD's Day
Sunday, December 28, 2025**

www.BethelChurchPCA.com

~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!*

Psalm 111:10

Preparation

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Silent Meditation and Prayer on Job 28:28

And he said to man, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.'

Adoration

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

Psalm 39:4-8, 12a ESV

Pastor: O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am!

People: Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath!

All: Surely a man goes about as a shadow! Surely for nothing they are in turmoil; man heaps up wealth and does not know who will gather!

Pastor: And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you!

People: Deliver me from all my transgressions. Do not make me the scorn of the fool!

All: Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; hold not your peace at my tears! For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my fathers.

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
dear Desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:
“Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth.”

Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end;
by His life He brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
this the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King;
born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;
by Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

***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.*

¹James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.

²Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,

³for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

⁴And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

⁶But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.

⁷For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

⁸he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

⁹Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation,

¹⁰and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away.

¹¹For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

Confession

The Call to Confession

Psalm 85:8-9 ESV

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly. Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land. Hearing this, Bethel Church, let us confess our transgressions to the Lord now.

The Corporate Confession of Sin

Almighty God, in the beginning, you created the world as a place of order, a place easily tamed. But the sin of our first parents brought disorder and chaos to the world, and we continue in that sin to this day.

Where you have spoken clearly, we have questioned your word. What has been evil, we have looked at with desire. When we have found wickedness, we have spread it to others and encouraged its use. We have been silent when we should have spoken, and when we speak, we speak with unclean lips.

In our rebellion, we have disguised the truth of our sin and hidden ourselves from your presence. We have failed to take responsibility for our want of righteousness, blaming others for all our faults.

And yet, O God, though we have failed to seek you, you have sought us. We could not atone for our own sin, but you sent your Son to bear our curse. Therefore, look with kindness on your servants, and grant joy of your assurance, always and only through the blood of Jesus Christ, your Son, in whose name we pray. Amen.

The Silent Confession of Sin

***The Assurance of Forgiveness**

1 Peter 1:23-25 ESV

You have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever. And this word is the good news that was preached to you. Saints, receive the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***The Adoration Hymn** “Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

Trinity Hymnal #207

Good Christian men, rejoice,
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
earth and heav'n before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice,
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice,
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

*We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.*

*And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds.
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
And ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
And He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;
Whose kingdom shall have no end.*

*And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;
We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
And we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

Collection

***The Offertory Scripture**

Matthew 6:19-21 ESV

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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 Old Testament Reading**

Ecclesiastes 7:1-13 ESV
(Pew Bible p. 660)

The Message

Ending Well

Mr. Matthew Clay
Young Adult Ministry Intern

***The Closing Hymn**

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

Trinity Hymnal #221

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to men a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.

The shepherds heard the story, proclaimed by angels bright,
how Christ, the Lord of glory, was born on earth this night.
To Bethlehem they sped and in the manger found him,
as angel heralds said.

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God; from sin and death he saves us
and lightens ev'ry load.

O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory, who dost our weakness know,
bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven
and to the endless day.

***The Blessing**

***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	Ann Carol Love and Abby Chidester	Staci and Brett Brackett	Danielle Austin and Amanda Brummett
Next Week	Jackie and Albert Krashner	Laura Clinton and Trinna Meek	Rebecca Wallace and Kyla Ferguson

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 Gary Seaford! Happy birthday this week to Malize Wallace and Brenna Clinton on 12/29; Chris Griesman and Emma Culbertson on 12/30; Larry McCormick and Rett Mounts on 12/31; Joe LeMoyne and Sherri Mizell on 1/1; and Colin Clinton on 1/3.

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

If you requested offering envelopes for next year, they are available in the foyer.

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.

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

Thursday

Office closed in observance of New Year's Day. Happy New Year!

Next Week at Bethel

Youth Committee Meeting: Sunday, January 4, 4:00 pm

Youth: Sunday, January 4, 5:00 pm

Men of the Covenant: Monday, January 5, 6:30 pm, FLC

Circle #1: Tuesday, January 6, 10:30 am, Ladies Parlor

GriefShare: Tuesday, January 6, 1:00 pm, Covenant Classroom

Diaconate Meeting: Tuesday, January 6, 7:00 pm

Men's Bible Study: Wednesday, January 7, 6:00 am, Conference Room

Mentors & Moms: Thursday, January 8, 9:30 am, Education Building

Prayer requests:

- Recovery, healing, and strength: Helen Bean, Tammy Carrick, Betsy Clinton, Shirley Coker, Deke Cox, Cary Grant, Charlotte Jackson, Willie Keller, Joe LeMoyne, Barbara Love, Mary Love, Joy McCarter, Maxie McCarter, Eck Miller, Jenny Richards, Jackie Schropp, Kay Stewart, Scott Wallace, Larry Wilmoth, Diane Wyatt.
- Pray that we would be people who practice godly self-restraint: we would model good works at home, at work, and in our neighborhood; have control over our passions; live according to the New Testament's ethical commands so that God will be glorified.
- GriefShare: a support group ministry for those grieving the loss of a loved one in our congregation and community. Through this 13-week program, individuals are equipped to understand the complex emotions associated with grief and to learn effective coping strategies. Please praise God for our committed ministry leaders and pray for the ministry's fruitfulness.
- Pastor Al Ward and the congregation at **Zion Presbyterian Church**, 219 The Avenue, Chester, SC 29706, (803) 581-6071.