



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!

*Your soul will wither and die without your Bible.
Approach it desperately.*

Matt Smethurst

***The LORD'S Day
Sunday, October 12, 2025***

www.BethelChurchPCA.com

~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

*All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you,
O Lord, and shall glorify your name.*

Psalm 86:9

Preparation

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Silent Meditation and Prayer

Psalm 119:18 ESV

Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.

Adoration

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

Psalm 111:1-10 ESV

Pastor: Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

**People: Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.
Full of splendor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever.**

Pastor: He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful. He provides food for those who fear Him; He remembers His covenant forever.

**People: He has shown His people the power of His works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations. The works of His hands are faithful and just;
all His precepts are trustworthy.**

Pastor: They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

People: He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever. Holy and awesome is His name!

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

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near, join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
ponder anew what the Almighty will do, if with his love he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, who with marvelous wisdom hath made thee,
decked thee with health, and with loving hand guided and stayed thee.
How oft in grief hath not he brought thee relief, spreading his wings to o'ershade thee!

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly fore'er we adore him.

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.*

¹Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord!

²Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart,

³who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways!

⁴You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.

⁵Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!

⁶Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.

⁷I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules.

⁸I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me!

⁹How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.

¹⁰With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!

¹¹I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

¹²Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes!

¹³With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth.

¹⁴In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.

¹⁵I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.

¹⁶I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

Confession

The Call to Confession

Psalm 19:12-13 ESV

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who can stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Trusting ourselves to His grace, let us confess our transgressions to the Lord now.

The Corporate Confession of Sin

Almighty Father, while we were yet sinners, You sent Your Son to bear our sins in His body on the tree. And while we know this and have been reminded of this glorious truth many times, we continue to act as infants in Christ. We behave as if we were still in the flesh. We indulge in jealousy, which is covetousness. We attribute Your work to mere men, and we boast in them, which is idolatry. We are far more passionate for our lives and our interests than for Your Kingdom and glory, which is to make ourselves gods.

How much wisdom we have gathered from the world, and then considered ourselves to be wise! How much we have built that will not withstand the day of judgment!

And yet You have given us all things in Christ, and have built us into Your holy temple. You have promised us that we have conquered death in the death of our Savior. And so we confess all of these things, as well as many unspoken sins, and we do so in the confidence that You will hear and forgive, for the sake of Your Son our Savior, Lord Jesus Christ, in Whose name we pray. Amen.

The Silent Confession of Sin

The Assurance of Forgiveness

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 ESV

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. Brothers and sisters in Christ, receive the good news of the gospel: in Jesus, we are forgiven.

***The Song of Thanks**

"Thy Mercy My God"

Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,
The joy of my heart. and the boast of my tongue;
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last,
Hath won my affections, and bound my soul fast.

Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here;
Sin would reduce me to utter despair;
But, through Thy free goodness, my spirits revive,
And He that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart,
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;
Dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground,
And weep to the praise of the mercy I' ve found.

Great Father of mercies, Thy goodness I own,
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son;
All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.
All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.

Q. 159. How should those who are called preach the word of God?

A. Those who are called to labor in the ministry of the word should preach sound doctrine, accurately, in season and out of season, clearly, and not with seductive words of human wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power. They should faithfully and fully express the whole counsel of God; this should be done wisely, taking into account the needs and capabilities of the audience. Their preaching should be motivated by a zealous and fervent love for God and the souls of his people. Finally, it should be done sincerely, aiming to glorify God and to convert, edify, and save His people.

Q. 160. What is required of those who hear the word preached?

A. Those who hear the word preached must pay careful attention to it, prepare themselves and pray for understanding. They should review carefully what they hear through the Bible and accept the truths in it faithfully, lovingly, humbly, and with a ready mind, treating it as it is, the Word of God. They should meditate on it, talk about it, hide it in their hearts, and bring forth the fruit of it in their lives.

Collection

***The Offertory Scripture**

Matthew 6:2-4 ESV

"Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

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**

1 Peter 2:1-3 ESV
(Pew Bible p. 1204)

The Sermon

Cultivating Our Craving for God's Word Pastor Chris Donnelly

- I. Consider our _____ (1:23b-25)
 - A. Since we've already _____ the power of God's Word, our lives should bear _____ we've been born again.
 - B. Working in _____ with the Holy Spirit, the Word of God gives us _____.

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

- II. Crush our _____ (2:1)
 - A. As Christians, the reigning _____ of sin has been broken but its presence carries on in our _____.
 - B. Every _____, no matter how small, is an offense against the holiness of the Triune God and required the shedding of Christ's blood to make _____ for it.
- III. Confess our _____ (2:2a-b)
 - A. A _____ only cares about one thing, being _____.
 - B. The spiritual _____ we consume as believers comes to us verbally from the _____ of God.
- IV. Chase our _____ (2:2c)

A. In order to _____ the effort necessary to mature in the faith, we have to be wholly _____ with where we are now.

B. Spiritual _____ doesn't take place by accident, we need a plan to help us _____ in the faith.

V. Count our _____ (2:3).

A. The way to _____ our taste for Christ is to feast on Him more _____.

B. The _____ is one of the means by which we have _____ with Jesus Christ.

Sermon Notes:

Answer Key: Bible, awaken, mature, unsatisfied, growth, food, baby, atonement, flesh, sin, conjunction, experienced, rebirth, evidence, life, power, sin, need, fed, Word, embrace, growth, blessings, often, fellowship.

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 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	Renee Nix and Lawson Gray	Amanda and Miller Brummett	Johna Griesman and Cullie Mounts
Next Week	Beth Stowe and Danielle Austin	Peggy and David Long	Lindsey Hall and Ruth McCormick

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 Emily Donnelly and Jackie Krashner! Happy birthday this week to Austin Griesman on 10/14; Elaine Moseley on 10/15; Kathy Compton and Lee Coble on 10/16; and William Frommel on 10/18.

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

We would like to extend our sincerest condolences to Virginia Johnson and her family with the passing of Don. Please know that we are praying for all of you.

Next Sunday, October 19, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper together. Please take some time over the coming week to prayerfully prepare your heart and mind by reading and meditating on one of the following Scripture passages: Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 32, Psalm 51, Isaiah 53, or John 6:25-59. In this way, God renews and knits us together as His adopted children.

This Week at Bethel

Sunday:

ILPC Session Meeting: 2:00 pm

Session Meeting: 2:45 pm

Circle #2: 3:30 pm, Ladies Sunday School Classroom

Middle School Girls Discipleship Group: 4:00 pm

Youth: 5:00 pm

Kids' Quest: 5:00 pm, wear white night

Monday:

Circle #3: 7:00 pm, Covenant Classroom

Tuesday:

GriefShare: 6:30-8:30 pm, Covenant Classroom

Wednesday:

Colleen Riddle Circle: 11:00 am, Education Building

GriefShare: 1:00-3:00 pm, Covenant Classroom

Thursday:

Mentors & Mom: 9:30 am, Education Building

Next Week at Bethel

Congregational Luncheon: Sunday, October 19, following service

Youth: Sunday, October 19, 5:00 pm

Young Adult Community Group: Sunday, October 19. See Matt Clay for more information.

GriefShare: Tuesday, October 21, 6:30 pm, Covenant Classroom

Men's Bible Study: Wednesday, October 22, 6:00 am, Conference Room

GriefShare: Wednesday, October 22, 1:00 pm, Covenant Classroom

Mentors & Moms: Thursday, October 23, 9:30 am, Education Building

Men of the Covenant: Thursday, October 23, 6:30 pm, FLC

Upcoming Events at Bethel

Reformation Party: Sunday, October 26, 5:00 pm. If you plan to attend, please bring a pickup-type dish to share. There will be a pumpkin bake-off contest. Youth group families are asked to bring candy for the children.

Wedding Shower: A drop-in wedding shower for Rebecca Forrest Gilbert is on Sunday, November 9, from 2:00 to 3:30 pm, in the FLC. Her wedding registry is on Amazon.

QR Code for Giving



Prayer requests:

- Recovery, healing, and strength: Helen Bean, Laverne Beard, Tammy Carrick, Betsy Clinton, Shirley Coker, Deke Cox, Cary Grant, Charlotte Jackson, Bill Keller, Willie Keller, Joe Le Moyne, Barbara Love, Mary Love, Joy McCarter, Maxie McCarter, Eck Miller, Jenny Richards, Jackie Schropp, Kay Stewart, Scott Wallace, Larry Wilmoth, Diane Wyatt
- Spiritual revival: the Holy Spirit would bring a move of conviction and salvation upon communities of cultural influence; God will pour out His Spirit like a mighty purifying flood.
- Palmetto Women's Center: a ministry empowering women and families facing unexpected pregnancies in York County. They provide accurate information, free services, and practical support, giving each of their clients the care and attention they need, empowering them to make informed decisions for themselves and their future.
- Pastor Corey Lanier, the session, and congregation at **Salem Presbyterian Church**, 1907 Hickory Grove Road, Gaffney, SC 29340, (706) 881-0192.