



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!

*Churches don't make the gospel true.
It is true even when the household of God behaves badly.
But people can see that it is true, and doubters are converted
when "the sweetness of the Lord" is upon us.*

Ray Ortlund

**The LORD'S Day
Sunday, November 30, 2025**

www.BethelChurchPCA.com

~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

Yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

Habakkuk 3:18

Preparation

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Advent Wreath Lighting

The Chidester Family

The Silent Meditation and Prayer on Matthew 1:23

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel."

Adoration

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

Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7 ESV

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

People: You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

Pastor: For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

People: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

Pastor: And the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called

People: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

All: Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe. *[Refrain]*

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *[Refrain]*

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. *[Refrain]*

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. *[Refrain]*

***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.*

1“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

2But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap.

3He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD.

4Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

5“Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

Confession

The Call to Confession

Revelation 3:1-3 ESV

'I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. So, let us draw near to God with sincerity and confidence, and pray together.

The Corporate Confession of Sin

Psalms 86:1-5 ESV

Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. Preserve my life, for I am godly; save your servant, who trusts in you—you are my God. Be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all the day. Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you. Amen.

The Silent Confession of Sin

***The Assurance of Forgiveness**

Galatians 3:13-14 ESV

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. Beloved of God, receive the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

***The Confession of Faith**

Belgic Confession Article 18: The Incarnation

We confess that God fulfilled the promise made to the early fathers and mothers by the mouth of the holy prophets when He sent the only and eternal Son of God into the world at the time appointed.

The Son took the "form of a slave" and was made in "human form," truly assuming a real human nature, with all its weaknesses, except for sin; being conceived in the womb of the blessed virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit, without male participation. And Christ not only assumed human nature as far as the body is concerned but also a real human soul, in order to be a real human being. For since the soul had been lost as well as the body Christ had to assume them both to save them both together.

Therefore we confess (against the heresy of the Anabaptists who deny that Christ assumed human flesh from his mother) that Christ shared the very flesh and blood of children; being the fruit of the loins of David according to the flesh, descended from David according to the flesh; the fruit of the womb of the virgin Mary; born of a woman; the seed of David; the root of Jesse; descended from Judah, having descended from the Jews according to the flesh; descended from Abraham - having assumed descent from Abraham and Sarah, and was made like his brothers and sisters, yet without sin.

In this way Christ is truly our Immanuel - that is: "God with us."

Collection

***The Offertory Scripture**

Deuteronomy 8:18 ESV

You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

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*

Pastor Chris Donnelly

I. Paul's _____ to us – since you are in Christ, be _____
_____ as you struggle for the gospel (vs 1-4)

A. God the Spirit is the one _____ by the Father and the Son to
encourage and empower us as we faithfully seek to _____ the
Lord's commands.

B. The apostle is _____ is that we love everybody in an identical
_____, patiently, kindly, without envy, arrogance, or anger.

Romans 12:10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.

C. We demonstrate _____ in the body when we show concern for
the interests of other people, when we _____ each other as Christ
loved us.

1 Peter 5:5 *All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."*

- II. Paul's _____ for us – since you are in Christ, _____ Jesus' _____ as you live the gospel (vs 5-11)
- A. Christ didn't hold onto His _____ as if He could lose it, as if it might slip out of His _____.
- B. While Our Lord had every _____ to stay in heaven, His love for us drove Him to serve by giving up of His life as an atoning _____ for our sins on the cross.
- C. Even now Jesus _____ the place of honor in heaven, sitting at the right hand of the Father as He _____ on behalf of his own.

Sermon Notes:

Answer Key: intercedes, occupies, sacrifice, right, fingers, Godhead, mindset, display, example, love, unity, way, suggesting, follow, sent, united, spiritually, encouragement.

***The Closing Hymn**

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Trinity Hymnal #193

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood;
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the pow'rs of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph;
cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, Lord Most High!"

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	Jessica McMullen and Nathalee Cuffman	Marissa Robinson and Sylvia Price	Johna Griesman and Danielle Austin
Next Week	Lindsey Hall, Grace Benes, and Pavlina Benes	Abby Chidester and Ilse Wallace	Danielle Austin and Kathy Donnelly

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 this week to Caroline Payne and Dacia Lewis on 12/2; Jackie Schropp on 12/3; Debbie McDowell and Paul J. Robinson on 12/4; Laura Eastridge on 12/5; and Kathy Donnelly on 12/6.

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

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

Education Building Christmas Decorating: Sunday, November 30, 5:00-6:30 pm, see Abby Chidester for questions

Monday

Men of the Covenant: Christmas meal with wives, 6:30 pm, FLC. The cost is \$15 per person, to be paid that evening.

Tuesday

Circle #1: 10:30 am, Ladies Parlor

Diaconate Meeting: 7:00 pm

Wednesday

Men's Bible Study: 6:00 am

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

Saturday

Christmas Play Practice: 10:00 am, Sanctuary

Next Week at Bethel

Christmas Play: Sunday, December 7, 6:00 pm. Come join us as our children bear witness to God's unfolding plan of redemption in *The Ten Proclamations*. WIC is providing refreshments afterwards in the FLC. We will be receiving the Joy Gift Offering, which answers the prayers of PCA widows and missionaries in times of financial need.

Circle #3: Monday, December 8, 7:00 pm, Covenant Classroom

Men's Bible Study: Wednesday, December 10, 6:00 am, Conference Room

Colleen Riddle Circle: Wednesday, December 10, 11:00 am, Education Building

GriefShare: Wednesday, December 10, 1:00-3:00 pm, Covenant Classroom

Upcoming Events at Bethel

Good Samaritians: Thursday, December 18, 5:00 pm, FLC

Kids' Quest Caroling: Sunday, December 21, meet at Bethel at 5:00 pm

Prayer requests:

- Recovery, healing, and strength: Helen Bean, Tammy Carrick, Betsy Clinton, Shirley Coker, Deke Cox, Cary Grant, Charlotte Jackson, Bill Keller, 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 upright people: we would take delight in whatever delights God; willingly avoid whatever has an evil influence over us or those we care for; be known for the good we are for as well as the evil we are against.
- Biblical Studies Released Time: a Bible-centered organization we support whose purpose is to evangelize boys and girls with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and to establish them in the Word of God and in a local church for Christian living.
- Pastor Chris Sewell, the session, and congregation at **Trinity Presbyterian Church**, 4421 Old Hickory Road, Lancaster, SC 29720, (803) 816-2660.