



# Bethel

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PCA

*Timeless Truths for our  
Changing Community*

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*Organized 1764*

## Our Vision

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

## Welcome to Bethel!

*“The Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless human baby,  
needing to be fed and changed and taught to talk like any other child.*

*The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets.  
Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as this truth of the Incarnation.”*

*J.I. Packer*

**The LORD’S Day  
Sunday, December 14, 2025**

[www.BethelChurchPCA.com](http://www.BethelChurchPCA.com)

~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

*Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he!*

***Psalm 99:5***

Preparation

**The Prelude**

**The Welcome and Announcements**

**The Advent Wreath Lighting**

The Wynkoop family

**The Silent Meditation and Prayer on Hebrews 12:1**

*Let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.*

Adoration

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

Psalm 108:1-5 ESV

*Pastor: My heart is steadfast, O God! I will sing and make melody with all my being!*

**People: Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn! I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples. I will sing praises to you among the nations.**

*Pastor: For your steadfast love is great above the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.*

**People: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him born the King of angels;

*Refrain:*

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.*

God of God, Light of Light;  
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten, not created; [*Refrain*]

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
glory to God in the highest; [*Refrain*]

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning:  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing; [*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.*

<sup>1</sup>“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup>Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. <sup>5</sup>Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup>“Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;

<sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.

<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

<sup>10</sup>“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

<sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup>“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

## Confession

### **The Call to Confession**

1 Timothy 1:12-13 ESV

*I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief. Trusting ourselves to God's grace, let us confess our transgressions to the Lord now.*

### **The Corporate Confession of Sin**

*Lord God, eternal and almighty Father, we recognize and confess frankly that in the presence of your most holy Majesty, we are wretched sinners, and that we, even from the first beginning by which we were conceived and born, are prone toward every evil and strangers from every good: because of this vice, we continually transgress your most holy laws, and for that reason, obtain destruction for ourselves by your most just judgment.*

*O most merciful God, we implore you by the name of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, forgive our vices that have been wiped away and all our filth that has been washed away, and increase day by day the power and gifts of your Holy Spirit in us, so that we, having died to sin by this repentance, may hereafter abound in the fruits of righteousness and innocence, by which we may please you through Jesus Christ your Son, our only Redeemer and Mediator. Amen.*

### **The Silent Confession of Sin**

#### **\*The Assurance of Forgiveness**

Hebrews 10:12-14 ESV

*For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Children of God, receive the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.*

## **\*The Adoration Hymn**

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” *Trinity Hymnal #223*

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down,  
and glory shone around,  
and glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he — for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind —  
"glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and all mankind,  
to you and all mankind.

"To you, in David's town this day,  
is born of David's line,  
the Savior, who is Christ the Lord,  
and this shall be the sign,  
and this shall be the sign:

"The heav'nly babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
and in a manger laid,  
and in a manger laid."

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus  
addressed their joyful song,  
addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high,  
and to the earth be peace:  
good will henceforth, from heav'n to men,  
begin and never cease,  
begin and never cease!"

**It is necessary for eternal salvation that one believe in the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ faithfully. Now this is the true faith: That we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and human, equally.**

**He is God from the essence of the Father, begotten before time; and He is human from the essence of His mother, born in time; completely God, completely human, with a rational soul and human flesh; equal to the Father as regards divinity, less than the Father as regards humanity.**

**Although He is God and human, yet Christ is not two, but one. He is one, however, not by His divinity being turned into flesh, but by God's taking humanity to Himself. He is one, certainly not by the blending of His essence, but by the unity of His person. For just as one human is both rational soul and flesh, so too the one Christ is both God and human.**

**He suffered for our salvation; He descended to hell; He arose from the dead; He ascended to heaven; He is seated at the Father's right hand; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. At His coming all people will arise bodily and give an accounting of their own deeds. Those who have done good will enter eternal life, and those who have done evil will enter eternal fire. This is the catholic faith: one cannot be saved without believing it firmly and faithfully. Amen.**

Collection

**\*The Offertory Scripture**

Matthew 2:10-11 ESV

*When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.*

**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

John 1:1-14 ESV  
(Pew Bible p. 1053)

### The Sermon

### *Paving the Way for Our Salvation*

Pastor Mark Kozak

God \_\_\_\_\_ for our salvation by (1) sending John as a \_\_\_\_\_, and (2) thru Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ so that we might be drawn to salvation.

1. 6-8 John prepares for the Jews to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.
  - a. 7 We also need to hear John's "\_\_\_\_\_" /testimony. What did John say?
  - b. 1:26-27 John's message: \_\_\_\_\_ Christ. E.g.- transfiguration in Matthew 17:2-5
  - c. 1:29 "Look, the Lamb who \_\_\_\_\_ sin."
2. 14 Father/Son \_\_\_\_\_ the way for our salvation.
  - a. "Word made \_\_\_\_\_" = Father's desire for us to know Him through Christ the son.
  - b. Dwelt among us.
  - c. All this prepared/helped us to "see the Father's \_\_\_\_\_ through His Son."
  - d. E.g. – new study: Jesus with the Pharisees. Jesus amazing \_\_\_\_\_ with them.
3. 9-13 Prepared vs. Unprepared for Eternity
  - a. 9 Jesus: the "true light, lights everyone," no one has an \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. 10 Still, most of \_\_\_\_\_ missed Christ.
  - c. 11 The people closest to Him—His own \_\_\_\_\_ –missed Him.
  - d. Receiving Jesus brings about our new \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.



**Sermon Notes:**

**Answer Key:** prepared, witness, incarnation, hear, witness, listen to, takes away, paved, flesh, glory, success, excuse, creation, nation, birth, adoption.

*Refrain:*

*Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. [*Refrain*]

The shepherds feared and trembled  
when, lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. [*Refrain*]

Down in a lowly manger  
our humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. [*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.*

	<b>Infants (0-2)</b>	<b>Toddlers (2-4)</b>	<b>Worship Training (5-7)</b>
<b>Today</b>	Harper Harvell and Lindsay Hoffman	Sheridan & Carter Miller, and Shirley Brackett	Lindsey Hall and Ruth McCormick
<b>Next Week</b>	Rebecca Wallace and Kimberly Richards	Laura, Brent, and Macie Clinton	Grace Benes and Ilse Wallace

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 Cory Clinton! Happy birthday this week to Nancy Martin on 12/17; Bill Keller and Lisa Cox on 12/18; David Long on 12/19; and Cameron Miller and Micah Brummett on 12/20.

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 24, 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**

**Session Meeting:** 2:00 pm, Conference Room

**Circle #2:** 3:30 pm, home of Douglas McCarter, 1060 Lawrence Road, Clover

**Youth:** 5:00 pm

**Young Adult Community Group:** 6:00 pm, see Matt Clay for more details

#### **Wednesday**

**Men's Bible Study:** 6:00 am, Conference Room

#### **Thursday**

**Good Samaritians:** 5:00 pm, FLC

#### **Next Week at Bethel**

**Kids' Quest Christmas Caroling:** Sunday, December 21, 5:00 pm, meet at church

**Youth:** Sunday, December 21, 5:00 pm

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service:** Wednesday, December 24, 6:00 pm, Sanctuary

#### **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.
- Pray that we would be people eager to see the good: we would be equitable in our decisions and counsel, fair in all our dealings, treat all people equally, and not overlook those who are unlike ourselves or easily missed.
- Clover Area Assistance Center (CAAC): a local organization we support that provides a range of services to those in need. CAAC compassionately assists disadvantaged individuals living within the boundaries of the Clover School District in varying degrees of need with food, financial assistance, health services, and education.
- Pastor Greg Marshall, the session, and congregation at **Temple Presbyterian Church**, 1105 N. Beersheba Road, Clover, SC 29745-0733, (478) 365-4032.