



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!

*You cannot imagine what a great deal of good
it will do to resist the very next temptation.*

Jeremiah Burroughs

*The LORD'S Day
Sunday, August 17, 2025*

www.BethelChurchPCA.com

~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

Isaiah 26:3

Preparation

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Silent Meditation and Prayer on Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

Adoration

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

Psalm 89:1-7 ESV

Pastor: I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

People: For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."

Pastor: You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: 'I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.'"

People: Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

All: For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD, a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones, and awesome above all who are around him?

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art -
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, I thy true son;
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for my fight;
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r;
raise thou me heav'n-ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

***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.*

¹And Moses summoned all Israel and said to them, “Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the rules that I speak in your hearing today, and you shall learn them and be careful to do them. ²The Lord our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. ³Not with our fathers did the Lord make this covenant, but with us, who are all of us here alive today. ⁴The Lord spoke with you face to face at the mountain, out of the midst of the fire, ⁵while I stood between the Lord and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the Lord. For you were afraid because of the fire, and you did not go up into the mountain. He said:

⁶“ ‘I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ⁷“ ‘You shall have no other gods before me.

⁸“ ‘You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁹You shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ¹⁰but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

¹¹“ ‘You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

¹²“ ‘Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. ¹³Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁴but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant, or your ox or your donkey or any of your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. ¹⁵You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

¹⁶“ ‘Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. ¹⁷“ ‘You shall not murder. ¹⁸“ ‘And you shall not commit adultery. ¹⁹“ ‘And you shall not steal. ²⁰“ ‘And you shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ²¹“ ‘And you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife. And you shall not desire your neighbor’s house, his field, or his male servant, or his female servant, his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.’

Confession

The Call to Confession

Matthew 11:28-30 ESV

Come to me, all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Saints, let us rest in God's mercy as we confess together.

The Corporate Confession of Sin

Psalm 13

How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? Consider and answer me, O LORD my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me. Amen.

The Silent Confession of Sin

***The Assurance of Forgiveness**

Ephesians 1:7-8 ESV

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. Receive the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***The Song of Thanks**

“O Church, Arise”

O Church, arise, and put your armor on; hear the call of Christ our Captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong in the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of Truth, we'll stand against the devil's lies;
An army bold, whose battle cry is love, reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war—to love the captive soul, but to rage against the captor;
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole, we will fight with faith and valor.
When faced with trials on ev'ry side, we know the outcome is secure,
and Christ will have the prize for which He died—an inheritance of nations.

Come see the cross, where love and mercy meet, as the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet, for the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away and Christ emerges from the grave,
this victory march continues 'til the day ev'ry eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit come, put strength in ev'ry stride, give grace for ev'ry hurdle,
that we may run with faith to win the prize of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way, retelling triumphs of His grace,
we hear their calls and hunger for the day when with Christ we stand in Glory.

***The Confession of Faith**

Belgic Confession Article 16: Eternal Election

We believe that all the posterity of Adam, being thus fallen into perdition and ruin by the sin of our first parents, God then did manifest Himself such as He is; that is to say, merciful and just: merciful, since He delivers and preserves from this perdition all whom He, in His eternal and unchangeable counsel, of mere goodness hath elected in Christ Jesus our Lord, without any respect to their works; just, in leaving others in the fall and perdition wherein they have involved themselves.

Collection

***The Offertory Scripture**

Isaiah 55:1 ESV

"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."

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 1:1-2 ESV
(Pew Bible p. 1203)

The Sermon

Introducing Peter

Pastor Chris Donnelly

- I. The _____ of the Letter (v. 1a)
 - A. Peter is the name Jesus gave _____ when his brother Andrew _____ him to the Lord (John 1:42).
 - B. As His _____, Jesus Christ designated Simon as a trustworthy _____ and explainer of the gospel.
- II. The _____ of the Letter (v. 1b.)
 - A. Elect here means _____ by God to be His _____.
 - B. Exiles, or more literally resident _____, refers to a temporary inhabitant in a _____ place.

C. Peter's _____ lived in modern-day Turkey where discrimination and localized violence against Christians were _____ in the first-century church.

III. The _____ of the Trinity (v. 2)

A. Peter emphasizes to his suffering audience that God is in _____, working everything out in accordance with His good _____.

B. Sanctification is a _____ work of the Holy Spirit whereby we are renewed in the image of God and _____ more and more to die to sin and live unto righteousness.

C. With the _____ obedience and sprinkling, Peter refers to the confirmation of the _____ God made with the people of Israel (Exodus 24:3-8).

Sermon Notes:

Answer Key: common, apostle, control, gracious, Simon, messenger, enabled, plan, action, terms, aliens, introduced, covenant, audience, foreign, chosen, author, recipients, people.

The Closing Hymn"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"**Trinity Hymnal #529*

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down:
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest:
take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its Beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be:
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

***The Benediction**

Numbers 6:24-26 ESV

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

***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	Meredith & Brenna Clinton and Jenifer Riddle	Abby Chidester and Cheri Jackson	Johna Griesman and Cullie Mounts
Next Week	Ann Carol Love and Kyla Ferguson	Peggy and David Long	Jenni Quinn 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 today to James Long! Happy birthday this week to Kay Hallman on 8/18; Larry Wilmoth on 8/20; Kampbell Hall on 8/21; and Ella Chidester on 8/23.

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

Saints, please prayerfully consider joining a community group this fall. Typically, these groups meet twice a month, either on the 1st and 3rd or 2nd and 4th weeks. The goal of this ministry is to foster spiritual growth through honest conversations about the gospel and our lives. Several groups will start in August at a location near you. You can find out more about the available options on our website. If you have any further questions, please get in touch with Pastor Chris.

Interested in learning more about Bethel Presbyterian Church or becoming a member? We're planning a new member's class beginning Sunday, September 7th. The meetings will occur at 10:00 am upstairs in the Family Life Center. If you plan to attend, please get in touch with Pastor Chris via email (chris.donnelly@bethelchurchpca.com), text (443.841.2985), or through the church office.

This Week at Bethel

Today:

Youth, 5:00 pm

Kids' Quest, 5:00 pm, crazy socks

Monday:

GriefShare, "Loss of Spouse" stand-alone session, 6:30-8:30 pm, Covenant Classroom

Tuesday:

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

Next Week at Bethel

Kids' Quest: Sunday, August 24, 5:00 pm, pajama night

Youth: Sunday, August 24, 5:00 pm

Upcoming Events at Bethel

Sunday School Rally Day: Sunday, August 31, 10:00am, Sanctuary

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, Don Johnson, Bill Keller, Willie Keller, Barbara Love, Mary Love, Joy McCarter, Maxie McCarter, Eck Miller, Jenny Richards, Jackie Schropp, Kay Stewart, Scott Wallace, Diane Wyatt.
- Visitors: God would give us eyes to see those singles, couples, and families we can invite to our congregation; we would be a warm, welcoming faith community where the love of Christ is freely shared and received.
- Families and marriages: that the Lord would help us to show His mercy and grace to our spouse and children each time they need it, and not bring up past hurts or failures.
- The staff and congregation at **Christ Ridge Presbyterian Church, 1070 Gold Hill Road, Fort Mill, SC 29708-7831, (803) 548-2020.**