



# 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!

*Christ died not only to free you from  
the condemnation of sin in the future,  
but also to deliver you from its conquest here and now.*

*John Durant*

*The LORD'S Day  
Sunday, August 24, 2025*

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

~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

*The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.*

***Nahum 1:7***

Preparation

**The Prelude**

**The Welcome and Announcements**

**The Silent Meditation and Prayer on Zephaniah 3:17**

*The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.*

Adoration

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

Psalm 35 ESV

*Pastor: Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me!*

**People: Take hold of shield and buckler and rise for my help!**

*Pastor: Then my soul will rejoice in the LORD, exulting in his salvation.*

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

*Pastor: How long, O Lord, will you look on? Rescue me from their destruction, my precious life from the lions!*

**People: I will thank you in the great congregation; in the mighty throng I will praise you. You have seen, O LORD; be not silent! O Lord, be not far from me!**

*Pastor: Let those who delight in my righteousness shout for joy and be glad and say evermore, "Great is the LORD, who delights in the welfare of his servant!"*

***All: Then my tongue shall tell of your righteousness and of your praise all the day long.***

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all praise we would render; O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

**\*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>23</sup> “Be glad, O children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God, for he has given the early rain for your vindication; he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the latter rain, as before

<sup>24</sup> “The threshing floors shall be full of grain; the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

<sup>25</sup> I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent among you.

<sup>26</sup> “You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

<sup>27</sup> You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God and there is none else. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

<sup>28</sup> “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.

<sup>29</sup> Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

<sup>30</sup> “And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke.

<sup>31</sup> The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.

<sup>32</sup> And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

## Confession

### **The Call to Confession**

Psalm 103 ESV

*The LORD does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. He is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Church, trusting in God's mercy, let us confess together.*

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

*Daniel 9*

**"O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules. To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God by walking in his laws, which he set before us. To us, O LORD, belongs open shame.**

**Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy, and for your own sake, O Lord, make your face to shine upon your sanctuary." Amen.**

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

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

1 John 1:9 ESV

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Children of God, receive the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.*

Oh, to see the dawn Of the darkest day:  
Christ on the road to Calvary.  
Tried by sinful men, Torn and beaten, then  
Nailed to a cross of wood.

Oh, to see the pain Written on Your face  
Bearing the awesome weight of sin;  
Every bitter thought, Every evil deed  
Crowning Your bloodstained brow.  
*This, the power of the cross: Christ became sin for us,  
Took the blame, bore the wrath: We stand forgiven at the cross.*

Now the daylight flees, Now the ground beneath  
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.  
Curtain torn in two, Dead are raised to life;  
'Finished!' the victory cry.  
*This, the power of the cross: Christ became sin for us,  
Took the blame, bore the wrath: We stand forgiven at the cross.*

Oh, to see my name Written in the wounds,  
For through Your suffering I am free.  
Death is crushed to death, Life is mine to live,  
Won through Your selfless love.  
*This, the power of the cross: Son of God, slain for us.  
What a love! What a cost! We stand forgiven at the cross.*

## **\*The Confession of Faith**

The Westminster Confession of Faith  
Concerning the Holy Spirit  
See WCF 1.5, 1.6, 2.3, 18.2, and 19.7

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead, eternally proceeding from the Father and the Son. It is the inward work of the Holy Spirit, bearing witness by and with the Word in our Hearts, that subdues and enables the will of man to do freely and cheerfully, the will of God, as revealed in the law. It is this inward illumination of the Spirit of God that is necessary for the saving understanding of such things as are revealed to the Word. The Spirit also gives testimony to our adoption, by witnessing to our spirits that we are children of God.

## Collection

### **\*The Offertory Scripture**

Exodus 19:5 ESV

*Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine.*

### **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**

Acts 2:42-47 ESV  
(Pew Bible p. 1082)

I. (v. 42) A Devotion to the Word

- A. "Devotion" – its primary meaning is to " \_\_\_\_\_ "
- B. "The \_\_\_\_\_ IS the Word. The Apostles Doctrine is...."
- C. (1) The Old \_\_\_\_\_ (2) Fulfilled by \_\_\_\_\_ (3) Explained in the \_\_\_\_\_

II. A Three-fold Devotion

- A. "The Breaking of Bread" together with v. 41, signifies the \_\_\_\_\_ '
- B. "The Prayers" – praying for what God already said He \_\_\_\_\_ to give us
- C. The Word, sacraments, and prayer are the \_\_\_\_\_ of Grace

III. (vs. 43-47) God's Blessings for this Devotion

- A. Others \_\_\_\_\_ than self.
- B. Worship of God creates joyful \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Even the \_\_\_\_\_ like our love and unity

**Sermon Notes:**

**Answer Key:** persevere, Apostles Doctrine, Testament, Christ, Epistles, sacraments, wants, means, greater, community, unsaved.



**\*The Closing Hymn**

“Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord”

*Trinity Hymnal #606*

Teach me thy way, O Lord; teach me thy way!  
Thy guiding grace afford; teach me thy way!  
Help me to walk aright, more by faith, less by sight;  
lead me with heav’nly light; teach me thy way!

When I am sad at heart, teach me thy way!  
When earthly joys depart, teach me thy way!  
In hours of loneliness, in times of dire distress,  
in failure or success, teach me thy way!

When doubts and fears arise, teach me thy way!  
When storms o’erspread the skies, teach me thy way!  
Shine thro’ the cloud and rain, thro’ sorrow, toil, and pain;  
make thou my pathway plain; teach me thy way!

Long as my life shall last, teach me thy way!  
Where’er my lot be cast, teach me thy way!  
Until the race is run, until the journey’s done,  
until the crown is won, teach me thy way!

**\*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.*

	<b>Infants (0-2)</b>	<b>Toddlers (2-4)</b>	<b>Worship Training (5-7)</b>
<b>Today</b>	Ann Carol Love and Kayla Ferguson	Peggy and David Long	Jenni Quinn and Kathy Donnelly
<b>Next Week</b>	Sheridan and Carter Miller	Shirley Brackett and Jenni Quinn	Abby Chidester and Rebecca 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 Kay Jackson! Happy birthday this week to Jacob Lee on 8/25; Austin Brown, Felipe Benes, and Miles Brummett on 8/26; and Madeline Brummett on 8/28.*

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](mailto: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, pajama night**

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

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

**Youth:** Sunday, August 31, 5:00 pm

**Circle #1:** Tuesday, September 2, 10:30 am, Ladies Parlor

**Diaconate Meeting:** Tuesday, September 2, 7:00 pm

**Mentors & Moms:** Join us on Thursday, September 4, at 9:30 am, in the education building, for the book introduction, fellowship, and prayer. If you have questions, please see Ann Falls.

#### **Upcoming Events at Bethel**

**Men of the Covenant:** We will be meeting on Monday, September 8, at 6:30 pm for a meal, business meeting, election of officers, and fellowship. Our meeting will be held at Steve and Victoria Linder's home, 16528 Plantation Woods Drive, Charlotte.

**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.
- Spiritual revival: the Holy Spirit would give us a passion to see people saved and eyes to see the opportunities He's giving us each day for sharing the gospel.
- Families and marriages: those relationships all around us that are stressed; our marriages to be characterized by unity, intimacy, and honesty.
- Pastor Craig Marshall, the session, and congregation at **Bullock Creek Presbyterian Church**, 7386 Lockhart Road, Sharon, SC 29742, (803) 280-4618.