



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!

*The grace the Bible talks about
is power not just for justification
but also for transformation.*

Jared Wilson

***The LORD'S Day
Sunday, August 3, 2025***

www.BethelChurchPCA.com

~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

Praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD from the heavens, praise him in the heights above.

Psalm 148:1

Preparation

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Silent Meditation and Prayer on Micah 7:18

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love.

Adoration

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

Psalm 63 ESV

Pastor: O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

People: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.

All: My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night.

Pastor: For you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

People: But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth. They shall be given over to the power of the sword; they shall be a portion for jackals.

All: But the king shall rejoice in God; all who swear by him shall exult, for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

Praise him! praise him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
Sing, O earth, his wonderful love proclaim!
Hail him! hail him! highest archangels in glory;
strength and honor give to his holy name!
Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard his children,
in his arms he carries them all day long:
*Praise him! praise him! tell of his excellent greatness;
praise him! praise Him! ever in joyful song!*

Praise him! praise him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
For our sins he suffered and bled and died;
he our Rock, our hope of eternal salvation,
hail him! hail him! Jesus the Crucified.
Sound his praises! Jesus who bore our sorrows,
love unbounded, wonderful, deep, and strong:
*Praise him! praise him! tell of his excellent greatness;
praise him! praise Him! ever in joyful song!*

Praise him! praise him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
Heav'nly portals loud with hosannas ring!
Jesus, Savior, reigneth forever and ever;
crown him! crown him! Prophet and Priest and King!
Christ is coming! over the world victorious,
pow'r and glory unto the Lord belong:
*Praise him! praise him! tell of his excellent greatness;
praise him! praise Him! ever in joyful song!*

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.*

¹¹And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'" ²⁰And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵"Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' ²⁸But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' ³¹And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

Confession

The Call to Confession

Isaiah 13:11 ESV

I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant, and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless. Therefore, brothers and sisters, let us confess our sins to Almighty God.

The Corporate Confession of Sin

Almighty God, rich in mercy to all those who call upon You; Hear us as we come to You, humbly confessing our sins and transgressions, and imploring Your mercy and forgiveness.

We have broken Your holy laws by our deeds and by our words, and by the sinful affections of our hearts. We confess before You our disobedience and ingratitude, our pride and willfulness; and all our rebellion and failures toward You, Your Holy church, and our fellow men.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; and of Your great goodness grant that we may hereafter serve and please You in newness of life; through the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

The Silent Confession of Sin

***The Assurance of Forgiveness**

Deuteronomy 7:9 ESV

Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations. Saints of God, receive the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***The Song of Thanks**

“He Will Hold Me Fast”

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

Refrain:

*He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.*

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast. [*Refrain*]

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast
'Till our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last! [*Refrain*]

Q. 2. What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

A. Three things: first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.

Q. 3. How do you come to know your misery?

A. The law of God tells me.

Q. 4. What does God's law require of us?

A. Christ teaches us this in summary in Matthew 22:37-40: "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Q. 5. Can you live up to all this perfectly?

A. No. I have a natural tendency to hate God and my neighbor.

Collection

***The Offertory Scripture**

Malachi 3:10 ESV

Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

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 Old Testament Reading**

Jonah 4:1-4 ESV
(Pew Bible p. 921)

The Sermon

A Surprising Turn of Events

Pastor Chris Donnelly

- I. The prophet's _____ (v. 1)
 - A. As Yahweh's wrath and judgment were _____ by the Ninevites repentance, Jonah's anger was _____.
 - B. In failing to _____ God's sovereign plan for saving the Ninevites, Jonah missed the joy of faithfully _____ the Lord.
- II. The prophet's _____ (vs. 2-3)
 - A. Not only does this prayer demonstrate severe _____, but it also indicates Jonah's _____.
 - B. In referring to God's _____, Jonah did not use these words in praise to the Lord but as a _____ against Him.
 - C. Because God had not _____ out Nineveh's judgment, the prophet was left depressed and _____ to die.
- III. God's _____ (v. 4)
 - A. The fact that Yahweh _____ the prophet this question reminds us that we are responsible and _____ for our moods.
 - B. The Holy One of Israel was trying to _____ His messenger understand His compassion _____ to people from every nation, tribe, and tongue.

Sermon Notes:

Answer Key: selfishness, recognize, carried, response, help, thoughtlessness, praying, averted, prayer, question, character, extended, serving, asks, emotional, rant, answerable, provoked.

***The Closing Hymn** “Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord” *Trinity Hymnal # 465*

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,
grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt,
yonder on Calvary's mount out-poured,
there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

Refrain:

*Grace, grace, God's grace,
grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
grace, grace, God's grace,
grace that is greater than all our sin.*

Sin and despair like the sea waves cold,
threaten the soul with infinite loss;
grace that is greater, yes, grace untold,
points to the Refuge, the mighty cross. [*Refrain*]

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide,
What can avail to wash it away?
Look! there is flowing a crimson tide;
Whiter than snow you may be today. [*Refrain*]

***The Benediction**

2 Peter 3:17-18 ESV

¹⁷You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability.

¹⁸But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

***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	Grace & Pavlina Benes and Lawson Gray	Douglas McCarter and Ann Falls	Danielle Austin and Amanda Brummett
Next Week	Rebecca Wallace and Kim Britt	Nathalee Cuffman and Mandy Wynkoop	Peggy and David Long

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 Canaan Britt, Chrishe Wallace, and Todd Bowman! Happy Birthday this week to Maggie Deal on 8/5; Becky Adams on 8/6; and Lola Jean Mounts on 8/9.

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 express our deepest condolences to the family of Betty Jo McCarter. We are praying for all of you.

The Deacon's Fund will be collected after service.

Bethel family, for those interested, copies of the second quarter financial reports are available for you in the vestibule/narthex. If you have any questions, please contact your shepherding elder or the church treasurer, DN Ken Long.

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 Committee Meeting, 4:00 pm, Youth Room

Youth, 5:00 pm

Tuesday:

Circle #1, 10:30 am, Ladies Parlor

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

Diaconate Meeting, 7:00 pm

Wednesday:

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

Next Week at Bethel

Session Meeting: Sunday, August 10, 2:00 pm, Conference Room

Circle #2: Sunday, August 10, 3:30, Education Building, second classroom on right

Youth: Sunday, August 10, 5:00 pm

Circle #3: Monday, August 11, 7:00 pm, Covenant Classroom

GriefShare: Tuesday, August 12, 6:30-8:30 pm, Covenant Classroom

Colleen Riddle Circle: Wednesday, August 13, 11:00 am, Education Building, second classroom on right

GriefShare: Wednesday, August 13, 1:00-3:00 pm, Covenant Classroom

Upcoming Events at Bethel

GriefShare: Monday, August 18, "Loss of Spouse" stand-alone session, 6:30-8:30 pm, Covenant Classroom

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, Barbara Love, Mary Love, Eck Miller, Jenny Richards, Jackie Schropp, Kay Stewart, Scott Wallace, Diane Wyatt.
- Pray that we would be self-controlled people: our pride would be tempered by a sobering awareness of our remaining sin and personal frailty; we would demonstrate thoughtful restraint and modesty in all areas of our lives.
- Men's Ministry: God would use these efforts to help the men of the congregation grow in grace; the men of Bethel would feel loved by their Savior and find places of service in our congregation and community.
- Pastor Jason Anderson, the session and congregation at **Hopewell Presbyterian Church**, 1571 South Anderson Road, Rock Hill, SC 29730, (803) 324-1066.