



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 gospel is not a way to get people to heaven;
it is a way to get people to God. It's a way of overcoming
every obstacle to everlasting joy in God.*

*If we don't want God above all things,
we have not been converted by the gospel.*

John Piper

***The LORD'S Day
Sunday, August 31, 2025***

www.BethelChurchPCA.com

~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

*All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you,
O Lord, and shall glorify your name.*

Psalm 86:9

Preparation

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Silent Meditation and Prayer on Romans 8:16-17

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs-- heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Adoration

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

Psalm 107:1-9 ESV

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

People: Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Pastor: Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in; hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

People: Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in.

All: Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

Come, thou fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God:
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander – Lord, I feel it –
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.

***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“At that time, declares the Lord, I will be the God of all the clans of Israel, and they shall be my people.”

²Thus says the Lord: “The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest,

³the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

⁴Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall adorn yourself with tambourines and shall go forth in the dance of the merry-makers.

⁵Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant and shall enjoy the fruit.

⁶For there shall be a day when watchmen will call in the hill country of Ephraim: ‘Arise, and let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God.’ ”

⁷For thus says the Lord: “Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, ‘O Lord, save your people, the remnant of Israel.’

⁸Behold, I will bring them from the north country and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, the pregnant woman and she who is in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here.

⁹With weeping they shall come, and with pleas for mercy I will lead them back, I will make them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble, for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Confession

The Call to Confession

1 Thessalonians 4:7-8 ESV

For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore, whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you. Hearing this, saints, let us confess our sins to Almighty God.

The Corporate Confession of Sin

Almighty and most merciful Father; we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your Holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done, and there is no health in us.

O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to Your promises declared to us in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life; to the glory of Your Holy name. Amen.

The Silent Confession of Sin

***The Assurance of Forgiveness**

Psalm 106:10 ESV

So, He saved them from the hand of the foe and redeemed them from the power of the enemy. Bethel Church, receive the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Through the love of God our Savior, All will be well
Free and changeless is His favor, All is well
Precious is the blood that healed us, Perfect is the grace that sealed us
Strong the hand stretched forth to shield us, All must be well

Though we pass through tribulation, All will be well
Ours is such a full salvation, All is well
Happy still in God confiding, Fruitful if in Christ abiding
Steadfast through the Spirit's guiding, All must be well

We expect a bright tomorrow; All will be well
Faith can sing through days of sorrow, All is well
On our Father's love relying, Jesus every need supplying
Yes in living or in dying, All must be well

***The Confession of Faith**

Westminster Confession of Faith
Chapter 12:1 Concerning Adoption

We believe that God guarantees the gracious gift of adoption for all those who are justified in and for the sake of His only son, Jesus Christ. Those adopted enjoy the liberties and privileges of God's children, have His name put on them, receive the Spirit of adoption, have access to the throne of grace with boldness, and are enabled to cry, Abba, Father. They are pitied, protected, provided for, and disciplined by Him as a father. They are never cast off, however, and are sealed until the day of redemption and inherit the promises as heirs of everlasting salvation.

Collection

***The Offertory Scripture**

Matthew 6:31-33 ESV

Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

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 1:3-9 ESV
(Pew Bible p. 1203)

The Sermon

Our Living Hope

Pastor Chris Donnelly

- I. Praise for a _____ (v. 3-5)
- A. Naturally children of _____, our adoption into God's family is a _____ act of His steadfast love and mercy.
- B. Our _____ can never perish, never _____, and will not fade.
- C. While our inheritance is being safe kept in _____, the same power of God that protects it also _____ us.
- D. Faith is not our _____, but trust in the Lord's _____.

II. Joy in a _____ (v. 6-9)

A. Christians rejoice _____ suffering because they know that it will not continue _____.

James 1:2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds.

B. The _____ of trials is not to destroy faith, but to reveal and _____ it.

2 Corinthians 4:17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.

C. By _____, we Gentiles who have never seen Jesus may join the Apostle in _____ the Lord.

D. Since the Kingdom of God has not yet come in its _____, the goal of our _____ is still future.

Sermon Notes:

Answer Key: heaven, salvation, despite, fullness, faith, guards, wrath, forever, inheritance, achievement, purpose, gracious, precious, mature, accomplishment, inheritance, faith, promised, spoil, loving.

***The Closing Hymn**

“All the Way My Savior Leads Me”

Trinity Hymnal #605

All the way my Savior leads me; what have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt his tender mercy, who through life has been my guide?
Heav'nly peace, divinest comfort, here by faith in him to dwell;
for I know, whate'er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well;
for I know, whate'er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well.

All the way my Savior leads me, cheers each winding path I tread,
gives me grace for ev'ry trial, feeds me with the living bread.
Though my weary steps may falter, and my soul a-thirst may be,
gushing from the rock before me, lo, a spring of joy I see;
gushing from the rock before me, lo, a spring of joy I see!

All the way my Savior leads me - O the fullness of his love!
perfect rest to me is promised in my Father's house above:
when my spirit, clothed, immortal, wings its flight to realms of day,
this my song through endless ages: Jesus led me all the way;
this my song through endless ages: Jesus led me all the way!

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***The Benediction**

2 Corinthians 13:14 ESV

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.*

***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	Sheridan and Carter Miller	Shirley Brackett and Jenni Quinn	Abby Chidester and Rebecca Wallace
Next Week	Marissa Robinson and Nathalee Cuffman	Staci and Brett Brackett	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 Caroline Richards, Kristopher Whitesides, Steve Linder, and Wanda Whitesides!
Happy birthday this week to Dave Nix and Declan McKinnon on 9/6.*

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

Interested in learning more about Bethel Presbyterian Church or becoming a member? We're planning a new member's class beginning next 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.donnely@bethelchurchpca.com), text (443.841.2985), or through the church office.

This Week at Bethel

Monday:

Labor Day: Office closed

Tuesday:

Circle #1: 10:30 am, Ladies Parlor

Diaconate Meeting: 7:00 pm, Conference Room

Thursday:

Mentors & Moms: 9:30 am, Education Building. If you have questions, please see Ann Falls.

Next Week at Bethel

Installation Service: We will have an installation service for Rev. Mark Kozak on Sunday, September 7, at 4:00 pm in the sanctuary, followed by light refreshments in the FLC.

Men of the Covenant: Monday, September 8, at 6:30 pm. We will have 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. Those wanting to carpool should meet at the FLC by 6:00 pm.

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

GriefShare: Tuesday, September 9, 6:30-8:30 pm, Covenant Classroom

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

Mentors & Moms: Thursday, September 11, 9:30 am, Education Building

Good Samaritans: Thursday, September 11, 5:00 pm, FLC. We will have bingo and BBQ. Mark your calendars!

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.
- Our Congregation: that we would continue to grow in holiness, showing we've put off the old nature by our love for one another, even as we engage with our neighbors who don't know the love of God.
- Families and marriages: that the Lord would help us to walk in forgiveness and never lose sight of the fact that He has forgiven us, that He would help us to see our flaws and mistakes, and make the adjustments in our hearts that allow us to reflect Him to one another.
- Pastor Chris Sewell, the session, and congregation at **Trinity Presbyterian Church**, 4421 Old Hickory Road, Lancaster, SC 29720, (803) 816-2660.