



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 law never came to save men. It never was its intention at all.
It came on purpose to make the evidence complete that salvation
by works is impossible, and thus to drive the elect of God
to rely wholly on the finished salvation of the gospel.*

Charles Spurgeon.

***The LORD'S Day
Sunday, September 7, 2025***

www.BethelChurchPCA.com

~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

*Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain;
for the LORD our God is holy!*

Psalm 99:9

Preparation

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Silent Meditation and Prayer on 1 Thessalonians 2:13

And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

Adoration

***The Call to Worship**

Hebrews 10:19-25 ESV

*19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,
20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,*

21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,

25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with fear, his praise forth-tell,
come ye before him and rejoice.

The Lord ye know is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise,
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good,
his mercy is forever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

***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.*

¹The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones.

²And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry.

³And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, you know."

⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.

⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.

⁶And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.

⁸And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them.

⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live."

¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.'

¹²Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel.

¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people.

¹⁴And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord."

Confession

The Call to Confession

Jeremiah 2:12-13 ESV

Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water. Hearing this, brothers and sisters, let us draw near to the Lord with sincerity and confidence, and pray together.

The Corporate Confession of Sin

Our Father in Heaven, we call to you and name you as everlasting, omnipresent, and infinite in love. Yet there are times, O Lord, when we fail to recognize your presence in the bustle of our day. Sometimes shame clenches tightly around our hearts, and we hide our true feelings. Sometimes fear makes us shrink back, and we miss the chance to speak from our strength. Sometimes doubt invades our hearts, and we damage our wisdom.

Holy God, in the daily round from sunrise to sunset, remind us again of your holy presence dwelling near us and in us. Free us from shame and self-doubt. Help us to see you in the moment-by-moment possibilities to live honestly, to act courageously, and to speak from our wisdom. Amen.

The Silent Confession of Sin

***The Assurance of Forgiveness**

Titus 3:4-7 ESV

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Saints of God, receive the good news of the gospel: 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.*

Q. 155. What makes the word effective for salvation?

A. The Spirit of God causes the reading and especially the preaching of the word to enlighten, convince, and humble sinners. The Spirit drives sinners out of themselves and draws them to Christ; He conforms them to His image and subdues them to His will; He strengthens them against temptations and corrupting influences; and He builds them up in God's grace and establishes their hearts in holiness and comfort through faith to salvation.

Q. 156. Should everyone read the word of God?

A. Although everyone is not allowed to read the word publicly in church, all people must read it privately on their own and with their families. In order for this to happen, the Bible has to be translated out of the original Hebrew and Greek into contemporary languages.

Collection

***The Offertory Scripture**

Proverbs 3:5-6, 9-10 ESV

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

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 1:10-12 ESV
(Pew Bible p. 1203)

The Sermon

Our Gracious Salvation

Pastor Chris Donnelly

- I. Salvation according to the _____ study (v. 10-11a.)
 - A. The Old Testament prophets _____ the gift of salvation without ever seeing or knowing the _____, Jesus Christ.
 - B. The reality of God's gracious _____ was so amazing that the prophets spent their time trying to _____ its wonders.
 - II. Salvation according to the _____ inspiration (v. 11b.- 12a.)
 - A. The _____ which they wrote under the Spirit's guidance contained two elements: the sufferings of Christ and the _____ to follow.
 - B. God the Spirit _____ these messengers and stimulated them to write about the glorious salvation that was to _____.
- 2 Peter 1:21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*
- III. Salvation according to the _____ testimony (v. 12b.)
 - A. The word _____ here refers to the sufferings and glories of Christ and summarizes the _____ of the Gospel.
 - B. Gospel salvation is a heavenly _____, one divinely _____ by the Spirit of God.
 - IV. Salvation according to the _____ interest (v. 12 c.)

A. Despite their exalted _____, angels' knowledge of humanity's salvation is _____.

B. The angelic host _____ about salvation from the _____.

Ephesians 3:10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

Sermon Notes:

Answer Key: learns, apostles', prophecies, status, salvation, indwelt, prophets', message, glory, things, Holy Spirit's, come, incomplete, received, authenticated, savior, angels', comprehend, content, church.

***The Closing Hymn**

“Trust and Obey”

Trinity Hymnal #672

When we walk with the Lord in the light of his Word,
what a glory he sheds on our way! While we do his good will,
he abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain:

Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies,
but his smile quickly drives it away; not a doubt or a fear,
not a sigh nor a tear, can abide while we trust and obey. (*Refrain*)

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
but our toil he doth richly repay; not a grief nor a loss,
not a frown or a cross, but is blest if we trust and obey. [*Refrain*]

But we never can prove the delights of his love
until all on the altar we lay; for the favor he shows,
and the joy he bestows, are for them who will trust and obey. [*Refrain*]

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet,
or we will walk by his side in the way; what he says we will do,
where he sends we will go, never fear, only trust and obey. [*Refrain*]

***The Benediction**

Jude 1:24-25 ESV

²⁴Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy,

²⁵to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. 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	Marissa Robinson and Nathalee Cuffman	Staci and Brett Brackett	Grace Benes and Ilse Wallace
Next Week	Abby Chidester and Kimberly Richards	Jessica McMullen and Sylvia Price	Danielle Austin and Amanda Brummett

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 this week to Janie Marsh on 9/8; Carter Jackson and Harper Love on 9/9; Meredith Clinton on 9/11; Abby Chidester, Beth Jackson, Brett Brackett, and Samuel Wynkoop on 9/12; and Beth Stowe on 9/13.

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

The flowers in the sanctuary are given in memory of Levins Mounts on her 10th birthday by all of her family.

The Deacons Fund will be collected after service.

Please join us this afternoon at 4:00 pm for Rev. Mark Kozak's installation as Bethel's next assistant pastor. A reception will follow the service in the Family Life Center.

This Week at Bethel

Sunday:

Installation Service: 4:00 pm, Sanctuary

Monday:

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

Circle #3: 7:00 pm, Covenant Classroom

Tuesday:

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

Thursday:

Mentors & Moms: 9:30 am, Education Building

Good Samaritans: 5:00 pm, FLC

Next Week at Bethel

Session Meeting: Sunday, September 14, 2:00 pm, Conference Room

Circle #2: Sunday, September 14, 3:30 pm, Ladies Sunday School classroom

Middle School Girls Discipleship Group: Sunday, September 14, 4:00 pm, basement

Youth: Sunday, September 14, 5:00 pm

Kids' Quest: Sunday, September 14, 5:00 pm, favorite sports team night

GriefShare: Tuesday, September 16, 6:30-8:30 pm, Covenant Classroom

Colleen Riddle Circle: Wednesday, September 17, 11:00 am, FLC

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.
- We would be temperate people: God would make us more like Christ and always obedient to Him; we would be able to enjoy the Lord's gifts without becoming enslaved to them; God would help us never relax our guard but always be vigilant.
- Biblical Studies Released Time: a local, Bible-centered organization whose purpose is to evangelize boys and girls with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and to establish them in the Word of God and in a local church for Christian living.
- Pastor David Hall, the staff, session, and congregation at **Filbert Presbyterian Church**, 2066 Filbert Highway, York, SC 29745-9777, (803) 684-6881.