



Bethel
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PCA

*Timeless Truths for our
Changing Community*

Organized 1764

Our Mission

Glorifying God by going to the ends of the earth
to gather and grow His people.

Welcome to Bethel!

*The greatest thing you can do in this world
is to live a saintly, holy, lovely life.*

F.B. Meyer

The LORD's Day
Sunday, January 18, 2026

~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

*You came near when I called on you; you said, 'Do not fear!'
"You have taken up my cause, O Lord; you have redeemed my life.*

Lamentations 3:57-58

Preparation

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Silent Meditation and Prayer on Deuteronomy 10:12-13

"And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?"

Adoration

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

Psalm 33:1-8, 20-22 ESV

Pastor: Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright. Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; make melody to Him with the harp of ten strings!

People: Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts. For the word of the LORD is upright, and all His work is done in faithfulness.

Pastor: He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD. By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host.

People: He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; He puts the deeps in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him!

All: Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in Him, because we trust in His holy name. Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in You.

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.*

¹Thus says the Lord: “Where is your mother’s certificate of divorce, with which I sent her away? Or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities you were sold, and for your transgressions your mother was sent away.

²Why, when I came, was there no man; why, when I called, was there no one to answer? Is my hand shortened, that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to deliver? Behold, by my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a desert; their fish stink for lack of water and die of thirst.

³I clothe the heavens with blackness and make sackcloth their covering.”

⁴The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.

⁷But the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

⁸He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me.

⁹Behold, the Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty? Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

¹⁰Who among you fears the Lord and obeys the voice of his servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God.

¹¹Behold, all you who kindle a fire, who equip yourselves with burning torches! Walk by the light of your fire, and by the torches that you have kindled! This you have from my hand: you shall lie down in torment.

Confession

The Call to Confession

2 Timothy 2:21 ESV

Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. Hearing this, saints, let us draw near to the Lord with sincerity and confidence, and pray together.

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**

Romans 8:35-37 ESV

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Children of God, receive the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

The Song of Thanks*"Thy Mercy My God"***Stoker & McCracken*

Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,
The joy of my heart and the boast of my tongue;
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last,
Hath won my affections, and bound my soul fast.

Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here;
Sin would reduce me to utter despair;
But, through Thy free goodness, my spirits revive,
And He that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart,
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;
Dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground,
And weep to the praise of the mercy I've found.

Great Father of mercies, Thy goodness I own,
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son;
All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.
All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.

***The Confession of Faith**

The Heidelberg Catechism

Q & A 20, 21

Q. 20. Are all people then saved through Christ just as they were lost through Adam?

A. No. Only those are saved who through true faith are grafted into Christ and accept all his benefits.

Q. 21. What is true faith?

A. True faith is not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true all that God has revealed to us in Scripture; it is also a wholehearted trust, which the Holy Spirit creates in me by the gospel, that God has freely granted, not only to others but to me also, forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation. These are gifts of sheer grace, granted solely by Christ's merit.

Collection

***The Offertory Scripture**

Jeremiah 9:23-24 ESV

Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."

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 3:13-17 ESV

(Pew Bible p. 1205)

The Sermon

A Believer's Gentle Witness

Pastor Chris Donnelly

I. The opportunity to witness by our _____ (v 13-15a)

A. Be _____ for what is good

B. Be _____ to suffer

C. _____ our fears

Romans 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

D. _____ on Jesus

Hebrews 12:2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

II. The opportunity to witness by our _____ (v 15b-17)

A. Be _____ to make a defense

Colossians 4:6 *Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.*

B. Tell the _____ for the hope that we have

C. When slandered we _____ with good behavior, shaming our
_____.

1 Peter 2:12 *Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.*

Sermon Notes:

Answer Key: prepared, passionate, reason, forget, actions, respond, willing, focus, adversaries, words.

The Closing Hymn*"Be Thou My Vision"***Trinity Hymnal #642*

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 Benediction**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.*

	<i>Infants (0-2)</i>	<i>Toddlers (2-4)</i>	<i>Worship Training (5-7)</i>
Today	Kathy Donnelly and Beth Stowe	Lindsey Hall and Cullie Mounts	Johna Griesman and Danielle Austin
Next Week	Harper Harvell and Lee Coble	Jennifer Forrest and Lindsay Hoffman	Amanda Brummett and Savannah McCall

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.

<p>Happy birthday today to Sheridan Miller! Happy birthday this week to Cate Riddle on 1/20; Isak Siemens, Marissa Robinson, and Sarah Seaford on 1/21; Walker Love on 1/22; Dianne Wyatt, Evey Coble, and Ruth McCormick on 1/23; and Mikey Benes, Ruben Trevino, and Suzanne McCall on 1/24.</p> <p>Welcome visitors! Please fill out a welcome card located in the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate.</p> <p>Bethel family, for those interested, copies of the 2025 financial report are available for you in the vestibule/narthex. If you have any questions, please get in touch with your shepherding elder or the church treasurer, DN Ken Long.</p> <p>In February, we're accepting nominations for the office of ruling elder and deacon. Please be praying about who you can nominate to these offices of service and leadership in our congregation.</p> <p><u>This Week at Bethel</u></p> <p>Sunday: Middle School Girls Discipleship Group: 4:00 pm, basement</p> <p>Youth: 5:00 pm</p> <p>Tuesday: GriefShare: 1:00 pm, Covenant Classroom</p>	<p>Wednesday: Men's Bible Study: 6:00 am, Conference Room</p> <p>Thursday: Mentors & Moms: 9:30 am, Education Building</p> <p><u>Next Week at Bethel</u></p> <p>Youth: Sunday, January 25, 5:00 pm</p> <p>GriefShare: Tuesday, January 27, 1:00 pm, Covenant Classroom</p> <p>Men's Bible Study: Wednesday, January 28, 6:00 am, Conference Room</p> <p>Senior Citizens Lunch: Wednesday, January 28, 12:00 pm, FLC</p> <p>Mentors & Moms: Thursday, January 29, 9:30 am, Education Building</p>
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Prayer requests:

- Recovery, healing, and strength: Helen Bean, Steve Britt, Tammy Carrick, Betsy Clinton, Shirley Coker, Deke Cox, Cary Grant, Charlotte Jackson, Kay Jackson, Willie Keller, Joe LeMoyne, Barbara Love, Mary Love, Joy McCarter, Maxie McCarter, Debbie Meek, Eck Miller, Jenny Richards, Jackie Schropp, Kay Stewart, Scott Wallace, Larry Wilmoth, Diane Wyatt.
- Spiritual revival: an outpouring of God the Spirit would occur in our congregation and community; the Holy Spirit would inspire new zeal and commitment to sharing the gospel.
- Fellowship Presbytery: Pray for January 24th Stated Meeting. Pray for unity, clarity, and that the work and the decisions made would glorify the Lord.
- Pastor Henry Beaulieu, the session, and congregation at **Redeeming Grace Presbyterian Church**, 4800 Charlotte Highway, Lake Wylie, SC 29710, (803) 831-7133.