



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!

*To preach Christianity meant (to the Apostles) primarily
to preach the Resurrection. ...The Resurrection is the central theme
in every Christian sermon reported in the Acts.
The Resurrection, and its consequences, were the 'gospel'
or good news which the Christians brought.*

C.S. Lewis

**The LORD'S Day
Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026**

www.BethelChurchPCA.com

~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

He is not here; he has risen!

Luke 24:6

Preparation

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Silent Meditation and Prayer on Ephesians 2:4-6

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved – and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Adoration

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

Luke 24:1-6 ESV

Pastor: But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.

People: He is risen!

Pastor: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed!

Pastor: Christ the Lord is risen!

People: Christ the Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

"Christ the Lord is ris'n today," Alleluia!
sons of men and angels say; Alleluia!
raise your joys and triumphs high; Alleluia!
Sing ye heav'ns, and earth, reply. Alleluia!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Alleluia!
Christ has burst the gates of hell: Alleluia!
death in vain forbids his rise; Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King; Alleluia!
where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died, our souls to save; Alleluia!
where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
foll'wing our exalted Head; Alleluia!
made like him, like him we rise: Alleluia!
ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!

Hail, the Lord of earth and heav'n! Alleluia!
Praise to thee by both be giv'n; Alleluia!
thee we greet triumphant now; Alleluia!
hail, the Resurrection, thou! Alleluia!

***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.*

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

⁴You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married.

⁵For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

⁶On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; all the day and all the night they shall never be silent. You who put the Lord in remembrance, take no rest,

⁷and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise in the earth.

⁸The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: "I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink your wine for which you have labored;

⁹but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in the courts of my sanctuary."

¹⁰Go through, go through the gates; prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway; clear it of stones; lift up a signal over the peoples.

¹¹Behold, the Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, "Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him."

¹²And they shall be called The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord; and you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.

Confession

The Call to Confession

Ezekiel 18:23 ESV

Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live? Therefore, trusting in His mercy, let us confess our sins to Almighty God.

The Corporate Confession of Sin

Holy God, in the light of your holiness, we see ourselves as we really are, and we are ashamed.

We confess that we are people of impure thoughts and unclean lips; we think too highly of ourselves and too little of others. We cling so tightly to the treasures of this world that we cannot open our hands to receive blessings from above. Our feet follow the paths of sin; we wander so far astray that we become strangers to righteousness.

Forgive us, and set us again on the path that leads to life. Deal with us not as we deserve, but according to your mercy; not because we are worthy but because you are gracious.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Silent Confession of Sin

The Assurance of Forgiveness

While it is true that we have sinned, it is a greater truth that through God's love in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. God has shown his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed. Saints of God, I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless Babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Til on the cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied –
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then, bursting forth in glorious day,
up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine,
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand:
'Til He returns or calls me home,
here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

***The Confession of Faith**

*The Westminster Larger Catechism
Q & A 40, 41, 42*

Q. 40. Why did the mediator have to be God and human in one person?

A. The mediator, who was to reconcile God and humanity, had to be himself both God and human and in one person to make the works appropriate to each nature acceptable to God on our behalf and counted on by us as the works of the whole person.

Q. 41. Why was our mediator called Jesus?

A. Our mediator was called Jesus because he saves his people from their sins.

Q. 42. Why was our mediator called Christ?

A. Our mediator was called Christ, because he was anointed with the Holy Spirit beyond all measure. Consequently, he was set apart and completely equipped with all authority and power to execute the offices of prophet, priest, and king of his church, in both his humiliation and his exaltation.

Collection

***The Offertory Scripture**

Galatians 6:9-10 ESV

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

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 Message

The Pastoral Prayer

***The New Testament Reading**

Acts 18:24-28 ESV
(Pew Bible p. 1102)

The Sermon

The Case for Jesus

Pastor Chris Donnelly

1. The _____ who made the case for Jesus (v. 24-27)

A. _____ (v. 24-26a.)

i. He was _____.

ii. He was _____.

iii. He was _____.

B. _____ and _____ (v. 26b.)

i. They were _____.

ii. They were _____.

2. The _____ of the case for Jesus (v. 28b)

A. Jesus was the _____, the _____.

i. His _____ as a fulfillment of prophecy.

ii. His _____ as a fulfillment of prophecy.

iii. His _____ as a fulfillment of prophecy.

3. The _____ of _____ the case for Jesus (v. 28a)

A. The first method used by God in spreading the gospel was _____
_____.

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 1 Peter 3:15-16

B. The _____ channel used to make the case for Jesus was the private _____ of God in people's lives.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

Sermon Notes:

Answer Key: death, Aquila, teachable, means, hospitable, persuasive, sharing, faithful, message, public, Christ, educated, Apollos, evangelism, resurrection, Messiah, second, messengers, birth, private, Priscilla.

***The Closing Hymn**

“Worship Christ, the Risen King!”

Trinity Hymnal #286

Rise, O church, and lift your voices, Christ has conquered death and hell.
Sing as all the earth rejoices; resurrection anthems swell.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the risen King!

See the tomb where death had laid him, empty now, its mouth declares:
“Death and I could not contain him, for the throne of life he shares.”
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the risen King!

Hear the earth protest and tremble, see the stone removed with pow’r;
All hell’s minions may assemble, but cannot withstand his hour.
He has conquered, he has conquered, Christ the Lord, the risen King!

Doubt may lift its head to murmur, scoffers mock and sinners jeer;
But the truth proclaims a wonder thoughtful hearts receive with cheer.
He is risen, he is risen, now receive the risen King!

We acclaim your life, O Jesus, now we sing your victory;
Sin or hell may seek to seize us, but your conquest keeps us free.
Stand in triumph, stand in triumph, worship Christ, the risen King!

***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	Emily Donnelly and Ann Marsh	Amanda Brummett and Ann Carol Love	Brittany Neely and Kathy Donnelly
Next Week	Renee Nix and Lawson Gray	Drew & Morgan Brown and Cathy Robinson	Abby Chidester and Johna Griesman

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 Norman Lewis on 4/7, Carter Miller and Craig Adams on 4/9, Chris Wynkoop on 4/10, and Eck Miller on 4/11.

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

The deacons fund will be received this morning following the worship service. Please consider giving generously to this vital ministry to those in need in our congregation and community.

Do you have a child interested in becoming a communicant member at Bethel? An 8-week communicants class is planned to begin on Sunday, May 17, during the Sunday school hour. If interested, please contact Pastor Chris with the child's name.

This Week at Bethel

Monday:

Men of the Covenant: 6:30 pm, FLC

Tuesday:

Circle #1: 10:30 am, Ladies Parlor

Wednesday:

Men's Bible Study: 6:00 am, Conference Room

Colleen Riddle Circle: 11:00 am, Education Building

Next Week at Bethel

ILPC Session Meeting: Sunday, April 12, 2:00 pm, Conference Room

Session Meeting: Sunday, April 12, 3:00 pm, Conference Room

Circle #2: Sunday, April 12, 3:30 pm, Ladies Sunday School Classroom

Girls Discipleship Group: Sunday, April 12, 4:00 pm, Picnic Shelter

Youth: Sunday, April 12, 5:00 pm

Circle #3: Monday, April 13, 7:00 pm, Covenant Classroom

GriefShare: Tuesday, April 14, 6:30 pm, stand-alone session "Loss of a Spouse," Covenant Classroom.

Diaconate Meeting: Tuesday, April 14, 7:00 pm

Men's Bible Study: Wednesday, April 15, 6:00 am, Conference Room

Mentors & Moms: Thursday, April 16, 9:30 am, Education Building

Prayer requests:

- Recovery, healing, and strength: Helen Bean, Steve Britt, Tammy Carrick, Betsy Clinton, Shirley Coker, Deke Cox, Cary Grant, Johna Griesman, Charlotte Jackson, Volney Jerome, Willie Keller, Joe LeMoyne, Barbara Love, Mary Love, Joy McCarter, Maxie McCarter, Debbie Meek, Eck Miller, Jenny Richards, Jackie Schropp, Kay Stewart, Scott Wallace, Norm West, Larry Wilmoth, 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 build healthy relationships between the men of the congregation; that the men of Bethel would feel loved by their Savior and find places of service and study in our congregation and community.
- Pastor Al Ward and the congregation at **Zion Presbyterian Church**, 219 The Avenue, Chester, SC 29706, (803) 581-6071.