



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!

*We have only to leave off watching and praying,
and a noxious crop of unbelief will soon spring up.*

J.C. Ryle

**The LORD'S Day
Sunday, September 20, 2026**

www.BethelChurchPCA.com

~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

¹Shout for joy to God, all the earth; ²sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise!

Psalm 66:1-2

Preparation

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Silent Meditation and Prayer on Psalm 29:2 ESV

²Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.

Adoration

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

Psalm 28:1-9 ESV

Pastor: ¹To you, O Lord, I call; my rock, be not deaf to me, lest, if you be silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit.

People: ²Hear the voice of our pleas for mercy, when we cry to you for help, when we lift up our hands toward your most holy sanctuary. ³Do not drag us off with the wicked, with the workers of evil, who speak peace with their neighbors while evil is in their hearts.

Pastor: ⁴Give to them according to their work and according to the evil of their deeds; give to them according to the work of their hands; render them their due reward. ⁵Because they do not regard the works of the Lord or the work of his hands, He will tear them down and build them up no more.

People: ⁶Blessed be the Lord! For He has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy. ⁷The Lord is my strength and my shield; in Him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to Him.

All: ⁸The Lord is the strength of His people; He is the saving refuge of His anointed. ⁹Oh, save Your people and bless Your heritage! Be our Shepherd and carry us forever.

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.*

⁸First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.

⁹For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you

¹⁰always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you.

¹¹For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you —

¹²that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.

¹³I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles.

¹⁴I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.

¹⁵So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

¹⁷For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Confession

The Call to Confession

Isaiah 13:11 ESV

¹¹I 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.

Hearing this, Bethel, let us confess our corporate sins to Almighty God.

The Corporate Confession of Sin

O great and everlasting God, Who dwells in unapproachable light, Who searches and knows the thoughts and intentions of the heart; we confess that we have not loved you with all our heart, nor with all our soul, nor with all our mind, nor with all our strength; nor our neighbors as ourselves.

We have loved what we ought not to have loved; we have coveted what is not ours; we have not been content with Your provisions for us. We have sought our security in those things which perish, rather than in You, the Everlasting God.

Chasten, cleanse, and forgive us, through Jesus Christ, who is able for all time to save us who approach You through him, since he always lives to make intercession for us. Amen.

The Silent Confession of Sin

***The Assurance of Forgiveness**

Romans 5:8 ESV

⁸ But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Children of God, in Jesus Christ alone are we saved.

***The Song of Thanks “My Heart Is Filled With Thankfulness”**

Getty & Townend

My heart is filled with thankfulness to Him who bore my pain;
Who plumbed the depths of my disgrace and gave me life again.
Who crushed my curse of sinfulness and clothed me in His light
And wrote His law of righteousness with pow’r upon my heart.

My heart is filled with thankfulness to Him who walks beside;
Who floods my weaknesses with strength and causes fears to fly.
Whose every promise is enough for every step I take;
Sustaining me with arms of love and crowning me with grace.

My heart is filled with thankfulness to Him who reigns above;
Whose wisdom is my perfect peace, whose every thought is love.
For every day I have on earth is given by the King.
So, I will give my life, my all, to love and follow Him.

***The Confession of Faith**

*Westminster Confession of Faith
Chapter 22:1,7 – Concerning Lawful Oaths and Vows*

We believe that lawful oaths are part of religious worship. On proper occasions, believers may solemnly swear and call God to witness that what they assert or promise is true, and they may ask God to judge them according to the truth or falsehood of what they swear.

No one may vow to do anything forbidden in the Word of God, anything hindering a duty commanded in the Word, or anything not in his own power, which he has neither the ability nor warrant from God to perform. In this respect, monastic vows of perpetual celibacy, professed poverty, and consistent obedience do not perfect us but are actually superstitious, sinful traps, in which no Christian should entangle himself.

Collection

***The Offertory Scripture**

Exodus 25:2 ESV

2“Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me.

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 Old Testament Reading**

Nehemiah 12:44-13:14 ESV
(Pew Bible p. 480)

The Sermon

Pledges Remembered & Forgotten

Pastor Chris Donnelly

- I. Pledge Remembered: Caring for _____ (12:44-47)
 - A. We do not get to pick and choose how God is to be _____.
 - B. No worship can be _____ to God if those who serve the Lord are deprived of life’s basic _____.
- II. Pledge Remembered: Exclusions from the _____ (13:1-3)
 - A. The Jewish people _____ the sin from which all others spring: they _____ God’s commands.
 - B. As it was for the Jews, syncretism is a _____ to the spiritual life of Christians.

III. Pledge Forgotten: The _____ Neglected (13:4-9)

A. By cultivating the wrong _____, Eliashib misused his office and frustrated the Lord's _____.

B. Nehemiah's _____ had made possible the increasing _____ mentioned in these verses.

C. Sin is an _____ thing that ruins the finest items and _____ the best lives.

IV. Pledge Forgotten: The _____ Neglected (13:10-14)

A. Robbed of their _____, these men has been compelled to go and work on the land in order to _____ for their families.

B. In his closing _____, Nehemiah is committing himself and his cause to the only safe hands he knew, the _____.

Sermon Notes:

Answer Key: absence, Assembly, worshipped, abuses, prayer, relationships, demonstrated, evil, house, provide, Temple, corrupts, ignored, honoring, Levite's, serious, God's, threat, support, Lord, necessities, work.

***The Closing Hymn**

“Jesus Shall Reign”

Trinity Hymnal #441

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does his successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made,
and praises throng to crown his head;
his name, like sweet perfume, shall rise
with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song;
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
the pris'ner leaps to lose his chains,
the weary find eternal rest,
and all the sons of want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring
peculiar honors to our King,
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen!

***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.*

	Infants (0-2)	Toddlers (2-4)	Worship Training (5-7)
Today	Ilse Wallace and Beth Jackson	Judi Love and Debra Kozak	Amanda Brummett and Jenifer Riddle
Next Week	Trinna Meek and Cindy Love	Brittany Neely and Cathy Robinson	Kyla Ferguson and Cullie Mounts

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 Stacie Brackett on 9/23, Irwen Burns and Madison Stowe on 9/24, and Kyle Mounts on 9/25.

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

This Week at Bethel

Sunday

Kids' Quest: 5:00 pm

Youth: 5:00 pm

Tuesday

Good Samaritans: 5:00 pm, FLC

Wednesday

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

GriefShare: 1:30 pm, Covenant Classroom

WIC Council Meeting: 6:30 pm, Ladies Sunday School Classroom

Thursday

Mentors & Moms: 9:30 am, Education Building

Saturday

Acts of Love: 10:00 am for meal prep and 11:30 for delivery

Next Week at Bethel

Young Girls Discipleship Group: Sunday, September 27, 4:00 pm, Providence Classroom

Kids' Quest: Sunday, September 27, 5:00 pm

Youth: Sunday, September 27, 5:00 pm

Young Adult Community Group: Sunday, September 27, 6:00 pm, see Ross Love for more details

Men's Bible Study: Wednesday, September 30, 6:00 am, Conference Room

Senior Citizens Lunch: Wednesday, September 30, 12:00 pm, FLC, covered dish meal

GriefShare: Wednesday, September 30, 1:30 pm, Covenant Classroom

Mentors & Moms: Thursday, October 1, 9:30 am, Education Building

Upcoming Events at Bethel

Missions Conference: October 15th-18th. The Bethel International Missions team, staff, and leadership are excited to bring you many opportunities to meet with our local and regional ministry representatives and Latin American mission team over the 4-day event. Refer to the insert for more details!

Prayer requests:

- Recovery, healing, and strength: Craig Adams, Helen Bean, Betsy Clinton, Shirley Coker, Deke Cox, Marianne Falls, Linda Ferster, Cary Grant, Charlotte Jackson, Volney Jerome, Joe LeMoyne, Barbara Love, Bobby Love, Mary Love, Joy McCarter, Maxie McCarter, Debbie Meek, Jenny Richards, Jackie Schropp, Kay Stewart, Norm West, Larry Wilmoth.
- 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 the September 24th Stated Meeting. Pray for unity, clarity, and that the work and the decisions made would glorify the Lord.
- Pastor Greg Marshall, the session, and the congregation at **Temple Presbyterian Church**, 1105 N. Beersheba Road, Clover, SC 29745-0733, (478) 365-4032.