



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!

*Weekly, normative, ordinary means of grace gathered worship
is one of the more extraordinary things in the world.*

Burk Parsons

**The LORD's Day
Sunday, October 4, 2026**

www.BethelChurchPCA.com

~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

¹⁸But we will bless the Lord from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the Lord!

Psalm 115:18

Preparation

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Silent Meditation and Prayer on Romans 1:8 ESV

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

Adoration

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

Psalm 148:1-4, 11-14 ESV

Pastor: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!

People: Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

All: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and maidens together, old men and children!

Pastor: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven.

People: He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints, for the people of Israel who are near to him. Praise the LORD!

All: Praise the LORD!

This is my Father's world,
and to my list'ning ears,
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world,
the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world:
he shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass I hear him pass,
he speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world,
O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world:
the battle is not done;
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
and earth and heav'n be one.

***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 word of the Lord came to Jeremiah a second time, while he was still shut up in the court of the guard:

²“Thus says the Lord who made the earth, the Lord who formed it to establish it—the Lord is his name:

³Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

⁴For thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the houses of this city and the houses of the kings of Judah that were torn down to make a defense against the siege mounds and against the sword:

⁵They are coming in to fight against the Chaldeans and to fill them with the dead bodies of men whom I shall strike down in my anger and my wrath, for I have hidden my face from this city because of all their evil.

⁶Behold, I will bring to it health and healing, and I will heal them and reveal to them abundance of prosperity and security.

⁷I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel, and rebuild them as they were at first.

⁸I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me.

⁹And this city shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and a glory before all the nations of the earth who shall hear of all the good that I do for them. They shall fear and tremble because of all the good and all the prosperity I provide for it.

¹⁰“Thus says the Lord: In this place of which you say, ‘It is a waste without man or beast,’ in the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without man or inhabitant or beast, there shall be heard again

¹¹the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voices of those who sing, as they bring thank offerings to the house of the Lord: “ ‘Give thanks to the Lord of hosts, for the Lord is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!’ For I will restore the fortunes of the land as at first, says the Lord.

¹²“Thus says the Lord of hosts: In this place that is waste, without man or beast, and in all of its cities, there shall again be habitations of shepherds resting their flocks.

¹³In the cities of the hill country, in the cities of the Shephelah, and in the cities of the Negeb, in the land of Benjamin, the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, flocks shall again pass under the hands of the one who counts them, says the Lord.

Confession

The Call to Confession

Matthew 11:28-30 ESV

²⁸"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Saints, let us rest in God's mercy as we confess our corporate sins together.

The Corporate Confession of Sin

We poor sinners, acknowledge before you, our God and Creator, that we have terribly, and in many ways, sinned against you, not only outwardly, but much more with inward blindness, unbelief, doubts, despair, impatience, pride, covetousness, envy, hatred, malice, and other sinful emotions, as you, our Lord and God, know well, and we cannot deeply enough deplore.

But we repent of these things, and are sorry for them, and we heartily ask you for mercy, for the sake of your beloved Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Silent Confession of Sin

***The Assurance of Pardon**

Joel 2:12-13 ESV

¹²"Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

Bethel, receive the good news: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
he whose word cannot be broken
formed thee for his own abode:
on the Rock of Ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters,
and all fear of want remove;
who can faint, while such a river
ever flows their thirst t'assuage?—
grace which, like the Lord, the giver,
never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hov'ring,
see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a cov'ring,
showing that the Lord is near:
thus deriving from their banner
light by night and shade by day,
safe they feed upon the manna
which he gives them when they pray.

Savior, if of Zion's city
I, through grace, a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in thy name:
fading is the worldling's pleasure,
all his boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasure
none but Zion's children know.

Q. 143. What is the ninth commandment?

A. The ninth commandment is: You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

Q. 144. What does the ninth commandment require?

A. The ninth commandment requires that we maintain and promote truthfulness in our dealings with each other and the good reputation of others as well as ourselves. We must come forward and stand up for the truth, speaking the truth and nothing but the truth from our hearts, sincerely, freely, clearly, and without equivocation, not only in all matters relating to the law and justice but in any and every circumstance whatsoever. We must have a charitable regard for others, loving, desiring, and rejoicing in their good reputation as well as regretting and putting the best light on their failings. We must freely acknowledge their talents and gifts, defending their innocence, readily receiving a good report about them and reluctantly admitting a bad one. We should discourage gossips, flatterers, and slanderers; we should love and protect our own good reputation and defend it when necessary; we should keep every lawful promise we make no matter what; and finally we should do the best we can to focus our lives and thoughts on things that are true, noble, lovely, and admirable.

Collection

***The Offertory Scripture**

Isaiah 55:1 ESV

¹“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.”

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

1 Corinthians 1:1-9 ESV
(Pew Bible p. 1131)

The Sermon

The Blessings of Sainthood

Pastor Chris Donnelly

- I. The _____ benefit of our sainthood: We're recipients of God's _____ (v 4, 6)
- A. Our Triune God's _____ to us is a blessing because it is a gift freely given, not a loan we have to _____.
- B. The reason the Lord _____ to save us by His grace is that we might glorify God and _____ Him forever.
- C. We _____ to ourselves and others that we are God's graciously adopted children by joyfully carrying out the good works He _____ for us to do.

Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.**

- II. The _____ benefit of our sainthood: We're recipients of the Holy Spirit's _____ (v5, 7a)
- A. Since the Spirit has given us all _____, we do not need to fear being _____ of God's grace.
- B. Since God's blessed us with all _____, we've received everything we need to speak _____ to others on His behalf.

Romans 10:14-15 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

C. We have been given all the spiritual gifts _____ to live a full and _____ Christian life today.

III. The _____ benefit of our sainthood: We'll be upheld until the _____ of the Lord Jesus (v7b-9)

A. The Day of the Lord will _____ Christ in all His glory and mean the _____ of our sanctification.

Philippians 1:6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

B. Until this great day _____, as Christians, we are called together to live in true _____ with Jesus and each other.

Sermon Notes:

Answer Key: speech, grace, reveal, past, witness, completion, repay, day, arrives, knowledge, chose, fellowship, present, effectively, enjoy, gifts, necessary, demonstrate, future, faithful, prepared, grace.

O Church, arise, and put your armor on; hear the call of Christ our Captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong in the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of Truth, we'll stand against the devil's lies;
An army bold, whose battle cry is love, reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war—to love the captive soul, but to rage against the captor;
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole, we will fight with faith and valor.
When faced with trials on ev'ry side, we know the outcome is secure,
and Christ will have the prize for which He died—an inheritance of nations.

Come see the cross, where love and mercy meet, as the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet, for the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away and Christ emerges from the grave,
this victory march continues 'til the day ev'ry eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit come, put strength in ev'ry stride, give grace for ev'ry hurdle,
that we may run with faith to win the prize of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way, retelling triumphs of His grace,
we hear their calls and hunger for the day when with Christ we stand in Glory.

***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	Victoria Linder and Ann Marsh	Amanda Brummett and Judi Love	Rebecca Wallace and Abby Chidester
Next Week	Renee Nix and Kyla Ferguson	Sheridan & Carter Miller and Kristine DeRousse	Cullie Mounts and Jane 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.

Happy birthday this week to Barbara Love on 10/9 and Floyd Neal on 10/10.

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.

Just a note to tell you how much my family and I appreciated your support while I cared for my mom as she walked through her last days on earth and then went to be with her Savior. Your prayers, texts, calls, and cards really carried me through and comforted my family and I. ~In Christ, Lisa and Neil Allen & family

This Week at Bethel

Sunday

Youth Committee Meeting: 4:00 pm, Youth Room

Young Girls Discipleship Group: 4:00 pm, Providence Room

Kids' Quest: 5:00 pm

Youth: 5:00 pm

Monday

Men of the Covenant: 6:30 pm, FLC. Join us for a meal, devotional, program, and fellowship. All Bethel men are invited to attend.

Tuesday

Circle #1: 10:30 am, Ladies Parlor

Diaconate Meeting: 7:00 pm, Conference Room

Wednesday

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

GriefShare: 1:30 pm, Covenant Classroom

Next Week at Bethel

ILPC Session Meeting: Sunday, October 11, 2:00 pm, Conference Room

Session Meeting: Sunday, October 11, 3:00 pm, Conference Room

Circle #2: Sunday, October 11, 3:00 pm, Ladies SS Classroom

Kids' Quest: Sunday, October 11, 5:00 pm

Youth: Sunday, October 11, 5:00 pm

YA Community Group: Sunday, October 11, 6:00 pm, see Ross Love for more details

Circle #3: Monday, October 12, 7:00 pm, Covenant Classroom

Colleen Riddle Circle: Wednesday, October 14, 2:00 pm, Education Building

Men's Bible Study: Wednesday, October 14, 6:00 am, Conference Room

GriefShare: Wednesday, October 14, 1:30 pm, Covenant Classroom

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, Lisa Allen, 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, Norm West, Larry Wilmoth.
- God's discernment and understanding: as we seek His will moving forward as a congregation about how to continue reaching Clover and York County with the good news of Jesus Christ.
- Ministries of God's Word, of the sacraments, and of prayer: God's Word would go forth from the pulpit and lectern clearly; the Lord would use our efforts to make an impact in the lives of His people and in our community.
- Pastor Al Ward and the congregation at **Zion Presbyterian Church**, 219 The Avenue, Chester, SC 29706, (803) 581-6071.