



# Bethel

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PCA

*Timeless Truths for our  
Changing Community*

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*Organized 1764*

## Our Mission

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

## Welcome to Bethel!

*The Gospel is not a mere message of deliverance, but a canon of conduct;  
it is not a theology to be accepted, but it is ethics to be lived.  
It is not to be believed only, but it is to be taken into life as a guide.*

*Alexander Maclaren*

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

[www.BethelChurchPCA.com](http://www.BethelChurchPCA.com)

~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

*Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!*

***Psalm 96:9***

Preparation

**The Prelude**

**The Welcome and Announcements**

**The Silent Meditation and Prayer on 1 Kings 8:56**

*Blessed be the Lord who has given rest to his people Israel, according to all that he promised.  
Not one word has failed of all his good promise, which he spoke by Moses his servant.*

Adoration

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

Psalm 146 ESV

*Pastor: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!*

**People: I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

*Pastor: Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.  
When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.*

**People: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.**

*Pastor: The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.*

**People: The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.**

***All: The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!***

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,  
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee  
perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

**\*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.*

<sup>1</sup>And the Lord appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day.

<sup>2</sup>He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth

<sup>3</sup>and said, “O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant.

<sup>4</sup>Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree,

<sup>5</sup>while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.”

<sup>6</sup>And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes.”

<sup>7</sup>And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly.

<sup>8</sup>Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

<sup>9</sup>They said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” And he said, “She is in the tent.”

<sup>10</sup>The Lord said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him.

<sup>11</sup>Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah.

<sup>12</sup>So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?”

<sup>13</sup>The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’

<sup>14</sup>Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”

<sup>15</sup>But Sarah denied it, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid. He said, “No, but you did laugh.”

## Confession

### **The Call to Confession**

1 John 3:10 ESV

*By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. Therefore, saints, Church, let us confess our transgressions to the Lord and one another together now.*

### **The Corporate Confession of Sin**

*Most holy and merciful Father, we confess to you and to one another, that we have sinned against You by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart, mind, and strength. We have not fully loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not always had in us the mind of Christ. You alone know how often we have grieved You by wasting Your gifts, by wandering from Your ways. Forgive us, we pray you, most merciful Father; and free us from our sin. Renew in us the grace and strength of Your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ Your Son, our Savior. Amen.*

### **The Silent Confession of Sin**

#### **\*The Assurance of Forgiveness**

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 ESV

*But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. Children of God, receive the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.*

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## **\*The Song of Thanks**

### **“He Will Hold Me Fast”**

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;  
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;  
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

*Refrain:*

*He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.*

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;  
Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;  
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast. [*Refrain*]

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;  
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.  
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast  
'Till our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last! [*Refrain*]

## **\*The Confession of Faith**

*The Heidelberg Catechism  
Q & A 1*

*Q. 1. What is your only comfort in life and in death?*

**A. 1. That I am not my own, but belong— body and soul, in life and in death— to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.**

**He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.**

**Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

## Collection

### **\*The Offertory Scripture**

1 Peter 4:10-11 ESV

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies – in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

### **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 3:1-7 ESV  
(Pew Bible p. 1205)

### **The Sermon**

*Living as a Married Christian*

Pastor Chris Donnelly

I. Instruction for \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 1-6)

A. Christian women \_\_\_\_\_ to their own husband, whether or not  
they follow Jesus, for the \_\_\_\_\_ sake.

B. Biblical submission is not about \_\_\_\_\_ but about the God given  
\_\_\_\_\_ present in every marriage.

C. The best way to undermine \_\_\_\_\_ to the Christian faith is to live

out the beauty of real \_\_\_\_\_.

II. Instruction for \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 7)

A. Even if they are \_\_\_\_\_, Christian husbands must submit themselves to the \_\_\_\_\_ of their wives.

*Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.*

B. As joint \_\_\_\_\_ in eternal life, women are to be cherished, protected, and defended as fellow \_\_\_\_\_.

C. As Christian men, we are to take the \_\_\_\_\_ is setting the spiritual temperature in our homes so that our prayers would not be \_\_\_\_\_.

**Sermon Notes:**

Answer Key: inferiority, husbands, submit, lead, unbelievers, roles, needs, impeded, wives, heirs, objections, image, Lord's, godliness, bearers



**\*The Closing Hymn**      “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”      Trinity Hymnal #521

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.  
*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.*

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;  
in every high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil.  
*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.*

His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood;  
when all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.*

When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found;  
dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.  
*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.*

**\*The Blessing**

**\*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.*

	<b>Infants (0-2)</b>	<b>Toddlers (2-4)</b>	<b>Worship Training (5-7)</b>
<b>Today</b>	Jackie and Albert Krashner	Laura Clinton and Trinna Meek	Rebecca Wallace and Kyla Ferguson
<b>Next Week</b>	Renee Nix and Brittany Neely	Drew & Morgan Brown and Emily Donnelly	Ilse Wallace and Kristine DeRousse

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 Ken Long and Larry Falls on 1/5; Alex Riddle on 1/7; Cheri Jackson, Cindy Love, Darren DeRousse, Nathalee Cuffman, and Roddy Beard on 1/8; and Cathy Britt, Stewart McCall, and Tom Eastridge on 1/9.

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.

All women of the church are asked to stay after worship service for a short meeting and vote on the WIC budget and nominations.

#### **This Week at Bethel**

##### **Sunday:**

**Youth Committee Meeting:** 4:00 pm, basement

**Youth:** 5:00 pm

##### **Monday:**

**Men of the Covenant:** 6:30 pm, FLC

##### **Tuesday:**

**Circle #1:** 10:30 am, Ladies Parlor

**GriefShare:** 1:00 pm, Covenant Classroom

**Diaconate Meeting:** 7:00 pm

##### **Wednesday:**

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

##### **Thursday:**

**Mentors & Moms:** 9:30 am, Education Building

#### **Next Week at Bethel**

**Session Meeting:** Sunday, January 11, 2:00 pm, Conference Room

**WIC Annual General Meeting:** Sunday, January 11, 2:30 pm, Covenant Classroom. All women in the church are invited. The 2025 WIC council members will provide their yearly reports. Renee Nix will have a quick meeting with the 2026 council following the general meeting.

**Circle #2:** Sunday, January 11, 3:30 pm, Ladies Sunday School Classroom

**Youth:** Sunday, January 11, 5:00 pm

**Family Quest:** Sunday, January 11, 5:00 pm, Purpose of Missions

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

**GriefShare:** Tuesday, January 13, 1:00 pm, Covenant Classroom

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

**Colleen Riddle Circle:** Wednesday, January 14, 11:00 am, Education Building

**Mentors & Moms:** Thursday, January 15, 9:30 am, Education Building

#### **Prayer requests:**

- Recovery, healing, and strength: Helen Bean, Tammy Carrick, Betsy Clinton, Shirley Coker, Deke Cox, Cary Grant, Charlotte Jackson, Willie Keller, Joe LeMoyne, Barbara Love, Mary Love, Joy McCarter, Maxie McCarter, Eck Miller, Jenny Richards, Jackie Schropp, Kay Stewart, Scott Wallace, Larry Wilmoth, Diane Wyatt.
- Our Congregation: that we would continue to grow in holiness, showing we've put off the old nature by our love for one another, even as we engage with our neighbors who don't know the love of God.
- Palmetto Women's Center: a ministry empowering women and families facing unexpected pregnancies in York County. They provide accurate information, free services, and practical support, giving each client the care and attention they need and empowering them to make informed decisions for themselves and their future.
- Pastor Ben Thomas, the staff, and congregation at **Christ Ridge Presbyterian Church**, 1070 Gold Hill Road, Fort Mill, SC 29708-7831, (803) 548-2020.