



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!

*Affliction promotes holiness:
The more the diamond is cut, the more it sparkles.*

Thomas Watson

**The LORD'S Day
Sunday, May 10, 2026**

www.BethelChurchPCA.com

~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!

Psalm 57:5

Preparation

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Silent Meditation and Prayer on Jeremiah 31:33

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Adoration

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

Psalm 135:1-3, 5-6 ESV

Pastor: Praise the LORD!

People: Praise the name of the LORD, give praise, O servants of the LORD, who stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God!

Pastor: Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing to his name, for it is pleasant!

People: For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.

All: Blessed be the LORD from Zion, he who dwells in Jerusalem! Praise the LORD!

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.*

⁶But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel,

⁷and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.”

⁸This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.

⁹For this is what the promise said: “About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son.”

¹⁰And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac,

¹¹though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls—

¹²she was told, “The older will serve the younger.”

¹³As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

¹⁴What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God’s part? By no means!

¹⁵For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”

¹⁶So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.

¹⁷For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.”

¹⁸So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.

Confession

The Call to Confession

Jeremiah 3:25 ESV

Let us lie down in our shame, and let our dishonor cover us. For we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even to this day, and we have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God. Hearing this, Bethel, let us confess our sins to Almighty God.

The Corporate Confession of Sin

Holy God, You created us in Your likeness, but through original sin, that image was utterly defaced in all humanity, and we became by nature hostile to You, slaves of Satan, and servants of sin. Remember not the sins of our youth and our rebellious ways: according to your steadfast love and faithfulness remember us, for You are good, O Lord.

Triune God, for the sake of Your name, forgive our iniquities, although they are great. Turn to us and be gracious to us, for we are lonely and afflicted. The troubles of our hearts have multiplied; free us from our anguish. Look upon our afflictions and distress and take away our sins.

We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.

The Silent Confession of Sin

The Assurance of Forgiveness

Colossians 2:13-14 ESV

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. Receive the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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 Westminster Larger Catechism
Q & A 146, 147, 148*

Q. 146. What is the tenth commandment?

A. The tenth commandment is: You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Q. 147. What does the tenth commandment require?

A. The tenth commandment requires that we be so completely satisfied with our own status in life and have such a proper, loving attitude toward others that we are naturally inclined to wish the best for them and all their possessions.

Q. 148. What particular sins does the tenth commandment forbid?

A. The tenth commandment forbids any dissatisfaction with what belongs to us, envy and grief at the success of others, and all improper desire for anything that belongs to someone else.

Collection

***The Offertory Scripture**

Romans 11:34-36 ESV

"For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. 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 Message

The Pastoral Prayer

***The Old Testament Reading**

Nehemiah 2:9-20 ESV
(Pew Bible p. 469)

The Sermon

A New Start

Pastor Chris Donnelly

- I. Nehemiah _____ the region (vs. 9-10)
- A. Nehemiah _____ to the military escort provided by King Artaxerxes as a matter of _____.
 - B. Godly people can arrive at _____ conclusions about similar _____.
- II. Nehemiah _____ the city walls (vs. 11-16)
- A. We can't _____ headlong from one project to the next all the time, that's not how we were _____ by our Heavenly Father.
- Isaiah 40:31* but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.
- B. He required trustworthy _____ to accomplish his goal and so do we; we can't fulfill God's _____ for Bethel Presbyterian Church alone.
 - C. His secret _____ made Nehemiah aware of the scope of the damage as well as the _____ of the assignment.
- III. Nehemiah _____ the city residents (vs. 17-20)
- A. It is from these _____ that Nehemiah begins recruiting colleagues to do the actual work of _____.

B. Nehemiah _____ inspiring confidence in the plans he has made for _____.

C. As is often the _____, once a new work begins in the covenant community, unrest _____.

Sermon Notes:

Answer Key: challenge, examines, different, exhorts, run, agreed, follows, ranks, designed, enters, rebuilding, colleagues, issues, begins, vision, wisdom, renewal, exploration, case.

***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	Kim Britt and Cheri Jackson	Kathy Donnelly and Lee Coble	Savannah McCall and Amanda Brummett
Next Week	Meredith & Brenna Clinton and Mandy Wynkoop	Judi Love and Lindsay Hall	Rebecca Wallace and Morgan Brown

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 Macey Hall on 5/11, Danielle Austin on 5/13, Sara Weatherby on 5/14, and Ella Forrest and Pavlina Benes on 5/15.

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

The flowers placed in the sanctuary are in celebration of Cullie Mounts' birthday.

To celebrate Mother's Day, we are having a congregation-wide collection for Palmetto Women's Center.

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 your child's name.

This Week at Bethel

Sunday

Youth: 5:00 pm

Monday

Circle #3: 7:00 pm, Covenant Classroom

Wednesday

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

Colleen Riddle Circle: 11:00 am, Education Building

Next Week at Bethel

Joint Officers Meeting: Sunday, May 17, 2:00 pm

Circle #2: Sunday, May 17, 3:30 pm, Ladies SS Classroom

Youth: Sunday, May 17, 5:00 pm

GriefShare: Tuesday, May 19, 6:30 pm, Covenant Classroom

Men's Bible Study: Wednesday, May 20, 6:00 am, Conference Room

WIC Council Meeting: Wednesday, May 20, 6:30 pm, Ladies SS Classroom

Upcoming Events at Bethel

Senior Sunday: Our high school seniors will be receiving Bibles on Sunday, May 17th.

Baccalaureate/Senior Send Off: Wednesday, May 20, 7:00 pm, Clover School District Auditorium. No tickets required. Sponsored by Clover Fellowship of Christian Athletes

VBS: June 15-18, 8:45-11:45 am. Registration will open on May 11th.

Prayer requests:

- Recovery, healing, and strength: Helen Bean, Tammy Carrick, Betsy Clinton, Shirley Coker, Deke Cox, Matt Falls, Linda Ferster, Cary Grant, 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.
- 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.
- Families and marriages: that the Lord would help us to show His mercy and grace to our spouse and children each time they need it and not bring up past hurts or failures.
- Pastor Chip McArthur, the staff, session, and congregation at **Olivet Presbyterian Church**, 159 Church Street, McConnells, SC 29726, (803) 693-4040.