



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!

*The Scriptures are the lifeline God throws us
in order to ensure He and we stay connected
while the rescue is in process.*

J.I. Packer

**The LORD's Day
Sunday, September 6, 2026**

www.BethelChurchPCA.com

~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

¹Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Psalm 96:1

Preparation

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Silent Meditation and Prayer on Psalm 46:10 ESV

¹⁰“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

Adoration

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

Psalm 98:1-6 ESV

Pastor: ¹Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

People: ²The Lord has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. ³He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Pastor: ⁴Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

People: ⁵Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody!

All: ⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!

Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen!
loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!
let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;
praise is his gracious choice. Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high, Alleluia! Amen!
let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!
he is our Guide and Friend; to us he'll condescend;
his love shall never end. Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again, Alleluia! Amen!
life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!
on heaven's blissful shore, his goodness we'll adore,
singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"

***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.*

- ⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.
- ¹⁰Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.
- ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.
- ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.
- ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.
- ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.
- ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.
- ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.
- ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.
- ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.
- ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."
- ²⁰To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."
- ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Confession

The Call to Confession

Hosea 14:1-2 ESV

¹Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity.

²Take with you words and return to the Lord; say to him, "Take away all iniquity; accept what is good, and we will pay with bulls the vows of our lips.

Therefore, let us confess our sins to God and one another.

The Corporate Confession of Sin

As for you, O LORD, you will not restrain your mercy from us; your steadfast love and your faithfulness will ever preserve us! For evils have encompassed us beyond number; our iniquities have overtaken us, and we cannot see; they are more than the hairs of our heads; our hearts fail us. Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver us! O LORD, make haste to help us!

May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the LORD!" As for us, we are poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for us. You are our help and our deliverer; do not delay, O our God! Amen.

The Silent Confession of Sin

***The Assurance of Forgiveness**

Isaiah 30:18 ESV

¹⁸Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him.

Bethel, receive the gospel; in 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 Ligonier Statement on Christology

We confess the mystery and wonder of God made flesh and rejoice in our great salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. With the Father and the Holy Spirit, the Son created all things, sustains all things, and makes all things new.

Truly God, He became truly man, two natures in one person. He was born of the Virgin Mary and lived among us. Crucified, dead, and buried; He rose on the third day, ascended to heaven, and will come again in glory and judgment.

For us, He kept the Law, atoned for sin, and satisfied God's wrath. He took our filthy rags and gave us His righteous robe. He is our Prophet, Priest, and King, building His church, interceding for us, and reigning over all things.

Jesus Christ is Lord; we praise His holy Name forever. Amen.

Collection

***The Offertory Scripture**

Psalm 51:16-17 ESV

¹⁶For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. ¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

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 12:27-43 ESV
(Pew Bible p. 480)

The Sermon

Rejoicing with Great Joy

Pastor Chris Donnelly

I. Making _____ (v. 27-30)

A. Nehemiah called the _____ together to dedicate the city walls, setting them apart for their sacred and solemn _____.

B. The role of the Levites was to _____ God's people in worship.

C. The purification _____ employed by the priests and Levites were symbolic of the peoples need for spiritual _____.

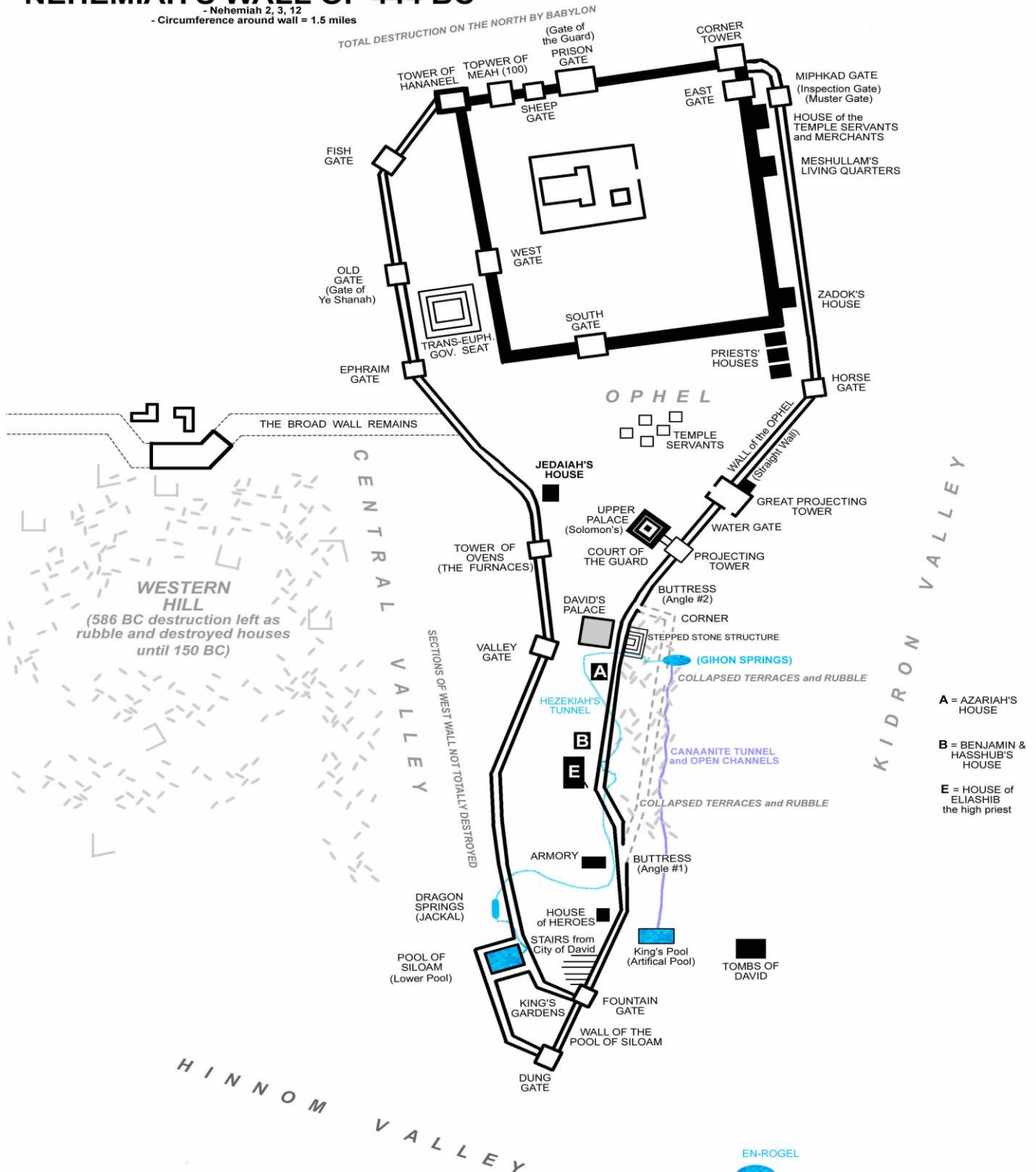
II. Twin _____ (v. 31-39)

A. The _____ of the choirs around the completed walls was a public act of _____.

B. Every service of _____ is a corporate testimony to God's character,
_____, and activity.

NEHEMIAH'S WALL OF 444 BC

- Nehemiah 2, 3, 12
- Circumference around wall = 1.5 miles



III. Joyful _____ (v. 40-43)

A. We _____ the Lord the best when we thank Him _____
for what He has done.

B. There is nothing half-hearted about their _____.

C. Joy is a _____ of God the Spirit that flows out of a transformed
_____.

Habakkuk 3:17-18 *Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.*

Sermon Notes:

Answer Key: worship, lead, parade, purpose, worship, rituals, fruit, witness, praise, revelation, preparations, thank, heart, cleansing, people, processions, specifically.

***The Closing Hymn**

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

Trinity Hymnal #616

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

*Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.*

Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. [*Refrain*]

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. [*Refrain*]

***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	Marissa Robinson and Nathalee Cuffman	Stacie Brackett and Savannah McCall	Amanda Brummett and Beth Stowe
Next Week	Abby Chidester and Kimberly Richards	Jessica McMullen and Brittany Neely	Kathy Donnelly and Lindsey Hall

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 today to David Nix! Happy birthday this week to Janie Marsh on 9/8; Carter Jackson and Harper Love on 9/9; Meredith Clinton on 9/11; and Abby Chidester, Beth Jackson, Brett Brackett, and Samuel Wynkoop on 9/12.

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.

The flowers in the sanctuary are in memory of Levins Mounts by all of her family.

BSRT is still in need of volunteers. Each class lasts 45 minutes, and volunteers can sign up for as many classes or days as you can. Please reach out to Peggy Long or Mandy Wynkoop if you are interested in helping.

This Week at Bethel

Monday

Office closed in observance of Labor Day

Tuesday

Diaconate Meeting: 7:00 pm, Conference Room

Wednesday

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

Colleen Riddle Circle: 11:00 am, FLC

GriefShare: 1:30 pm, Covenant Classroom

Thursday

Mentors & Moms: 9:30 am, Education Building

Next Week at Bethel

Session Meeting: Sunday, September 13, 2:00 pm, Conference Room

Circle #2: Sunday, September 13, 3:30 pm, Ladies Sunday School Classroom

Youth Girls Discipleship Group: Sunday, September 13, 4:00 pm, Providence Classroom

Kids' Quest: Sunday, September 13, 5:00 pm

Youth: Sunday, September 13, 5:00 pm

Young Adult Community Group: Sunday, September 13, 6:00 pm, see Ross Love for more information

Men of the Covenant: Monday, September 14, 6:30 pm, Linder home, 16528 Plantation Woods Drive, Charlotte. If you would like to carpool, meet at the FLC by 6:00 pm.

Circle #3: Monday, September 14, 7:00 pm, Covenant Classroom

Finance Committee: Tuesday, September 15, 7:00 pm, Conference Room

GriefShare: Tuesday, September 15, 6:00 pm, Covenant Classroom, stand-alone session "Loss of Spouse"

Men's Bible Study: Wednesday, September 16, 6:00 am, Conference Room

GriefShare: Wednesday, September 16, 1:30 pm, Covenant Classroom

Mentors & Moms: Thursday, September 17, 9:30 am, Education Building

Prayer requests:

- Recovery, healing, and strength: Becky Adams, 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.
- 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.
- Clover Area Assistance Center (CAAC): a local organization we support that provides a range of services to those in need. CAAC compassionately assists disadvantaged individuals living within the boundaries of the Clover School District in varying degrees of need with food, financial assistance, health services, and education.
- Pastor Chris Sewell, the session, and congregation at **Trinity Presbyterian Church**, 4421 Old Hickory Road, Lancaster, SC 29720, (803) 816-2660.