



Bethel

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PCA

*Timeless Truths for our
Changing Community*

Organized 1764

Our Vision

Joyfully obeying the Great Commandments
by obediently living the Great Commission.

Welcome to Bethel!

*The gospel is about being close to God.
To do that, Jesus identified with you
even to the point of entering into your afflictions.*

Ed Welch

**The LORD'S Day
Sunday, December 7, 2025**

www.BethelChurchPCA.com

~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

*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.*

Psalm 98:1

Preparation

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Advent Wreath Lighting

The Chris Wallace family

The Silent Meditation and Prayer on Micah 5:2

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

Adoration

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

Luke 1:46-56 ESV

Pastor: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

People: For He has looked on the humble estate of His servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name.

Pastor: And His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.

People: He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate.

All: He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to His offspring forever.

***The Hymn of Praise** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Trinity Hymnal #196

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
dear Desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end;
by His life He brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
this the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King;
born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;
by Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

***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.*

13 Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted.

14 As many were astonished at you-- his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind— 15 so shall he sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths because of him, for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.

1 Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? 2 For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. 3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned-- every one-- to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. 8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? 9 And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

10 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. 11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Confession

The Call to Confession

1 Thessalonians 5:15-19 ESV

See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Hearing this, Bethel Church, let us confess together.

The Corporate Confession of Sin

Most merciful God, whose eyes are too pure to behold iniquity, but who has promised forgiveness to all who confess and forsake their sins through Jesus Christ. We come before You, in a humble sense of our own unworthiness, acknowledging our many transgressions of Your righteous laws. We have thought, committed, and meditated on that which is evil, and we have ignored, excused, and forgotten that which is good. You have shown such kindness to us, and in return we have been lazy, ignorant, and self-centered.

*But, O Gracious Father, you delight to show mercy, and so look upon us with Your mercy, and forgive us all our sins. Make us to feel the great evil of them deeply; and work in us a true penitence; that we may always obtain forgiveness at Your hand, for You are ever ready to receive humble sinners, only for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, in whose name we pray.
Amen.*

The Silent Confession of Sin

***The Assurance of Forgiveness**

Hebrews 10:12-14 ESV

But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering, he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. Saints, receive the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by:
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still,
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

***The Confession of Faith**

*Belgic Confession
Article 10: The Deity of Christ*

We believe that Jesus Christ, according to His divine nature, is the only Son of God—eternally begotten, not made or created, for then he would be a creature.

He is one in essence with the Father; coeternal; the exact image of the person of the Father and the "reflection of God's glory," being like the Father in all things.

Jesus Christ is the Son of God not only from the time he assumed our nature but from all eternity, as the following testimonies teach us when they are taken together.

Moses says that God created the world; and John says that all things were created through the Word, which he calls God. The apostle says that God created the world through the Son. He also says that God created all things through Jesus Christ.

And so, it must follow that the one who is called God, the Word, the Son, and Jesus Christ already existed before creating all things. Therefore, the prophet Micah says that Christ's origin is "from ancient days." And the apostle says that the Son has "neither beginning of days nor end of life."

So then, He is the true eternal God, the Almighty, whom we invoke, worship, and serve.

Collection

***The Offertory Scripture**

Matthew 2:10-11 ESV

When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

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**

Philippians 2:1-11 ESV
(Pew Bible p. 1165)

The Sermon

*Christmas in the New Testament:
The Name Above All Others – Part 2*

Pastor Chris Donnelly

I. Paul's _____ (v. 5)

A. The _____ that we have in Christ presses us toward one another so that we pursue each other and build godly _____ together.

B. Since we have been _____ to Christ by grace through faith, our Savior is the fountainhead from which this _____ flows.

II. Christ's _____ (vs. 6-8)

A. Because he carries God's _____, all that is true of the Triune God is _____ of Jesus Christ.

B. Christ _____ himself not by ceasing to be anything that He always was, but by _____ that which He had never been.

C. We must be _____, perfectly obedient, to stand with confidence before the heavenly tribunal at the bar of God's _____.

Sermon Notes:

Answer Key: justice, righteous, taking, humbled, true, form, humiliation, attitude, united, community, mindset, exhortation.

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:
let men their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

***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	Lindsey Hall, Grace Benes, and Pavina Benes	Abby Chidester and Ilse Wallace	Danielle Austin and Kathy Donnelly
Next Week	Harper Harvell and Lindsay Hoffman	Sheridan Miller, Carter Miller, and Shirley Brackett	Lindsey Hall and Ruth McCormick

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 Peggy Whitesides! Happy birthday this week to Kenneth Whitesides on 12/8 and Amber Lee on 12/9.

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 worship service.

We want to extend our sincere condolences to Willie Keller and her family on the passing of Bill. Please know that we are praying for you.

Women of Bethel, we have two openings on the WIC council, President Elect and Christian Education. Please join together in prayer and let us know as soon as possible if you can fill one of these roles in January. You will not serve alone! We are a team and would love to have you help us serve the Lord by serving our Bethel Church Family. If you are interested, contact Peggy Long at (704) 813-1116.

This Week at Bethel

Sunday

Children's Christmas Play: Join us tonight at 6:00 pm for The Ten Proclamations. WIC is providing refreshments afterwards in the FLC. We will be receiving the Relief Fund, which supports widows and missionaries in times of financial need. If you plan to give, please make checks payable to Bethel WIC with Relief Fund as the memo.

Monday

Circle #3: We will meet at Abby Chidester's home at 6:30 pm. Bring a side dish or appetizer to share. Her address is 2710 Greenleaf Road, Clover.

Wednesday

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

Colleen Riddle Circle: 11:00 am, Lily's Bistro

GriefShare: 1:00-3:00 pm, Covenant Classroom

Next Week at Bethel

Session Meeting: Sunday, December 14, 2:00 pm

Circle #2: Sunday, December 14, 3:00 pm, home of Douglas McCarter, 1060 Lawrence Road, Clover

Youth: Sunday, December 14, 5:00 pm

Young Adult Community Group: Sunday, December 14, 6:00 pm

Men's Bible Study: Wednesday, December 17, 6:00 am, Conference Room

Good Samaritians: Wednesday, December 18, 5:00 pm, FLC

Upcoming Events at Bethel

Kids' Quest Caroling: Sunday, December 21, meet at Bethel at 5:00 pm

Prayer requests:

- Recovery, healing, and strength: Helen Bean, Tammy Carrick, Betsy Clinton, Shirley Coker, Deke Cox, Cary Grant, Charlotte Jackson, Willie Keller, Joe LeMoyné, 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.
- Families and marriages: that the Lord would help us to walk in forgiveness and never lose sight of the fact that He has forgiven us, that He would help us to see our own flaws and mistakes and make the adjustments in our hearts that allow us to reflect Him to one another.
- Pastor David Hall, the staff, session, and congregation at **Filbert Presbyterian Church**, 2066 Filbert Highway, York, SC 29745-9777, (803) 684-6881.