

Questions:

1. What are you blinded by?
2. For you, what does the summit look like?
3. If this is a time of new beginnings, in what area will you make a fresh start?

To Our Visitors

We welcome you to worship today. If you are visiting with us please feel free to speak to the pastor or one of our greeters if you have questions or want more information about Bethpage.

Bethpage is a church committed to children and families and their needs. We have a nursery and childcare for infants through kindergarten. Feel free to keep your child in worship through the Time With the Children if that works for your family. Jaymie Barrier our children's caregiver will take your cell phone number and will text you if your child needs you during worship.



6020 Mooresville Road • Kannapolis NC 28081
704-933-2209

website: www.bethpagechurch.org
e-mail: info@bethpagechurch.org

Rev. Valerie Hicks
704-712-7533 • valeriedehicks@gmail.com

Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!

*"A family of faith in Jesus
Christ, yesterday, today,
and tomorrow."*

January 1, 2023
10:00 AM



GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

PRELUDE

"Sweet Little Jesus Boy"

Robert McGimsey

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

To disciples, then and now, Jesus has said, "You are the light of the world . . . Let your light so shine before all, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

We have come together to be community, to receive light, and to be light. Let us dedicate ourselves.

We have come together to be windows through which, instructed and illuminated by God, we might see the world more clearly.

We have come to be windows through which the world might know the light and love of God. Let us praise and glorify the Lord.

HYMN #38

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"
(The Presbyterian Hymnal)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sometimes, O God, your Word is too much for us. You ask us to love our enemies, when we can scarcely love our friends as we should. You ask us to give when we want to take, and to forgive when we want to nurse bitterness. We thank you that you accept us as we are, and that you show us what we can be. Help us to believe that we can be loving, just and holy like you; through the grace of Jesus Christ, hear our silent confessions. *(Please take a moment for silent confession.)*

RESPONSE HYMN #316 *“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”*
(verse 1, The Presbyterian Hymnal)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

This is the good news in Jesus Christ: God loves us more than we love ourselves. God forgives us, encourages us, and frees us to love others. Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, Amen!

RESPONSE OF PRAISE

“Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me”

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM

“For God So Loved the World”

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 40:1-5 (Pew Bible, p. 513)

HYMN #55

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”
(verses 1, 3, 4, & 6, Hymns of Grace)

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

Luke 7:20-22 (Pew Bible, p. 66)
Luke 18:35-43 (Pew Bible, p. 82)

SERMON

“New Beginnings”

Rev. Valerie Hicks

THE PEOPLE RESPOND

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from A Declaration of Faith

God sent the promised Deliverer to his people. Jesus, the long expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God’s kingdom of justice and peace on earth. We affirm that Jesus was born of a woman, as is every child, yet born of God’s power, as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God’s promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, God brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended. Amen.

GIVING GOD OUR OFFERING and OUR 10¢-A-MEAL OFFERING

Offertory

“Mary’s Little Boy Child”

Jester Hairston

Doxology *(sung)*

**Praise God for gifts of hope and peace
Praise God for gifts of joy and love
Praise God for sending Christ to dwell
On earth for us — Immanuel. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

Lord God, thank you for upholding our lives and for our many blessings. As we bring our gifts and tithes to you, we are reminded of the greatest gift, your son, Jesus. Draw us ever closer in your Spirit to each other and to you. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

GO IN GOD’S NAME

HYMN #29

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”
(The Presbyterian Hymnal)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

John Reading

† † † † †