

Special Thanks to Our Guest Pastor

This Sunday we welcome **Rev. Stephen Scott** as our guest for the day to lead us in worship. Steve Scott served for twenty years as pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Statesville and as transitional general presbyter of Salem Presbytery from March 2018 through August 2020. Since his retirement he has served as vice moderator and moderator of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic and as acting synod executive and stated clerk. Steve grew up in Memphis, Tennessee, and is a graduate of Vanderbilt University and Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He has also served churches in Florida, South Carolina, and Georgia. He and his wife, Laurie Scott, have two children and three grandchildren. We welcome Steve to Bethpage Presbyterian Church.

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.



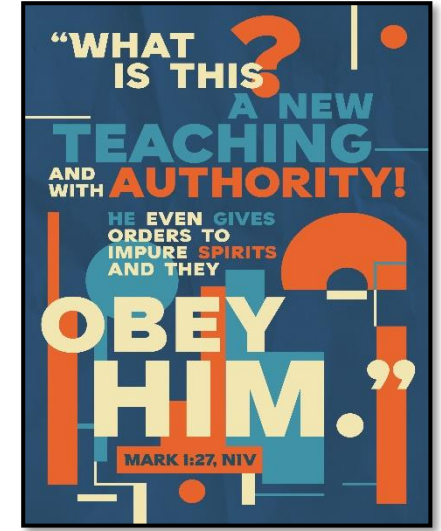
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Rev. Valerie Hicks
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Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!

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

**January 28, 2024
10:00 AM**



GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING MUSIC #2270 *"He Has Made Me Glad"*
(Sing the Faith Hymnal)

CALL TO WORSHIP

— from Psalm 66:1-5

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing the glory of God's name; give God glorious praise. Say to God,

"How awesome are your deeds! All the earth worships you; we sing praises to you, sing praises to your name."

Come and see what God has done: Let us worship God!

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN #483 *"Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above"*
(verses 1 & 4, The Presbyterian Hymnal)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. *(Please take a moment for silent confession.)*

RESPONSE #326 *“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”*
(verse 1, The Presbyterian Hymnal)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. If anyone is in Christ there is a new creation. The past is finished and gone; everything has become fresh and new. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Let us sing God's praise.

RESPONSE OF PRAISE *"Glory Be to the Father"* GLORIA PATRI

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM "Goodness of God"

OLD TESTAMENT READING Deuteronomy 18:15-20 (Pew Bible, p. 174)

NEW TESTAMENT READING Mark 1:21-28 (Pew Bible, p. 35)

SERMON "Recognizing Authority" Rev. Stephen Scott

THE PEOPLE RESPOND

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

- from “A Declaration of Faith

Jesus Christ overthrew evil powers that enslaved and degraded people, yet he made no use of power to protect himself. He healed those who were sick in body and mind, yet he did not avoid pain and suffering for himself. He commanded his followers to place loyalty to him above loyalty to family and country, yet he lived among them as a servant. Jesus taught with authority, challenging many time-honored customs and ideas, yet he submitted to humiliation and death without a word on his own behalf. He forgave sinners, yet he was counted among sinners. We recognize the work of God in Jesus' power and authority. In both his majesty and lowliness Jesus is the eternal Son of God, God himself with us.

GIVING GOD OUR OFFERING

Offertory

Doxology (*sung*)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

GO IN GOD'S NAME

HYMN #438 *"Benediction"*
(Hymns of Grace)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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