

Prayer of Dedication

Abundant God, out of Your great mercy you have given us so much. We bring you this offering today. With it we worship You and give our whole selves to You. Please take it and use it for Your kingdom and Your glory. Extend and multiply its reach, we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

GO IN GOD'S NAME

HYMN

"Great Is the Lord"

Refrain

Great is the Lord, he is holy and just; by his power we trust in his love.
Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true; by his mercy he proves he is love.

-1-

Great is the Lord and worthy of glory! Great is the Lord and worthy of praise.
Great is the Lord; now lift up your voice, now lift up your voice:
Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord! Refrain

-2-

Great are you Lord, and worthy of glory!
Great are you, Lord, and worthy of praise.
Great are you, Lord; I lift up my voice, I lift up my voice:
Great are you, Lord! Great are you, Lord! Refrain

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

† † † † †

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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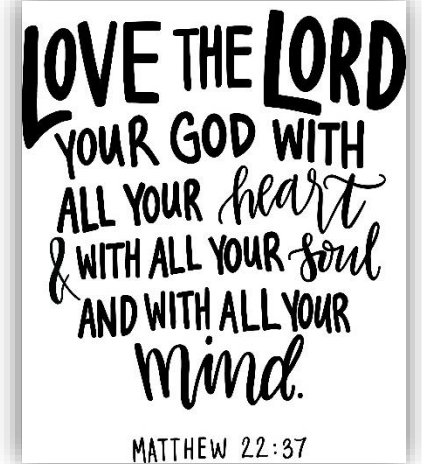
Rev. Valerie Hicks

704-712-7533 • valeriedehicks@gmail.com

Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!

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

October 8, 2023
10:00 AM



GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Praise to the Lord"

OPENING MUSIC

"I Sing Praises to Your Name"

I sing praises to your name, O Lord,
praises to your name, O Lord,
for your name is great and greatly to be praised.

I give glory to your name, O Lord,
glory to your name, O Lord,
for your name is great and greatly to be praised.

CALL TO WORSHIP

God is very near to us.

We come together to praise God who lives and dwells among us.

Bring your songs and your praises and let the Spirit of God be praised here,
out in God's beautiful creation.

**We praise God with song and voice: with dance and laughter, and we
greet one another with love.**

Praise be to God!

Alleluia! Amen!

HYMN

"To God Be the Glory"

-1-

To God be the glory, great things He hath done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory: great things He hath done!

-2-

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us, Loving God, for being so conformed to the world around us. New persons in Christ Jesus, we still live in our old ways. Called to follow the Lord of time and history, we fear the changes which our time and events bring. Empowered by the Spirit to live as those risen from the dead, we have let old attitudes and ambitions control us and old habits and old practices continue unchallenged. Pardon us, O God. Come powerfully into our lives and give us joy, love and liberating faith through Jesus Christ our Lord. Hear our silent prayers . . . *(Please take a moment for silent confession.)*

RESPONSE HYMN

"Bless the Lord"

Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord my soul who leads me into life.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God's light and grace are for you. Be filled with gratitude for the abundant mercy that is ours through Christ. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Praise God! Alleluia!

RESPONSE OF PRAISE

"Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen. *(continued →)*

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM

"Just a Little Talk With Jesus"

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

Exodus 20:3 ([Common English Version](#))

Proverbs 3:5-6 ([Common English Version](#))

ANTHEM

"Great Are You Lord"

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 22:35-40 (NRSV)

SERMON

"Front and Center"

Rev. Valerie Hicks

THE PEOPLE RESPOND

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Declaration of Faith

We believe in one true and living God. God is greater than our understanding. We do not fully comprehend who God is or how he works. God's reality far exceeds all our words can say. The Lord's requirements are not always what we think is best. The Lord's care for us is not always what we want. God comes to us on his own terms and is able to do far more than we ask or think. God is at work beyond our story. We praise and enjoy God. To worship God is highest joy. To serve God is perfect freedom.

GIVING GOD OUR OFFERING

Offertory

"How Can It Be?"

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.