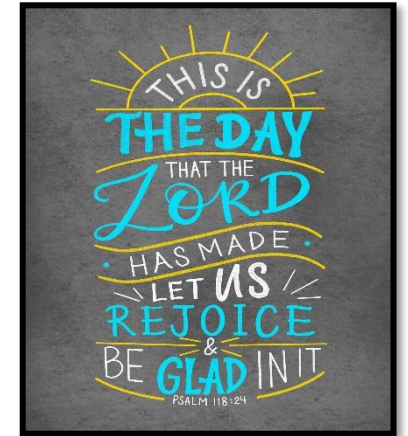


# Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!

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

**April 12, 2026  
10:00 AM**



## 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 for infants through three-year-olds and Kids of the Kingdom for four-year-olds through first grade. There are activity sheets and children's Bibles for older children. Feel free to keep your child with you in worship through the Time With Children if that works for your family. Our nursery caregiver is Stephanie Pritchard. Stephanie will text you if your child needs you during worship.*



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704-933-2209

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Rev. Valerie Hicks  
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## **PRELUDE**

## **WELCOME AND GREETING**

## **GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER**

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

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Welcome to God's new day!

**Everywhere we look we see new life.**

In seeds, in smiles and touch, we discover God's energizing presence.

**Death can never be the last word.**

God has raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Christ is present among us today.

**Praise God for new life within and among us this day! Amen.**

## **HYMN #371**

"Lift High the Cross"  
(verses 1, 3, & 4, The Presbyterian Hymnal)

## ***PRAYER OF CONFESSION***

O God, we confess our lack of faith. Although we have called you the God of hope, we often feel lost, cynical, without hope. The world is so full of big nails and little nails—people are put on so many different kinds of crosses in so many different places that we wonder if there can ever be enough resurrections. We are reluctant to leave the tomb of our own ignorance and fear to claim the promise.

We confess that our weaknesses and insensitivities stand in the way of new life in our world. We know that the world is full of suffering. Our brothers and sisters are nailed to crosses of poverty and injustice. People close enough to touch are sealed in tombs of loneliness and despair. But we have failed to halt the crucifixion, to roll away the stone. *A time of silence.*

### ***RESPONSE #574***

*“Lord Have Mercy Upon Us”*  
(The Presbyterian Hymnal)

## ***GOD’S GRACE AND PROMISE***

You are forgiven, so rejoice! You are loved, so give thanks! You are renewed, so lift up your hearts and receive the freedom that comes with a new life in Christ.

**Alleluia! Amen!**

### ***RESPONSE***

*“Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me”*

## **THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

### ***TIME WITH CHILDREN***

### ***SPECIAL MUSIC***

### ***OLD TESTAMENT READING***

Psalm 118 (CEB)

### ***RESPONSE***

*“I Need Thee Every Hour”*  
(verse 3 & refrain)

### ***NEW TESTAMENT READING***

John 21:1-15 (NIV)

### ***SERMON***

*“The Church Goes On”*

Valerie Hicks

## **GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND**

### ***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH***

from United Church in Canada

This Easter season, we rejoice that death is not the last word. God raised Jesus from death, turning sorrow into joy, despair into hope. We sing of Jesus raised from the dead. We sing hallelujah. The Risen Christ lives today, present to us and the source of our hope. We sing of a church seeking to continue the story of Jesus by embodying Christ’s presence in the world. We are called together by Christ as a community of broken but hopeful believers, loving what he loved, living what he taught, striving to be faithful servants of God in our time and place, even as we look in hope for a new heaven and a new earth.

### ***HYMN #106***

*“Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks”*  
(verses 2, 3, & 4, The Presbyterian Hymnal)

### ***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 AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (ecumenical version)***

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

### ***HYMN #118***

*“The Day of Resurrection”*  
(The Presbyterian Hymnal)

### ***BENEDICTION***

### ***POSTLUDE***

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