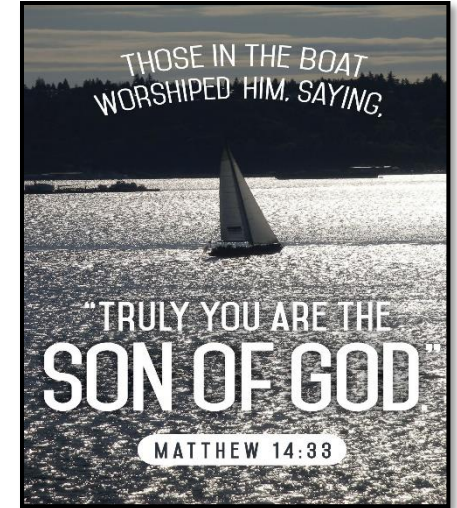


Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!

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

July 28, 2024
10:00 AM



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 for infants through three-year-olds and Kids of the Kingdom for four-year-olds – Kindergarten. 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 new nursery caregiver is Stephanie Pritchard. Stephanie will text you if your child needs you during worship.



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

GOD’S PEOPLE GATHER

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING MUSIC #2150 “Lord, Be Glorified”
(verses 1, 3, & 4, Sing the Faith Hymnal)

CALL TO WORSHIP

God our Creator, You have given us life, one gift we are not able to create by our own skills.

That life is a story not yet finished. You have given us the opportunity to fill that life with what You would have us do.

Grant us wisdom, O God, to discern between Your work and our own. Let our work be Yours.

Give us your Spirit and fill us with courage, that we may choose to learn to minister in your name.

O God, we can go far, but no farther, without Your guidance. We know You will be our guide through the darkness of life.

Take us to You; heal us, strengthen us to touch the lives of others with your love. Amen.

HYMN #420

“God of Grace and God of Glory”
(verses 1, 3, & 4, The Presbyterian Hymnal)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we are not the people you want us to be, and we are not the people we ourselves long to be. Sometimes, we reach out for the new life you offer us, but too often we are content with only second-best. Sometimes, we glimpse eternal joy, but too often we are content with passing pleasures. Sometimes, we are inspired to work for a better world, but too often we are content with self-righteous isolation. Sometimes, we allow ourselves to believe in your love, but too often we act as if your word were not to be trusted. O God, this is our life; we are not satisfied with it; we long for it to be better. Forgive our half-hearted discipleship. Change us and our lives, Lord. Hear our silent prayers . . . *(Please take a moment for silent confession.)*

RESPONSE HYMN #2152 *“Change My Heart, O God”*
(Sing the Faith Hymnal)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Jesus said: “Your sins are forgiven; go and sin no more.

Every day is an opportunity to decide again that this new day shall not be like the others; that as of this moment, a new person is being created.

We are free from bondage to our past. We are free to live fully in the present. The future is open.

Let us rejoice in this transforming power of our Lord. Amen

RESPONSE OF PRAISE *“Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me”*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM

“In Every Song”

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 43:1-4 (The Message)

HYMN #282

“If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee”
(verse 1 only, The Presbyterian Hymnal)

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 14:22-33(JB Phillips Translation)

SERMON

“Out or In”

Valerie Hicks

THE PEOPLE RESPOND

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Declaration of Faith

Christ calls us to live in the presence of God. We are charged to pray for ourselves and others with gratitude, boldness, and persistence, confident that God hears and answers our prayers in ways best for us all. Life in God’s presence issues in life for others, for if we do not love sisters and brothers whom we see, we cannot love God whom we do not see. Christ teaches us to put obedience to God above the interests of self, family, race or nation; to offer God joyously our money, ability and time. Forgiven by God and supported by brothers and sisters, we strive to become more faithful and effective in our daily practice of the Christian life.

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

GO IN GOD’S NAME

HYMN #151

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”
(verses 1, 3, & 4, The Presbyterian Hymnal)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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