

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

THE SENDING

HYMN #535 "Go with Us, Lord"
(sing two times, The Presbyterian Hymnal)

BLESSING AND CHARGE

POSTLUDE "Just a Closer Walk With Thee" Arr. Ken Morris

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TO OUR VISITORS

We welcome you to our worship. We have a nursery lovingly and carefully attended by church members and childcare following the Time with the Children for ages two through kindergarten. If you have questions, please see an usher and they will be happy to assist you.

SERMON NOTES

THIS WEEK AT BPC	LOOKING AHEAD
The Cabarrus County LunchPlus Club for Seniors provides Indoor Dining and Meal Pickup in the BPC Fellowship Hall, Monday – Friday. Doors open 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Lunch serving times 11:30 AM – 12:15 PM.	
<p>Sunday, July 31 9:00 AM – Children’s Sunday School – Room 202 9:00 AM – Sunday School – Room 200 10:00 AM – Worship Service</p> <p>Tuesday, August 2 6:30 PM – Circle 1 in Session Room</p> <p>Wednesday, August 3 7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Friday, August 5 3:00 PM – Set up for Private Event in BPC Fellowship Hall</p> <p>Saturday, August 6 2:00 – 7:00 PM – Private Event in BPC Fellowship Hall</p> <p>Sunday, August 7 10¢-A-Meal Offering to be received 9:00 AM – Children’s Sunday School – Room 202 9:00 AM – Sunday School – Room 200 10:00 AM – Worship Service with Communion</p>	<p>Monday, August 8 7:00 PM – Mission/Evangelism Committee 7:00 PM – Worship Committee</p> <p>Tuesday, August 9 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Quilting 101 in BPC Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM – Christian Education Committee</p> <p>Wednesday, August 10 7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Thursday, August 11 6:30 PM – Personnel Committee</p> <p>Sunday, August 14 9:00 AM – Children’s Sunday School – Room 202 9:00 AM – Sunday School – Room 200 10:00 AM – Worship Service</p>

THE SESSION OF OUR CHURCH	CLASS OF 2022
Valerie Hicks, <i>Moderator</i> Melissa Wright, <i>Clerk</i>	Connie Goodman, <i>Worship</i> Christel Josey, <i>Property</i> Dougie Kirkman, <i>Christian Education</i>
CLASS OF 2023	CLASS OF 2024
Richie Goodman, <i>Stewardship</i> Ed Kusper, <i>Congregational Care</i> Melissa Wright, <i>Clerk</i>	Chris Ferguson, <i>Mission/Evangelism</i> Hannah Jackson, <i>Communications</i> Sherry Shifflett, <i>Personnel</i>



Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!
July 31, 2022

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

We are excited that you have joined us in worshipping God today. Whether you are just visiting, looking to stay or have worshipped here your whole life, it is great to worship the Lord together this day!



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Rev. Valerie Hicks
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The Service for the Lord's Day

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 31, 2022

10:00 A.M.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

"Face to Face"

Arr. Don Wyrzten

SILENT PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

O God who never changes, be with us this day, as we gather in the face of an ever-changing world. We seek Your steadfast mercy and Your unconditional love. We seek Your guidance through the Holy Spirit, as we face competing demands for our loyalty. We seek the salvation that comes through Your Son, Jesus Christ. May our comfort be in You alone, O God, through all the circumstances of our lives. Amen.

OPENING PRAISE HYMN #2040 *"Awesome God"*
(sing three times, Sing the Faith Hymnal)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRINITY CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

The God of New Beginnings has called us to this place.

We come celebrating the new life that is ours as God's faithful people.

Let your joy ring through the universe, and let your vision see to the depths of every soul.

We will be shouters of joy and seekers of God's light wherever we go. Praise God for this day!

Let us worship God.

HYMN #481 *"Praise the Lord, God's Glories Show"*
(The Presbyterian Hymnal)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, there are times we don't know what to say to ourselves, or to you. What is the truth of our lives we are too scared to see; too proud to share? Prod us gently, yet insistently, to look at ourselves with honesty. We are complex creatures; our lives confused and overrun; our spirits crippled; our responses to larger issues lame. Help us to clear the garbage away, to see clearly and hear plainly. Loosen the particular bond which fetters each of us, that we may straighten up, unwind, and find movement possible once again toward you, toward ourselves, toward others. Forgive us and hear our silent prayers . . . *(Please take a moment for silent confession.)*

RESPONSE HYMN #339 *"Be Thou My Vision"*
(verse 1, The Presbyterian Hymnal)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Of what advantage will it be to gain the whole world and forfeit our lives?

God has entrusted us with the gift of life and challenged us to spend it as followers of Jesus.

Friends, believe the good news, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

In Christ, we find our true identity and experience the forgiveness and wholeness God intends for us. Praise the God of New Beginnings.

RESPONSE OF PRAISE

"Glory Be to the Father"

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

THE WORD

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

ANTHEM

"Soon Very Soon"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Hannah Jackson

OLD TESTAMENT READING (responsively)

Psalm 51:1-12 (Pew Bible, p. 520)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

(continued →)

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new an right spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Romans 3:23-24 (Pew Bible, p. 154)

SERMON

"Sin, How Great is Grace?"

Rev. Valerie Hicks

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from A Brief Statement of Faith

In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

GIVING GOD OUR OFFERING

Offertory

Amber McCullough

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

For all your gifts – those we remember and all we have not recognized – we give you thanks, Loving God. We are grateful for the privilege of giving from the abundance you provide. We are thankful for the influence of this congregation in our lives throughout the years. Help us together to use what we have shared to fulfill your purposes. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS