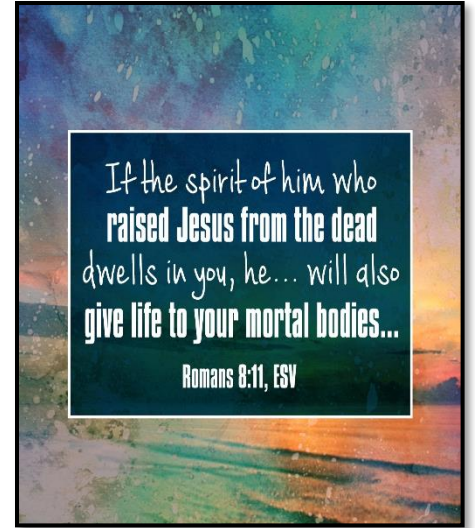


# Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!

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

April 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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704-933-2209

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Rev. Valerie Hicks  
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## GOD’S PEOPLE GATHER

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRELUDE**

**OPENING MUSIC**      *“Come Into God’s Presence”*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Get Up! Get going!

**We are too tired and weary to be energetic.**

Wake up to the possibilities of God’s surprises!

**We are not sure we can break out of our old ruts.**

Arise and open your hearts to the resurrection!

**We are an Easter people! Praise God for new life!**

### **HYMN #466**

*“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”*  
(verses 1, 2, & 4, The Presbyterian Hymnal)

## ***PRAYER OF CONFESSION***

Holy God, we have sought to follow you without counting the costs. Our tanks are half full. We have hidden in the crowd, ignoring Christ's call to pick up our cross and follow him. Help us take stock of our motives, our intentions, and our needs for the journey, that we may finish the course in faith. In Jesus' name, we pray, hear our silent prayers . . . *(Please take a moment for silent confession.)*

**RESPONSE HYMN**      *"Come Bring Your Burdens to God"*

## ***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS***

God is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

**God makes all things new.**

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

## **THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

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

**ANTHEM**      *"Untitled Hymn"*

**DRAMA**      *"Released Part 1"*      Background John 11:1-44

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**      Psalm 116:1-9 (NIV)

**RESPONSE**      *"Listen to the Word that God Has Spoken"*  
(sing two times)

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**      Romans 8:9-11 (The Message)

**SERMON**      *"Released Part 2"*      Valerie Hicks

## **THE PEOPLE RESPOND**

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

We believe that God created and is still creating and that we are called to join in this creation. We believe that God does not love us because Christ died for us, but that Christ died for us because God loved us. We believe that God's Holy Spirit of love still sets people free and that God calls us to help in this task of liberation. We believe that the church is a chosen people, not chosen for its own sake, but to be a servant of God for the sake of the world. We believe that God's love is unfailing, and so we approach the future with confidence. Amen.

### ***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

**Generous Creator, You give us everything we need. Help us to respond to your generosity with grateful hearts and giving spirits. May our offering be a concrete way for us to demonstrate our love. Bless these gifts given in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### ***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER***

#### **GO IN GOD'S NAME**

**HYMN #404**      *"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"*  
(The Presbyterian Hymnal)

### ***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION***

#### ***BENEDICTION RESPONSE***

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

### ***POSTLUDE***

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