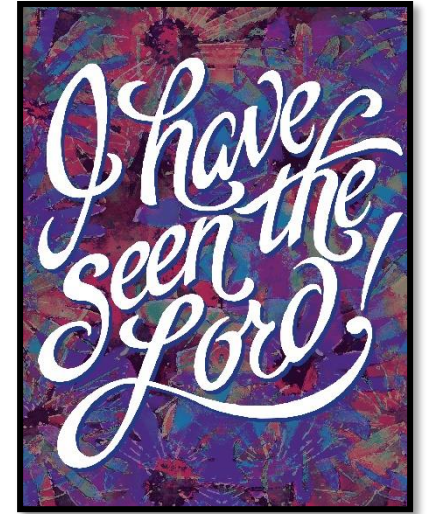


**Welcome to  
Bethpage  
Presbyterian Church!**

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

**April 7, 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.*



6020 Mooresville Road • Kannapolis NC 28081  
704-933-2209

website: [www.bethpagechurch.org](http://www.bethpagechurch.org)  
e-mail: [info@bethpagechurch.org](mailto:info@bethpagechurch.org)

Rev. Valerie Hicks  
704-712-7533 • [valeriedeehicks@gmail.com](mailto:valeriedeehicks@gmail.com)

**GOD’S PEOPLE GATHER**

***PRELUDE***

***WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS***

***OPENING MUSIC***

*“Step by Step”  
(sing three times)*

***CALL TO WORSHIP***

The tomb is empty and darkness has lost!

**We dance in the light of His resurrection!**

No more do we have to fear!

**No more does worry reign!**

He is victorious and so are we!

**Because of His victory, we are free!**

Praise the Lord! Hallelujah!

**Praise the Risen Lord! Hallelujah!**

***HYMN #118***

*“The Day of Resurrection”  
(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. There are those close enough to touch that are sealed in tombs of loneliness and despair. And yet we blindly refuse to roll away the stones. Forgive us, Lord. Help us to boldly claim your promise of resurrection and new life. Move us toward you and one another. Hear our silent prayers . . . *(Please take a moment for silent confession.)*

**RESPONSE HYMN #2200** “O Lord, Hear My Prayer”  
(Sing the Faith Hymnal)

## ***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS***

God meets us where we are, and implores us to turn our lives around.

**God raised Jesus to assure us of new life.**

God’s promises are for us and for our children, for those who are near to us and for all who are far away.

**God calls us into relationships that build up, not destroy.**

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”

## **THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

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

**ANTHEM** “They Could Not”

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Psalm 145 (Psalms Now)

**NEW TESTAMENT READING** John 20:11-18 (Pew Bible, p. 114)

**SERMON** “The Question” Valerie Hicks

## **THE PEOPLE RESPOND**

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

A Declaration of Faith

Jesus was dead and buried, but God raised him from the dead. The risen Lord appeared to his followers. They recognized him as their Master who had been crucified. Before Jesus left them, he commissioned them to proclaim to all people the good news of his victory over death, and promised to be with them always. We are certain that Jesus lives. He lives as God with us, touching all of human life with the presence of God. He lives as one of us with God. Jesus is Lord! He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord.

### ***GIVING GOD OUR OFFERING and OUR 10¢-A-MEAL OFFERING***

Offertory “We Will Serve the Lord”

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

**Gracious God, as we celebrate the power of the resurrection, we ask that you would receive these offerings and gifts that we give joyfully and generously. By the power of your Spirit, multiply them and use them to bring peace, justice, hope, and the good news of Jesus Christ to all the world. Amen.**

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

#### **GO IN GOD’S NAME**

**HYMN #106** “Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks”  
(verses 1, 2, & 4, The Presbyterian Hymnal)

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

### ***POSTLUDE***

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