



Bethany United Methodist Church
The Church with Open Hearts, Minds, and Doors
 1860 Hayes Road • PO Box 527 • Gloucester Point VA 23062
Office Hours: Mon.-Fri., 9:00 am–3:00 pm (closed 12-1pm)
 Phone: 804.642.2110
 Email: admin@bethanyumc-gp.org; Website: www.bethanyumc-gp.org



March 2, 2025

11:00 a.m.

Bethany United Methodist Church
Transfiguration Sunday | Communion Sunday

WELCOME EVERYONE! Thank you for worshiping with us!

VOLUNTEERS SERVING TODAY

Acolyte: Regina Berry
 Media: Scott Berry, Jeremy Nardoizzi, Susannah Hogge, Cathy Raines, Aidan Dumbrocyo
 Altar Guild this month: Nina Whitmore, Sharon Cheek, Mary Linda Brooks
 Liturgist: Scott Glaze
 Trustee Contact this week: Don Thomas
 Ushers: Milton Hudgins, Kirk Bell
 Greeters: Patsy Bell, Tom Smith
 Counting Team: Bernard Robins, Don Thomas, Donna Lane

STEWARDSHIP	2/23
General Fund	3648.73
GNCS	240.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	90.00
Rise Against Hunger	370.00
ATTENDANCE	2/23
In-person Worship - 8:30 am	27
In-person Worship - 11:00 am	54
Online Worship (Facebook/YouTube)	72
Total in Worship	153

BUMC STAFF DIRECTORY

Rev. Moonsup "Paul" Song, Pastor	Call/text 703.625.8025, office: 804.642.2110 Email: pastor@bethanyumc-gp.org	Tues. thru Fri., 9am-3pm For pastoral emergencies, call/text 703.625.8025
Jimmy Mackey, Church Office Administrator	Office 804.642.2110, call/text: 804.241.4130 Email: admin@bethanyumc-gp.org	Mon. thru Fri., 9am-3pm (Closed 12-1pm for lunch)
Sandra Fox, Director of Music	Call/text 757.329.6128 Email: rfox6@cox.net	By appointment
Dr. Rudy Shackelford, Organist	Home 804.642.5938, cell 804.413.0211	By appointment.

— *As the music begins, please quiet your hearts in preparation for worship.* —
**Please stand as you are able and please silence your mobile devices.*

Intrada *O Wondrous Sight! O Vision Fair* UMH 258
 "With shining face and bright array, Christ deigns to manifest that day
 What glory shall be theirs above, Who joy in God with perfect love."

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Paul Song

***Call to Worship** Scott Glaze

Leader: The Lord is Sovereign; let the people tremble in awe.

Congregation: God is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.

Leader: The Lord is great in Zion, and is high above all peoples.

All: Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God, and worship Yahweh upon the holy mountain.

***Hymn** *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee* UMH 175

***Affirmation of Faith** The Apostle's Creed UMH No. 881

Opening Prayer Scott Glaze

Holy God, upon the mountain you revealed our Messiah, who by his death and resurrection would fulfill both the law and the prophets. By his transfiguration enlighten our path that we may dare to suffer with him in the service of humanity and so share in the everlasting glory of him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Anthem *"Let us Break Bread Together"* African American Spiritual
 Soloist – Carol Johnson

Scripture Reading Luke 9: 28-36 Scott Glaze

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

All Services May be Viewed on:



Sermon "Comprehensible Mysteries" Pastor Paul Song

Concerns and Prayer of Intercession, Petition "Lord, hear our prayer."

Holy Communion

Invitation to Table Pastor Paul Song

Confession and Pardon (on screen)

Offering and Offertory Prayer Pastor Paul Song

Offertory *Passacaglia in C Minor, BMV 582* J.S. Bach
Celebrating Transfiguration Sunday (21 March 1685-1750)

*Doxology UMH No. 95

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving (on screen)

The Lord's Prayer UMH No. 895
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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver
us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Giving the Bread and Cup

(Communion is served by intinction. After you receive the bread, please dip it into the cup.)

Music during Communion

Communion Hymn: "Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness UMH 612

Prelude on "Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness Johannes Brahms
from Eleven Chorale Preludes, Opus 122, No. 5

Prelude on "Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness," BMV 654 J.S. Bach

Prayer of Thanksgiving After Communion (on screen)

*Hymn *Break Thou the Bread of Life* UMH 599

*Benediction Pastor Paul Song

*Closing Chorus *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* UMH 204

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel. (Repeat 1x)

Exodus *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies* UMH 173

"More and more thyself display, Shining in the perfect day." – Charles Wesley

NOTE ON TRANSFIGURATION IN MUSIC

Today is Transfiguration Sunday, the church festival commemorating the supernatural and glorified change in the appearance of Christ on the mountain, as described in the *Gospel of Matthew*, chapter 17, verses 1-9. The feast of Transfiguration always occurs on the last Sunday before Lent.

But did you know that the phenomenon of transfiguration also plays an important role in music? From the early medieval period up to the 21st century, composers have structured their works as series of variations on a motif or phrase stated at the beginning. Each variation is a transfiguration of that initial musical idea, related to it yet evolving from it in new and often surprising ways.

One of the greatest examples of transfiguration in music is the epic *Passacaglia in C Minor* by Johann Sebastian Bach, which will be our Offertory this morning. This monumental work opens with a statement of its 8-measure theme in the bass, played on the pedals, as it will continue to be repeated throughout most of the 20 variations that follow. Bach borrowed this melody from a 1688 setting of the Catholic Mass by French composer André Raison, specifically from verse 2 of the *Kyrie eleison*:

"All powerful Father, Lord, Creator of all:
have mercy upon us.
Christ, Lord, splendor and wisdom of the Father:
have mercy upon us.
Sacred spirit of both, united in love:
have mercy upon us."

Bach drew the strongest possible inspiration from the apparently barren soil of self-imposed restrictions and limitations. What in the hands of a smaller mind might have developed into a sterile mathematical *tour de force* was transformed by him into an immortal creation. The technical mastery is as nothing compared to the power and magnificence of Bach's inspiration, embracing both suffering and joy in what the philosopher Spinoza called "the intellectual love of God"!

— Rudy Shackelford

