



Bethany United Methodist Church

The Church with Open Hearts, Minds, and Doors

1860 Hayes Road • PO Box 527 • Gloucester Point VA 23062

Office Hours: M-F, 9:00 am–3:00 pm (closed 12:00-1:00pm)

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March 23, 2025

11:00 a.m.

Bethany United Methodist Church

3rd Sunday in Lent

WELCOME EVERYONE! Thank you for worshiping with us!

VOLUNTEERS SERVING TODAY

Acolyte:	Regina Berry
Media Team:	Scott Berry, Aidan Dumbrocyo, Susannah Hogge, Jeremy Nardozi, Cathy Raines
Altar Guild this month:	Nina Whitmore, Sharon Cheek, Mary Linda Brooks
Liturgist:	Baum Hogge
Trustee Contact this week:	Tom Barnard
Greeters:	Jane Sterling, Tom Smith
Ushers:	Milton Hudgins, Kirk Bell
Counting Team:	Betty & Chip Neikirk, Cheryl Roane

STEWARDSHIP	3/16
General Fund	2711.10
Upsy Daisy	5000.00
Rise Against Hunger	716.00
ATTENDANCE	3/16
In-person Worship 8:30 am	29
In-person Worship 11:00 am	51
Online Worship (Facebook/YouTube)	51
Total in Worship	131

BUMC STAFF DIRECTORY

Rev. Moonsup "Paul" Song, Pastor	Call/text 703.625.8025, office: 804.642.2110 Email: pastor@bethanyumc-gp.org
Jimmy Mackey, Church Office Administrator	Office 804.642.2110 Email: admin@bethanyumc-gp.org
Sandra Fox, Director of Music	Call/text 757.329.6128 Email: foxyfoxies@gmail.com
Dr. Rudy Shackelford, Organist	Home 804.642.5938, cell 804.413.0211

— *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 *Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle* UMH 296

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Paul Song

***Call to Worship** Baum Hogge

Leader: Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the Lord!

Congregation: God has blessed us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!

Leader: Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near,

Congregation: let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts,

Leader: let them return to the Lord.

All: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart,

O God, you will not despise.

***Hymn** *O Worship the King* UMH 73

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

Opening Prayer Baum Hogge

Almighty and everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being, you created us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they find rest in you.

Grant to us such piety of heart and strength of purpose that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, and no weakness from doing it.

In your light may we see life clearly and in your service find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All Services May be Viewed On:



Anthem "Jesus, Have Thine Own Way"
Anna Laura Page, Jean Anne Shafferman

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

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.

Meditation *Fantasia in G Minor, BWV 542a* J.S. Bach
(21 March 1685-1750)
"Friendless and faint, with martyred steps and slow,
Faint for the flesh, but for the spirit free,
Stung by the mob that came to see the show,
The Master toiled along to Calvary.
We gibed him, as he went, with houndish glee,
Till his dimmed eyes for us did overflow;
We cursed his vengeless hands thrice wretchedly,-
And this was nineteen hundred years ago."
- *Calvary*, by Edward Arlington Robinson

Offering and Offertory Prayer Pastor Paul Song

Offertory *Fugue in G Minor, BMV 542b* ("The Great") J.S. Bach

***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.**

Prayer of Illumination Baum Hogge
Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of the Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Scripture Reading 1 Peter 2: 18-25 Baum Hogge
The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Unjust Suffering" Pastor Paul Song

***Hymn** *Jesus Calls Us* UMH 398

***Benediction** Pastor Paul Song

***Closing Chorus** *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* UMH 204

Exodus *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* UMH 295

NOTE ON MUSIC FOR LENT

Throughout every season of the Christian year, the "mountaintop" of any church musician is presenting the works of Johann Sebastian Bach, the greatest musical exponent of our faith. This is especially true during Lent, for which he composed some of the most artistically excellent and spiritually elevated music ever conceived, culminating in the *St. Matthew Passion*. However, our Meditation and Offertory today comprise a work with no specific liturgical connection, the *Fantasia and Fugue in G Minor* for organ.

In his biography *Johann Sebastian Bach: The Learned Musician* (2000), Harvard professor Christoph Wolff praises the *Fantasia* for its "exceptional rhetorical power and unparalleled harmonic scope, with towering chords over descending pedal scales that create the illusion of endless space." On a deeper, more human level, the *Fantasia* ranks with Shakespeare's *King Lear* in its anguished expression of tragic loss—an experience not unknown to Bach, who survived his first wife, Maria Barbara, and all but nine of his twenty children. And it portrays Christ's suffering on the cross with pathos as profound as Bach expressed in both the *St. John* and *St. Matthew Passions*, where the crucifixion is explicitly depicted.



The companion *Fugue in G Minor*, often subtitled "The Great" to distinguish it from a shorter fugue in the same key, is much less somber and even ends optimistically in the major. Bach's propulsive development of the jaunty subject derived from a Dutch folk song, is a *tour de force* of invertible counterpoint. As many as four independent melodic lines are played simultaneously by the hands and feet, and during the course of the *Fugue* each line changes its position within the texture from top to middle to bottom. At the time of its composition (circa 1720) Bach's *Fugue in G Minor* was probably the ultimate test of an organist's technique, and even today it has few rivals. But for musicians and listeners willing to accept the challenge, the rewards are fully commensurate with the difficulties. — Rudy Shackelford

