



Bethany United Methodist Church
 1860 Hayes Road, Gloucester Point VA 23062
 Phone: 804.642.2110
 Email: admin@bethanyumc-gp.org; Website: www.bethanyumc-gp.org
 Office Hours: Mon.-Fri., 9:00 am-3:00 pm

WELCOME and thank you for worshiping with us today!

VOLUNTEERS

Acolytes: James Hornsby, Mason Bland
 Media: Scott Berry, Jeremy Nardozi, Susannah Hogge, Aidan Dumbrocyo
 Altar Guild this month: Peggy Lewis, Laura Glaze, Laura Vaughan
 Liturgist: Loreen Paiva
 Trustee Contact this week: Rob Raines
 Greeter: Jackie Hampton
 Ushers: Milton Hudgins, Kirk Bell
 Counting Team: Jackie Hampton, Don Thomas, Donna Lane

STEWARDSHIP	3/8
General Fund	5512.40
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	55.00
Hospitality Fund	300.00
ATTENDANCE	3/8
Worship – 8:30 am	30
Worship – 11:00 am	67
Online Worship	91
Total	188

BETHANY STAFF

Rev. John Choi, Pastor	Office: 804.642.2110; Cell: 804-384-3521 Email: johnchoi@vaumc.org
Jimmy Mackey, Church Administrator	Office: 804.642.2110 Email: admin@bethanyumc-gp.org
Sandra Fox, Director of Music	Cell: 757.329.6128 Email: foxysander@outlook.com
Dr. Rudy Shackelford, Organist	Home: 804.642.5938, Cell: 804.413.0211
Ellie Fountain, Director of Children's & Youth Ministries	Office: 804-642-2110 Email: youth@bethanyumc-gp.org

All Services May be Viewed on:



March 15, 2026

11:00 a.m.

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
4th Sunday in Lent ! UMCOR Sunday

Intrada

Fugue on the "Kyrie," from Mass for the Parishes

François Couperin
(1668-1733)

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor John Choi

***Call to Worship**

Loreen Paiva

Leader: Beloved, the grace of God is with us in green pastures and still waters, even in the valley of the shadow of death.

Congregation: We gather to worship God, our Shepherd, who guides us on the journey.

Leader: The journey of grace points us toward the Light.

Congregation: We gather to be formed by grace so that our lives may reflect the light of God.

Leader: The journey of grace calls us to pay attention, to discern what is pleasing to God.

Congregation: We gather to listen to the Spirit, who empowers us for what is pleasing to God.

All: Come, let us worship God who provides, inspires, and empowers us on the journey of grace.

***Hymn**

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing (vv. 1,2,3,5,6)

UMH 57

***Responsive Reading (Psalm 23)**

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

**He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,**

he refreshes my soul.

**He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.**

Even though I walk through the darkest valley
I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

Surely your goodness and love will follow me

all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Opening Prayer Loreen Paiva
O Wisdom on High, by you the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly. Grant us, in all doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do, that we may be saved from all false choices, and that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Anthem *Stories of Jesus* arr. by Page and Shafferman

Children's Time (All children are invited to attend Children's Church afterwards) Ellie Fountain

Concerns and Prayer 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 *Sweelinck Variations, from The Wound-Dresser* Rudy Shackelford
Based on *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded, UMH 286* (composed 1976)

Prayer for Illumination Loreen Paiva
O God, the Holy Spirit, come to us, and among us; come as the wind, and cleanse us, come as the fire and burn, come as the dew and refresh; convict, convert, and consecrate many hearts and lives to our great good and to thy greater glory; and this we ask for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen

***Scripture Reading** John 9: 1-16; 30-41 Loreen Paiva
Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon "The Light That Helps Us See" Pastor John Choi

Response to the Word
Come, my Light, and illumine my darkness. Come, my Life, and revive me from death. Come, my Physician, and heal my wounds. Come, Flame of divine love, and burn up the horns of my sins, kindling my heart with the flame of thy love. Come, my King, sit upon the throne of my heart and reign there; for thou alone art my King and my Lord. Amen

Offertory Prayer and Offering

Offertory *Londonderry Air* Irish Folk Song
Celebrating St. Patrick's Day, March 17th

***Doxology** UMH No. 469
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.

***Hymn** *Be Thou My Vision* UMH 451

***Benediction** Pastor John Choi

***Closing Chorus** *On Eagle's Wings (1x)* UMH 143

Exodus *To Mock Your Reign, O Dearest Lord* UMH 285

** please stand as you are able*

NOTE ON MUSIC FOR LENT



In our Meditation this morning, we travel back to the late Renaissance era in the company of Dutch composer Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621). As organist of Amsterdam's Oude Kerk (Old Church) for over forty years, he attracted students — and tourists! — from far and wide. While most prolific as a composer of vocal music, including the complete Genevan Psalter, Sweelinck is remembered today for his works for organ and harpsichord, especially the haunting variations on a German song, *Mein junges Leben hat ein End* ("My Young Life Now is Ended").

In his *Sweelinck Variations*, Rudy Shackelford borrowed motifs from this famous piece to construct six new variations on the *Passion Chorale* ("O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"), originally a secular love song by Hans Leo Hassler, Sweelinck's German contemporary. The work is a fragment from the *Wound Dresser*, a Civil War oratorio on texts by Walt Whitman which the University of Hartford (Connecticut) commissioned from Shackelford in 1976 to celebrate the USA Bicentennial. *Sweelinck Variations* is published by Belwin Mills in Melville, New York. -Rudy Shackelford