



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 worshipping 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: Laura Glaze
 Trustee Contact this week: Jackie Hampton
 Ushers: Milton Hudgins, Kirk Bell
 Counting Team: Dawn Cluts, Betty Durette, Clair Hillard

STEWARDSHIP	3/15
General Fund	4871.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	365.00
Music Fund	100.00
ATTENDANCE	3/15
Worship – 8:30 am	28
Worship – 11:00 am	54
Online Worship	107
Total	189

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 22, 2026

11:00 a.m.

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

5th Sunday in Lent

**please stand as you are able*

Intrada

O the Lamb

UMH 300

19th century USA campmeeting melody, harmonized by Rudy Shackelford

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor John Choi

***Call to Worship**

Laura Glaze

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;

let the wicked forsake their way,

and the unrighteous their thoughts;

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**

Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed

UMH 294

***Responsive Reading** (Psalm 130)

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

I wait for the LORD; my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

**my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning,
 more than those who watch for the morning.**

O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love,

and with him is great power to redeem.

It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Opening Prayer Laura Glaze
Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ, and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Anthem *Give Me Jesus* arr. by Craig Courtney

Recognition of New Acolytes Mason Bland, James Hornsby

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 *Hymn: “O Lamb of God, Pure and Spotless”* Nikolaus Decius (1531)
Partita on “O Lamb of God, Pure and Spotless” J.S. Bach
(21 March 1685-1750)

Prayer for Illumination Laura Glaze
Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your 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 Romans 8: 6-11 Laura Glaze
Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon “Life Is in the Spirit” Pastor John Choi

Response to the Word (Prayer in silence)

Offertory Prayer and Offering

Offertory *Lauda: “Ogne Homo”* Anonymous Italian
(13-14th century)
Transcribed for organ by Rudy Shackelford

***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.

***Hymn** *Spirit of the Living God* (2x, 1-unison, 2-parts) UMH 393

***Benediction** Pastor John Choi

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

Exodus *Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands* UMH 319
harmonized by Johann Sebastian Bach

NOTE ON MUSIC FOR LENT

“A musical Bible, unrivaled and inimitable” is how Samuel Wesley described the work of Johann Sebastian Bach. In 1808, when these words were penned by the son of Methodist hymn writer Charles Wesley, Bach’s compositions were performed and appreciated by only a small circle of connoisseurs. With his revival in 1829 of the *Saint Matthew Passion*, the greatest musical setting of the Crucifixion narrative, one century after its première, Felix Mendelssohn began to reveal the towering stature of Bach to a wider audience.

Today, anticipating the 341st anniversary of his birth on March 21st, we stand amazed in the presence of this mortal who created an entire musical universe dedicated *S.D.G. – soli Deo gloria* (“to the glory of God alone”) – as Bach initialed thousands of manuscripts. Is it mere coincidence that the birthday of God’s chief musician occurs at the beginning of Spring, this season of rebirth and renewal?

Our Lenten Meditation this morning is one of Bach’s most profoundly spiritual compositions, his magisterial setting of the *Agnus Dei*. Derived from *John* 1: 29 and added to the Catholic Mass in the 7th century for the rite of Holy Communion, the text consists of three acclamations:

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

(Lamb of God, who takes away the world’s sins, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the world’s sins, grant us peace.)

Bach’s setting of the *Agnus Dei* is based on the melody of the Protestant chorale (or hymn) *O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig* (“O Lamb of God, Pure, Spotless,” 1542). Bach composed three variations corresponding to three stanzas of the hymn. The third variation features some powerfully graphic tone painting: for example, to portray the verse “Our sins Thou did bear for us,” Bach makes the printed notes outline the three crosses on Golgotha. This type of symbolism, which cannot really be *heard*, is sometimes called “eye music”! Quite evident to the ear, however, is the dissonant harmony Bach employs to create a mood of intense anguish at the penultimate line, “Thy peace give to us, O Jesus!” But this painful impression is quickly dissolved by a burst of musical sunlight at the last line, “Thy peace grant to us, O Jesus!” Here, as Dr. Albert Schweitzer remarks, “*O Lamm Gottes* concludes with an ascending cadence as if the heavenly messengers — after bringing the prayed for peace — were returning to their own kingdom.”

— Rudy Shackelford