



## **Bethel Presbyterian Church**

March 22, 2026

*An inclusive place of worship.*

*The 5th Sunday in Lent Year (A)*

### **International Women's Month 2026**

**Liturgist:** Elder, Fredrica Williams; **Spiritual Leader:** Ruling Elder, Hernel Braham; **The Word:** Rev Tene Howard, Elder David Roebuck; **Organist:** Elder, Dollie Lowe; **Pianist:** open; **Scripture Reader:** Brother, Jim Howard, Brother, Marcus McArthur; **The Offering:** Deacon Babatunde Ayroinde, Elder Michael Lawrence, Brother Richard Wright

### **ORDER OF SERVICE**

#### **PRELUDE**

#### **Liturgist**

**Welcome:** Greeting everyone, today is a very special day with international women celebrating around the globe, in the mists of the Lenten season and we thank the Lord for it. *Thank you for coming we invite you to come again. if you are looking for a church home? Come join us. Hallelujah, let us praise the Lord in all his many works, for He is good.*

#### **The Call to Worship:**

**Leader:** Welcome to this place of love and grace.

**People: Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.**

**Leader:** This month in the mist of prayer and giving we celebrate the gifts of women, their leadership, their labor, and their witness to the Gospel.

**People: God invites all of us to be part of the beloved community.**

**Leader:** Let us worship God, who calls us to seek justice and love one another.

**All: We come to pray, to act, and to serve in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.**

**Opening Hymn: AA#537**

**“Rejoice O pure in heart”**

**Spiritual Leader**

**Call to Confession:**

**(I John 1:8,9)**

**Liturgist**

**If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just. He will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God. Please pause in silent reflection asking Almighty God forgiveness of our sin. You may be seated.**

**Assurance of Pardon:**

**Elder Hernel Braham**

**Hymn: AA#652**

**“Gloria Patria”**

**Passing of The Peace:**

**Hymn: AA#498**

**“Let There Be Peace On Earth”**

**Prayer for Illumination & Scripture Readings: Bro. James Howard & Bro. Marcus McArthur**

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us by your Word through these forty days, and minister to us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may be reformed, restored, and renewed; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. **Amen.**

**Today's scriptures Revised Common Lectionary (Year A)**

First Reading: Ezekiel 37: 1-14

**Hymn of Preparation:** ""  
**Introduction of the Messenger:**

Guest Vocalist Sister Jean Avery  
Brother Marcus Boler

**The Word**  
**The Opportunity**

Scripture

Sermon

Minister Theo Boler

**Affirmation of Faith**

Apostle Creed

Liturgist

I believe in God, the Father All Mighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen, Ashe'

**CHILDREN CIRCLE:**

Liturgist

**HYMN: AA#549**

**"THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE"**

**Let Us Offer Our Gifts to God**  
Babatunde

Elder Mike Lawrence, Brother Richard Wright 2nd, Deacon

[Bethel Online Giving](#)

**Prayer of Dedication**

Dear God. Please Accept our gifts as signs of gratitude. Bless our work on behalf of Your risen son Christ Jesus. May we use these gifts to carry out the work you would have us to do. Thanks be to God.

**DOXOLOGY: AA#651**

**"Praise God"**

**Hymn of Comfort: AA#**

""

Guest Vocalist Sister Jean Avery

**Prayer List:**

*Elder Hernel Braham*

Lifting up in Prayer: Elder Nick Stevens, Elder James Plummer, Elder, Hernel Braham, Elder, David Roebuck, Rev. T. Howard, Rev. Dr. Leonard Bethel, Rev. Fonda Dortch-Taylor, Elder Charlotte Wright, Yvonne Rutty, Sister Veronica Bethel, Pearl Lowe, Elaine Young, Minette Braham, Brother Stevie and Doshia McArthur, George Bowen, Brother John & Donna Cheatwood, Gus Spruill, Pius, Cory, Fred Cook, the Caretakers, others whose names not called, the hungry, homeless, victims of violence in our cities, homes and elsewhere, finally the innocent caught-up in the crossfires of war...Lord have mercy on the innocent!

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**"THE LORD'S PRAYER"**

**Acknowledgement:** The Plainfield High School Boys basketball team, family, students, coaches, teachers and community deserve a huge shout-out for all the hard work and challenges it takes to win back to back state championships. The whole city is so proud of you and your accomplishments for representing your school, city and community with determination and grit throughout the season. Enjoy your school days. You are forever CHAMPIONS and heroes to little boys and girls in your community and elsewhere. Well done your future is bright.

**Moment in History:**

**Announcements:**

**Liturgist**

- Bible Study Online ZOOM every Thursday at 7PM. Rev Tene Howard & Elder Hernel Braham co-leaders. Join us!

- Following Study, around 7:30pm the planned discussion shift to focus on a Pastoral Under Shepard (Servant Leader, Pastor) to lead the new BPC.
- BPC community outreach Soup kitchen program open every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month. Hot soup.....Help make feeding the hungry a signature community outreach program again at BPC. Thanks to super chef Mari Wright and the whole staff for their commitment to serve. Contact Elder Charlotte Wright or Elder Michael Lawrence.
- We are in the tail end of the Lenten season, a 40-day period of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving for Christians, preparing for Easter Sunday on April 5<sup>th</sup>. War is upon us again during this Holy season, let us pray for an end to this violence and give peace a chance.
- As we travel through our Lenten journey in prayer we are grateful and appreciative for messengers of the word; Thank you, Rev. David Roebuck, Elder Hernal Braham, Brother Marcus McArthur, Minister Theo Boler. Coming up Mar 29<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday, Elder David Roebuck; and on Apr. 5<sup>th</sup>. The Celebration, Resurrection Day, Easter Sunday, none other than The Honorable Rev. Tene Howard:] Sunday best attire for the celebration is in order if you so desire or come as you are is alright too. Thanks be to God.

**Closing Hymn: AA#138**

**“Guide me thou great Jehovah”**

**Congregation**

**BENEDICTION:**

**Elder Braham**

Amen, Amen, Amen

**The coffee hour**

“Let’s talk about it”

**Host Elder, Eric Williams and Brother Jim Howard**

**The Revised Common Lectionary, March 22, 2026**

**Reader 1                    Ezekiel 37:1-14**

**1**The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. **2**He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. **3**He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." **4**Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. **5**Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. **6**I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

**7**So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. **8**I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them.

**2nd Reader**

**9**Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." **10**I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

**11**Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' **12**Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. **13**And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. **14**I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.