



BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



“Icon of Pokrov”

December 17, 2023
3rd Sunday of Advent: Lessons and Carols

Prelude

Joseph Est Bien Marié

C. Balbastre

Ringling of the Bells

Introit

Veni Immanuel

John Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Reader 1: The psalmist saw a vision of all the good the Lord could do for all the nations of the Earth.

Reader 2: The prophet felt the Spirit of the Lord's call to bring good news to the oppressed and release to the prisoners.

Reader 1: (Re-light the first and second candles.) Mary believed that God had brought the powerful down from their thrones and lifted up the lowly.

Reader 2: We do good in the world as we aim to bring about God's radical vision for justice and peace.

**All: We light the third candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.
As the Lord has promised, Jesus is coming soon. Come, Lord
Jesus!**

(Light the third Advent candle.)

Hymn 9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Verse 3)

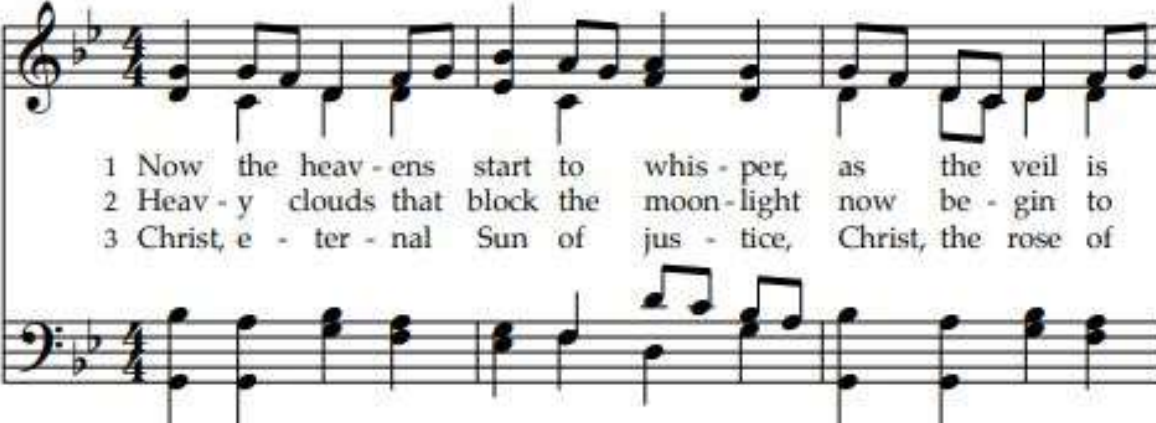
**O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

All: Gracious God, grant us the ability to see the coming light of Christ, to feel the quiet presence of the Holy Spirit, to believe in the Great Mystery of this season, and to do in the world actions that only reflect incarnational hope. Amen.

*Advent Hymn

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

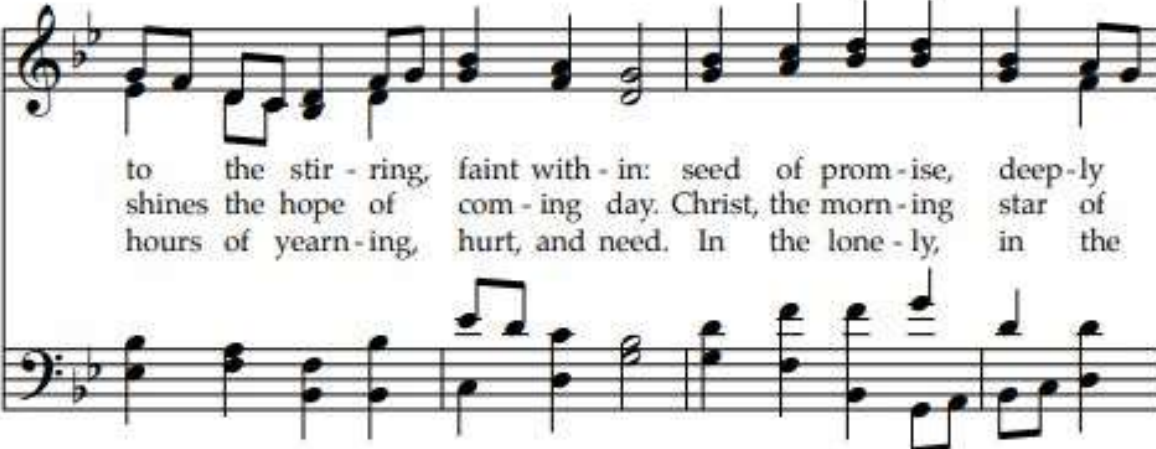
94 Now the Heavens Start to Whisper



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of



grow - ing thin. Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten
drift a - way. Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness
wis - dom's seed, come to bless with fire and fra - grance



to the stir - ring, faint with - in: seed of prom - ise, deep - ly
shines the hope of com - ing day. Christ, the morn - ing star of
hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need. In the lone - ly, in the

plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem! Like the soil be -
splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim. Heav - en's em - ber
strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view: child who comes to

neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

The First Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Carol

Welsh Melody, Arr. Barbara Baltzer Kinyon
All Through the Night
Bedford Bellringers

The Second Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Carol

Traditional Carol, Arr. Barbara Baltzer Kinyon
Lullaby Carol
Bedford Bellringers

Time with the Children

The children are welcome to stay for the service or they may leave for Sunday Spirit.

The Third Lesson

Luke 2:8-20

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord

stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Carol 23

Angels We Have Heard on High

Homily

Rev. Carol Howard

Carol

In the Bleak Midwinter

Harold Darke

Kathy Perry, Soprano Solo, and Jeremy McEvilly, Tenor Solo

The Fourth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-11

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Offering and Children's Offering

Carol

Sussex Carol English traditional, Arr. D. Willcocks

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Fifth Lesson

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Carol *Love Came Down at Christmas* John Rutter

***Closing Carol 31** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

***Charge and Blessing**

***Benediction Response** *Fivefold Amen* E. Margetson

***Postlude** *Fugue on the Magnificat* J. S. Bach

*Please stand, if you are able.

Announcements

Child Care Available

*In addition to Sunday Spirit for elementary school kids, childcare is provided during worship for kids not yet in kindergarten.
Please contact Courtney for more information.*

We would like to thank the
Glod-Hayes family for their
generous donation of our beautiful
Christmas trees!



DECORATORS' LUNCH

PLEASE JOIN US TODAY,
AFTER THE SERVICE FOR
LUNCH AND TO
DECORATE THE CHURCH
FOR CHRISTMAS!

CHRISTMAS EVE *Services*

DECEMBER 24TH
10 AM
CANDLELIGHT SERVICES
5 PM | 7 PM | 9 PM

Can you help our local children have a warm and joyful holiday season?



Please help us SHARE THE WARMTH this holiday season at the Community Center by donating new blankets, hats, socks and gloves for our local children!



WE ARE CURRENTLY COLLECTING:

NEW warm and cozy blankets, hats, socks and gloves for children newborn to 18 years

Unwrapped donations gratefully accepted at the Center during regular business hours. We begin distributing on December 1st.

HOURS: TUES, WED, FRI from 10 AM to 4 PM, THURS from 12 PM to 6 PM, SAT from 10 AM to 1 PM

Please email Nicole, nsorgi@communitycenternw.org, with any questions about the Share the Warmth drive.

SHOP FROM OUR AMAZON WISHLIST



SCAN ME

Thank you for sharing with your neighbors in need this holiday season!

COMMUNITY CENTER OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER

84 BEDFORD ROAD, KATONAH, NEW YORK 10536 | 914.232.6572 | communitycenternw.org

Cooking for the Food Pantry

Tuesday, December 19th

12 pm | BPC Kitchen

Join us & the Westchester Local Food Project as we cook for the Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry & the Community Center of Northern Westchester

Socialize and Cook for a great cause!



EMERGENCY SHELTER PARTNERSHIP

JANUARY 1 - 7, 2024 AND FEBRUARY 26 - MARCH 3, 2024



We still need volunteers for our January dates! We are set for dinner for our January dates but need volunteers for sandwiches, dessert, snacks and drinks.



All March dates are available!

Go to the website or the enews to sign up.

Email Elyssa with any questions. Elyssa@bedfordpreschurh.org.

Did you know?

The first known formal service of "Nine Lessons and Carols" took place on Christmas Eve, 1880 in Truro Cathedral in Cornwall, England. The Bishop of Truro, the Right Rev. Edward White Benson, was concerned by the excessive consumption of alcohol in Cornish pubs during the holiday season and aimed to attract people out of the pubs and into church by offering a religious Christmas service with excellent music.



*Truro Cathedral
Cornwall, England*

Calling Children to Sing on Christmas Eve!



5 pm Service

We are looking for any children who would be interested in singing at the 5 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service.

Please email Courtney if you are interested in participating.



Advent Art

Thank you to all the kids who worked so hard on our Advent Art piece! I am amazed at how focused, creative, and talented you are! The piece illustrated Mark 13:28, "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near." It was based on a Van Gogh painting (shown on the top left).



MIDNIGHT RUN

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Friday, January 12th
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We will be holding a Midnight Run on Friday, January 12th. We are looking for donations of new or gently used items. Please see the sign up genius for specific items. We also need people to join us on the run. Please email Courtney if you would like to attend.



Mary

Ukrainian Icons

During this Advent season, we are reflecting on icons of Mary from Ukraine. The "Icon of Pokrov" is the most prominent icon in the country. "Pokrov" means "the veil" in the literal sense. It also has another meaning. In Hebrew, seter (veil) carries a figurative sense of "protection" or "security." Therefore, the Pokrov icon means Our Lady of Protection and it has taken on more significance during the war.



As we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, beautiful flowers & greens for the sanctuary have been presented by the following people to the Glory of God and dedicated for the following reasons.

Gordon & Judy Aydelott

To family and loved ones.

Suzy Beatty

So many blessings in my life--My children Heather and Holly, six grandchildren, Bruce who loved our church so much and left us too soon, and Sandy, my loving partner for the rest of my life. Also, my love and thanks to Marcy and Bing Carlson for all they have contributed over the years to the life of our church. We are so fortunate and grateful to have the Carlsons in our lives.

Rick & Anne Bentzen

For the blessings of friends and family.

Bob & Hope Black

In loving memory of their parents, Margaret and Charles Hunter and Faye and Frank Black.

Eleanor Cox

In memory of Lloyd Bedford Cox.

Kathy DiBiasi

In memory of my mother and father, Liz and Frank Files.

The Ferguson Family

In memory of Tom, who loved Christmas at BPC.

Michael & Kathryn Flynn

Dedicated to our children, Isla, Ronan, and Nora.

John & JoAnne Greenwood

In honor of our first grandchild Edward (Teddy) Joseph Greenwood.

Marilyn Hermansen

In Loving memory of Roy W. Hermansen.

Judy & Simon Newton

Dedicated to my five precious grandchildren, Brendan, Sadie, Claire, James and Cecily.

Jeff and Sharon Seidell

In gratitude for our wonderful family, near and far.

Kevin Tejada

Jeff & Kim Touzeau

By the Touzeau, Winchester and Sabato families (Kim, Cathy, and Debbie) in honor and celebration of our parents Marcy and Bing Carlson, who raised us well in this wonderful church. Bing and Marcy moved to Bedford in 1967 and generously shared their time, talents and gifts with this congregation for 56 years! We will greatly miss their leadership, bell ringing, trumpet playing, choir singing, "unique" Sunday School teaching style with teens, friendship, smiles, and so much more. So long Bedford, Hello Durham NC! Make room for visitors, y'all! We love you!

Matt Valenti & Jeanne Collins

For Grandma Collins.

Jill Ferguson Warmbier

In loving memory of my father, Thomas Wells Ferguson III who loved this church, especially at Christmas time.



Bulletin & Weekly E-NEWS Announcements

To sign up for our weekly E-NEWS that has live links to all of our announcements, please go to the BPC website at **bedfordpreschurch.org** and select either '**Contact**' at the top **or E-NEWS** just below it. To have information entered into the Bulletin and/or the E-NEWS, please email Jessica at **Office@bedfordpreschurch.org** and Elyssa at **Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org** by the end of the day Tuesday for entry into that week's media.

Upcoming Events at a Glance

Sunday, December 17th

10 am	Lessons and Carols Worship and Youth Collection
11 am	Decorator's Lunch

Monday, December 18th

9 am	Yoga
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Tuesday, December 19th

12 pm	Cooking for the Food Pantry
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Thursday, December 21st

10 am	Bible Study. Please contact Alan McDougall at alanmcd@verizon.net .
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Sunday, December 24th Christmas Eve

10 am	Worship
5 pm	Family Candlelight Service
7 pm	Candlelight Service
9 pm	Candlelight Service with Choir

Our Leadership

Session

Clerk of Session, Michelle Gosh, President Brian Hiller-Dupont,

Anne Bentzen, Linda Burpee (Mission),
Jessica Cunningham (Personnel and Stewardship),
Amy Drabek, Danielle Gamar (Christian Education),
Ashley Glod-Hayes, Maria Andrea Laverde (Nativity Farm),
Sarah Ryan (Property & Maintenance),
& Bart Tyler (Members & Friends and Stewardship)
Moderator Reverend Carol Howard

Deacons

Chair Kim Lapple, Sarah Alley, Marcy Carlson,
Kathy DiBiasi, Michele Eames, Pat Ferguson, Andres Mejía,
Diane Palmento & Lisa Sayre

Staff

The Reverend Carol Howard, Pastor

The Reverend Courtney Steininger, Minister of Christian Education

John Lettieri, Director of Music

Jessica DeAlto, Administrative and Financial Manager

Elyssa Michaels, Director of Congregational Life & Digital Ministries

The Reverend Thomas A. Hughart, Pastor Emeritus

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