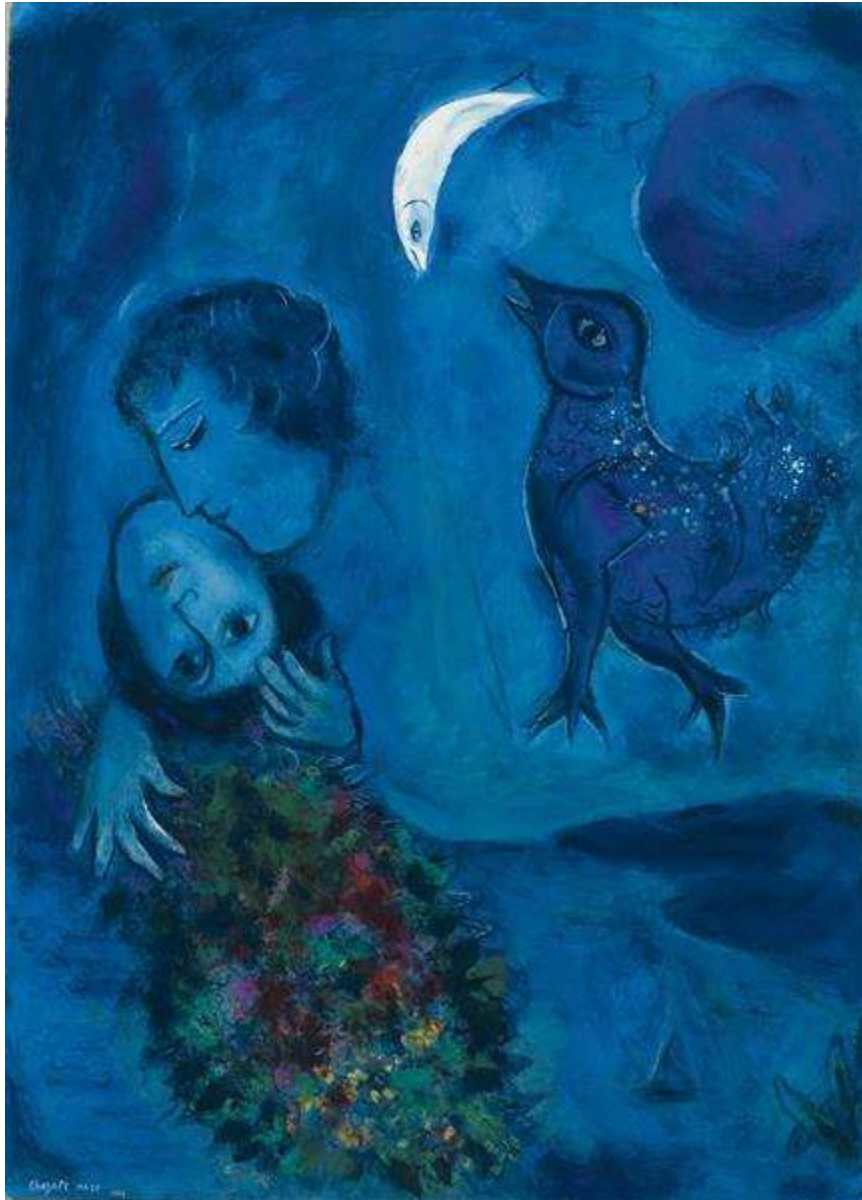




# BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"The Blue Landscape" by Marc Chagall

# December 4, 2022

## Second Sunday of Advent

**Prelude**

James McGregor

*Prelude on "Veni, Veni, Emmanuel"*

**Introit**

*Veni Immanuel*

John Bell

### **Welcome and Announcements**

Reader 1: This Advent season, we hear the dreams and longings of God's people.

Reader 2: On this second Sunday of Advent, we remember that Zechariah and Elizabeth dreamt of a child and a legacy.

Reader 1: (Re-light the first candle.) They persisted in their dreaming, never wavering in their faith. Their imagination did not limit the power of God.

Reader 2: Their love persevered, and Zechariah was humbled as Gabriel foretold the birth of their son, who would be a joy and delight to many in this world.

**All: We light the second candle, remembering our dreams and longings. The flame of this candle reminds us of God's power and love realized in the fulfillment of Zechariah and Elizabeth's dream of parenthood.**

(Light the second candle.)

### **Prayer**

**All: Gracious God, grant us the imagination to dream big, the energy to keep dreaming, the love to share our dreams with others, and the intelligence to realize our dreams. In the name of Jesus, the incarnation of God's dream for the world. Amen.**

## **\*Hymn 1**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

## **Call to Confession**

### **Confession**

**O God, sometimes we do not know when to keep silent. We jump to conclusions when we should listen. We proclaim harsh judgments instead of waiting for understanding. Other times, we don't know when to speak out. We feel helpless in the face of injustice. We ignore our dreams. We turn our heads when others are abused. Give us the courage to listen, and the wisdom to speak. Through your Spirit, we pray.**

### **Silent Confession**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

**Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you all.**

**People: And also with you.**

### **Passing of the Peace**

### **Time with the Children**

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

### **Gospel Lesson (Part One)**     *Luke 1:5-17*

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

**Anthem**

*Rejoice in the Lord Alway*

Henry Purcell

**Gospel Lesson (Part Two)**     *Luke 1:18-24a*

Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I know that this will happen? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he returned to his home.

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion.

**Sermon**

Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

**Offering**

**Anthem**                      *O Thou the Central Orb*                      Charles Wood

**\*Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Communion**

**Invitation to the Table**

**Great Thanksgiving**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: We lift up our hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to God.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise...**

**Breaking of the Bread**

**\*Communion**

**Prayer after Communion and Lord's Prayer**

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**\*Hymn 8**

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

**\*Charge and Blessing**

**Benediction Response**

Henry Purcell

*The Peace of God Which Passeth All Understanding*

**\*Postlude**

*The Only Son From Heaven*

J. S. Bach

\*Please rise, if able.

**Announcements**

***Please fill out the pew pads and pass them to your neighbor.***





**BEDFORD**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Christmas Eve Services

5 PM - FAMILY SERVICE,  
JOYFUL NOISE SINGS,  
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE


7 PM - CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

9 PM - CHOIR, CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



## Cookies Needed!!

The **Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry** will be distributing red holiday bags with some special items for pantry clients. The pantry is requesting 'store bought' packaged cookies (no tins and no larger than approximately 1 pound) to include in the bags. A donation box will be available in the church vestibule and our goal is to receive 30 packages of cookies by **December 15th**. For questions or more information, please contact **Cecilia Rosenblum** at: **914-645-2096** or **clr4tny@optonline.net**.



Save the Date


Annual Senior Citizens  
Christmas Luncheon,  
*in honor of Millie Kane*

Wednesday, December 7th  
12 - 2 pm in Fellowship Hall

Come join us for some good cheer, food & Christmas carols during our annual luncheon. This is for senior congregation members, age 65 and older.

Call the church office by Monday, December 5th.  
(914)-234-3672 x1001 or [Office@bedfordpreschurch.org](mailto:Office@bedfordpreschurch.org).  
Please make sure to mention the number & names of the people who are in your party.

We are also looking for volunteers to help serve, clean up or make a dish. Please call Vickie Dey at (914)419-9062 or email [vdeyl@optonline.net](mailto:vdeyl@optonline.net).



**To all the wonderful Mistletoe Mart volunteers!**

Thank you so much for the gift of your time and energy. The Mistletoe Mart is a result of all men and women in the church working together in loving concern for our church and each other while serving to help meet the needs of our church and community. This event cannot be done without your help!





# THOSE WHO *dream*



BPC's Advent theme this year is "Those Who Dream." During worship, we are considering the dreams of key players in the Christmas story each week. Advent I we will focus on John the Baptist, followed by Elizabeth and Zechariah, Joseph, and Mary. On Christmas Eve, we will consider the dreams of the shepherds.

Additionally, the Christian Education Committee put together a devotional resource entitled "Those Who Dream." Read this devotional and pray about the Christmas Dreams of member of our own congregation while you consider your own dreams for the world this Advent season.



## **Advent Class for Middle and High School Youth**

*9:15 am on December 4 and 18*

*Participants will be invited to help lead worship  
on December 18!*

# CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & GREENS

**Please help us decorate the church for  
Christmas!**

A \$25.00 donation will help us beautify the church, and along with your donation, you can make a dedication to anyone you would like. Your name along with your dedication will go in our bulletin and E-NEWS.

**The deadline is Sunday, December 11th.**

Donations & dedications can be mailed to the church, made on the website under “donate” tab or call the church office at

**914-234-3672** or email

**Office@bedfordpreschurch.org.**

## DECORATORS' LUNCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

Join us after the service to help us decorate the sanctuary  
for the Christmas season!



## Dove Tree

A BPC tradition, the Dove Tree provides opportunities for alternative giving during the Advent season. Individuals and families can visit the Tree to learn about various organizations--such as A-HOME, Midnight Run, ESP--and select a gift to donate. Donations can be made in the form of cash or check and the person donating will receive a dove for their tree. Members of the mission committee will then purchase the donated items.

**Purchases can be made at the Mistletoe Mart on Saturday, 12/3 or on the following Sundays during coffee hour: 12/4, 12/11 or 12/18.**



## Calling All Kids:

### Christmas Pageant & Choir Opportunity

After the service on December 11th, we will have our annual Christmas Pageant.

The Joyful Noise Children's Choir will be singing at the 5 pm Christmas Eve Service.

If your child would like to participate in either event, please email

Don Hiller-Dupont at [dondupont@outlook.com](mailto:dondupont@outlook.com).

### Update from Session

Dear Friends. We are in the process of finalizing the Executive Summary from the Holy Cow survey. We hope to be able to share this summary with you in the coming weeks.

# EMERGENCY SHELTER PARTNERSHIP

DECEMBER 26 - JANUARY 1



ESP starts on Monday, December 26th. We are looking for volunteers to bring dinner, desserts, snacks, and drinks or sign up to be a back up volunteer.

Specific details for each of these items are on the SignUpGenius. We will again be hosting ESP at our church so you can cook your meal at the church or bring it with you to heat it up.

Email Elyssa with any questions. [Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org](mailto:Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org).



## RSVP for the Mission Trip















LA GUAMA,  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
FEB 18 - FEB 25, 2023

TO RESERVE YOUR  
SPOT, EMAIL  
COURTNEY

DEC 4 - 10, 2022

Probable State of the Weather (with Moon Cycle)

Bedford Village, NY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						
						
Rain 42°	Mostly Sunny 46°	Rain 54°	Partly Cloudy 50°	Mostly Sunny 40°	Partly Cloudy 35°	Partly Cloudy 38°

## WHAT WE ARE READING

December 5 is International Volunteer Day. "Rising inequalities throughout the world implore that we need to work together to find common solutions. Volunteers, drawn together by solidarity, develop solutions to urgent development challenges and for the common good. Volunteering is where compassion meets solidarity. Both share the same root values – supporting each other from a position of trust, humility, respect and equality." UN, "International Volunteer Day."

PHRASE OF THE WEEK  
social action

N | F

# Christmas Crafts & Carols

*Sunday, December 11th at 6 pm*

Join us for holiday crafts and carols from Mannes Musicians



# Christmas Day Brunch Church

Join us in Fellowship Hall for a combined  
worship service and community meal.

December 25, 2022

10 AM

All are welcome!



## **SECOND SUNDAY SOUP**

### **Volunteers Needed**

We are looking for two volunteers for Second Sunday Soup on

December 11th, January 8th,

February 12th, and March 12th.

If you are interested, please contact

Diane Palmento at [skippyhouse@aol.com](mailto:skippyhouse@aol.com).

TODAY, DECEMBER 4, 11 am

## DIY SUCCULENT TERRARIUMS

Make and bring home your own mini-ecosystem at this Nativity Farm workshop! Choose from a variety of succulents to create an open-air succulent terrarium.

\$25 fee covers all materials and proceeds go to Nativity Farm.  
Only while supplies last!

Great gifts for teachers!  
Great gifts for coworkers!  
Great gifts for friends and family!



N | F

### Upcoming Events at a Glance

#### Sunday, December 4th

10:00 am Worship, Communion, Children's Offering, and Second Sunday of Advent.

11:00 am DIY Succulent Workshop.

#### Monday, December 5th

9:00 am Yoga at 9 am.

#### Tuesday, December 6th

1:00 pm Quilters.

7:15 pm Bells Practice.

#### Wednesday, December 7th

12-2 pm Millie Kane Luncheon.

#### Thursday, December 8th

10:00 am Bible Study. Please contact Alan McDougall at [alanmcd@verizon.net](mailto:alanmcd@verizon.net).

#### Saturday, December 10th

4 pm Charis Concert.

#### Sunday, December 11th

10:00 am Worship, Third Sunday of Advent & Pageant Rehearsal.

11:00 am Second Sunday Soup & Christmas Pageant.

4:00 pm Skylark Concert.

## **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](http://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 both Elyssa at [Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org](mailto:Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org) and Jessica at [Office@bedfordpreschurch.org](mailto:Office@bedfordpreschurch.org) by the end of the day Tuesdays for entry into that week's media.

### **Our Leadership**

#### **Session**

**Clerk of Session Brian Hiller-Dupont, President Michelle Gosh,**  
Linda Burpee, Jessica Cunningham, Danielle Gamar,  
Maria Andrea Laverde,  
Suzanne Millette, Sarah Ryan, & Bart Tyler  
Moderator Reverend Carol Howard Merritt

#### **Deacons**

**Chair Kim Lapple,** Sarah Alley, Marcy Carlson,  
Kathy DiBiasi, Michele Eames, Pat Ferguson, & Diane Palmento

#### **Staff**

The Reverend Carol Howard Merritt, Pastor  
Courtney Steininger, Director of Christian Education & Youth  
John Lettieri, Director of Music  
Elyssa Michaels, Director of Congregational Life & Digital Ministries  
Jessica DeAlto, Office Manager  
The Reverend Thomas A. Hughart, Pastor Emeritus

[Office@bedfordpreschurch.org](mailto:Office@bedfordpreschurch.org) ~ [www.bedfordpreschurch.org](http://www.bedfordpreschurch.org)  
P.O. Box 280 ~ 44 Village Green, Bedford, NY 10506  
914-234-3672