

BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"Sun Water Maine" by Georgia O'Keeffe

Sunday, March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Prelude

Prelude in e

J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Holly Conetta

Walking in the wilderness of Lent,

We look behind us,
Grateful for all of those who came before us,
The men and women who showed us
The path to life.

We look around,
Remembering the ground that holds us,
The air that sustains us,
And the water that nourishes us.

We look ahead,
Knowing that the future holds
Life, promise, and hope,
Just over the horizon.

Let us worship God.

Hymn 85

What Wondrous Love Is This

Hebrew Bible Lesson

Numbers 21:4-9

Jorge Pedraza

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.

The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us."

So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Gospel Lesson

John 3:14-21

Jennifer McQuaid

"And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

Sermon

"Value of Venom"

Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

Prayers of the People

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.

(Many people say the Lord's Prayer with "trespasses" or "sins" instead of "debts." Please feel free to pray in any form that makes you feel the most comfortable.)

Charge and Blessing

Postlude

Fuga in e

J.S. Bach

Announcements

We will no longer be including Announcements along with the Order of Worship on our website each week. All announcements will be included in our weekly E-NEWS that goes directly to your email inbox every Thursday. The benefit of the E-NEWS is that there are 'live' links that bring you directly to websites/documents that are referenced in our announcements.

To sign up for our E-NEWS, please go to the BPC website at **bedfordpreschurch.org** and select either '**Contact**' at the top or **E-NEWS** just below it.

The Reverend Carol Howard Merritt, Pastor
John Lettieri, Director of Music
Elyssa Michaels, Director of High School & Middle School Youth Groups
Jessica DeAlto, Office Manager

Sunday Virtual Worship Service 10:00 AM

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