



BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"The Ascension of Christ" by Salvador Dalí

May 21, 2023
Ascension Sunday

Prelude *Adagio from Sonata in D Minor* J. Rheinberger

Ringling of the Bells

Introit *Thou Wilt Keep Him in Perfect Peace* G. Thalben-Ball

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship** from Psalm 68

Leader: We gather to remember that God is the parent of orphans and the protector of widows.

People: God gives the desolate a home to live in and leads the prisoners to prosperity.

Leader: In goodness, God provides for those who need.

People: Let us worship God!

***Opening Hymn 150** Spanish Folk Melody

"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

Confession

Loving God, we come to you, because we are tired of carrying around our greed, spite, and resentments. We want to set down the fear and anger that consumes us. We are exhausted from our petty jealousies and greed.

Forgive us. Help us to sense your love surrounding us as we live as new creations. By 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**

You may stand and greet one another.

Time with the Children

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

Epistle Lesson

1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-7

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

Anthem

For the Beauty of the Earth

arr. Dale Wood

Choir:

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flow'r, sun and moon, and stars of light;
Lord of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight;
Lord of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild;
Lord of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Choir and congregation:

The image shows a musical score for a choir and congregation. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "For your church that ever-more lifts its holy hands above, of ring up on ev'ry shore its pure sacrifice of love; Lord of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise." The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for congregational singing.

Text: Folliot S. Pierpoint (1835-1917)

Music: *DIX*, Conrad Kocher (1786-1872)

Arrangement from *For the Beauty of the Earth* (CGA950) arr. Dale Wood

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Historical Narrative

Acts 1:6-14

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Sermon

Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

Offering and Youth Collection

Offertory

Priere du Matin

Joseph Jongen

***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**

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the 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 144**

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!"

Hyfrydol

***Charge and Blessing**

Benediction Response

Amen II

James McGregor

***Postlude**

Psalm Eighteen Benedetto Marcello

*Please stand, if able

Announcements

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



Many thanks to Jeremy McEvilly for contributing your beautiful voice to the choir each week, and to Virginia Leeman for your wonderful organ playing and for accompanying our choir again.

VOLUNTEER AT NATIVITY FARM



Join us on Thursdays from 5-7 pm!



Pentecost Sunday

Join us to celebrate the Holy Spirit in worship on

May 28 at 10 am!

Featuring special music from instrumentalists, a children's procession, and more!



Mark your calendars!!

Congregational Meeting

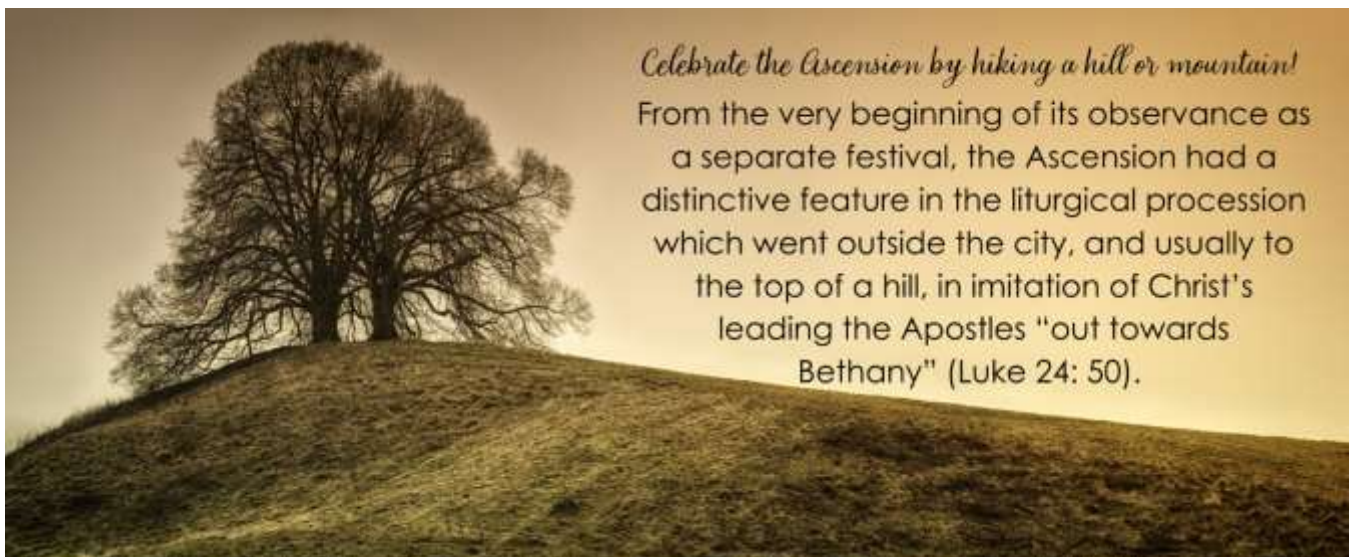


June 4th, immediately following worship.

Agenda

Election of Elders & Deacons for the Fall 2023 Term

Congregational Updates



Celebrate the Ascension by hiking a hill or mountain!
From the very beginning of its observance as a separate festival, the Ascension had a distinctive feature in the liturgical procession which went outside the city, and usually to the top of a hill, in imitation of Christ's leading the Apostles "out towards Bethany" (Luke 24: 50).

RECURRING EVENTS AT BPC

Lunch with Friends – 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of every month at 12:30 pm.

Quilting- Every Tuesday at 1 pm.

Bible Study – Every Thursday at 10 am via Zoom.

Coffee Hour – Sundays after worship at 11 am. Please sign up to host.















Flower donations for Sunday Worship. Please sign up to dedicate flowers.

Please go to our website or call the church office for more information.

MAY 21 - 27, 2022

Probable State of the Weather (with Moon Cycle)

Bedford Village, NY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						
						
Partly Cloudy 77°	Partly Cloudy 73°	Mostly Sunny 71°	Mostly Sunny 76°	Partly Cloudy 78°	Partly Cloudy 79°	Cloudy 78°

ON THE FARM

We continue to hold workdays each Thursday afternoon. Our garlic is prolific and we should have garlic scapes for harvesting soon! In the meanwhile, we are continuing to add plants to our garden.

We have been purchasing the necessary plants to add to the pollinator garden, clearing out space for them, and planting the first flowers. We began clearing out the old garden, so it can become a squash garden this year.

OTHER NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please follow our new Nativity Farm Instagram: @nativityfarm_BPC

Our volunteer hours at the farm are Thursday evenings from 5pm to 7pm. Please join us! If you are unable to volunteer during that time, let Courtney know or volunteer at any of the other Westchester Local Food Project gardens in the area.

WORD OF THE WEEK

Endemism

WHAT WE ARE READING

"Extinction, however, is a process, not an event. It effectively occurs not when the last individual dies, but when the species loses the ability to adapt successfully. After that, it's just a waiting game for the last individual to succumb. No species gets a free pass. In the game of life, less diversity means fewer options for change. Wild or domesticated, panda or pea, adaptation is the requirement for survival. People and Plants, whether we consciously realize it or not, the biodiversity with which we are most familiar, and the biodiversity with which we have most intimate historical, cultural and biological connections, is that associated with food plants..." -Cary Fowler

THIS WEEK'S TO DO LIST

Continue to clear the garden; set up the greenhouse that is arriving shortly, and mulch the garden

Upcoming Events at a Glance

Sunday, May 21st

10 am

Worship and Youth Collection

11 am

Coffee Hour

Monday, May 22nd

9 am

Yoga

Tuesday, May 23rd

12:30 pm

Lunch with Friends

1 pm

Quilting

Thursday, May 25th

10 am

Bible Study. Please contact Alan McDougall at **alanmcd@verizon.net**

5 pm

Nativity Farm Work Session

Sunday, May 28th

10 am

Ascension Sunday

Worship and Youth Collection

11 am

Coffee Hour

Monday, May 29th

Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED

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** 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 (Mission),
Jessica Cunningham (Personnel and Stewardship),
Danielle Gamar (Christian Education),
Maria Andrea Laverde (Nativity Farm),
Suzanne Millette (Finance), Sarah Ryan (Property & Maintenance),
& Bart Tyler (Members & Friends and Stewardship)
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

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