

BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



15th Sunday in
ORDINARY TIME



Sunday, July 11, 2021

Prelude

Praeludium in A

J. S. Bach

Call to Worship from Psalm 85

Leader: God will speak peace to the people, the faithful, those who turn to God in their hearts.

People: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet. Goodness and peace will kiss each other.

Leader: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and goodness will look down from the sky.

People: Let us worship God!

Opening Hymn 473 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

1 For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies.

Refrain:

Lord of all, to Thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise.

2 For the wonder of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light. (Refrain)

3 For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight. (Refrain)

4 For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild. (Refrain)

5 For Thy Church, that evermore
Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice of love. (Refrain)

Confession

Loving God, we confess that we have failed at loving our neighbors and at loving ourselves. We overreact when our loved ones hurt us. We hold on to petty grudges. We refuse to forgive, and we forget to extend the mercy that you have given to us.

Help us to wake up to your steadfast love that springs up from ground and looks down from the sky. As we learn to live in your peace, teach us how to share that peace with one another.

(Silent confession)

Pardon

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

People: And also with you.

Sung Response *"I've Got Peace Like a River"*

I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in-a my soul.

Hebrew Bible Lesson *2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19*

David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark. David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the Lord with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obededom to the city of David with rejoicing; and when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. David danced before the Lord with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart.

They brought in the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the Lord. When David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts, and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes.

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him."

But others said, "It is Elijah."

And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old."

But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee.

When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom."

She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?"

She replied, "The head of John the baptizer."

Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

Sermon *"Eulogy for John"* Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

Offering

Offertory

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

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

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 455

All Creatures of Our God and King

1 All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice in earth and sky,
alleluia, alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O sing ye, O sing ye, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O sing Ye! alleluia!
Thou rising morn in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice,
O sing ye, O sing ye, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy God to hear,
alleluia, alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
that givest all both warmth and light,
O sing ye, O sing ye, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 Thou fertile earth, that day by day,
unfoldest blessings on your way,
O sing Ye! alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
let them God's glory also show,
O sing ye, O sing ye, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Charge and Blessing

Postlude

Trumpet Tune

G. P. Telemann

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.



Join a group of people with diverse faith backgrounds for an exchange of ideas. We are still meeting virtually via Zoom the second Tuesday of each month at 8pm. All are welcome. Please contact Sharon Seidell at sps1256s@gmail.com if you are interested.

The next meeting is Tuesday, August 13th.

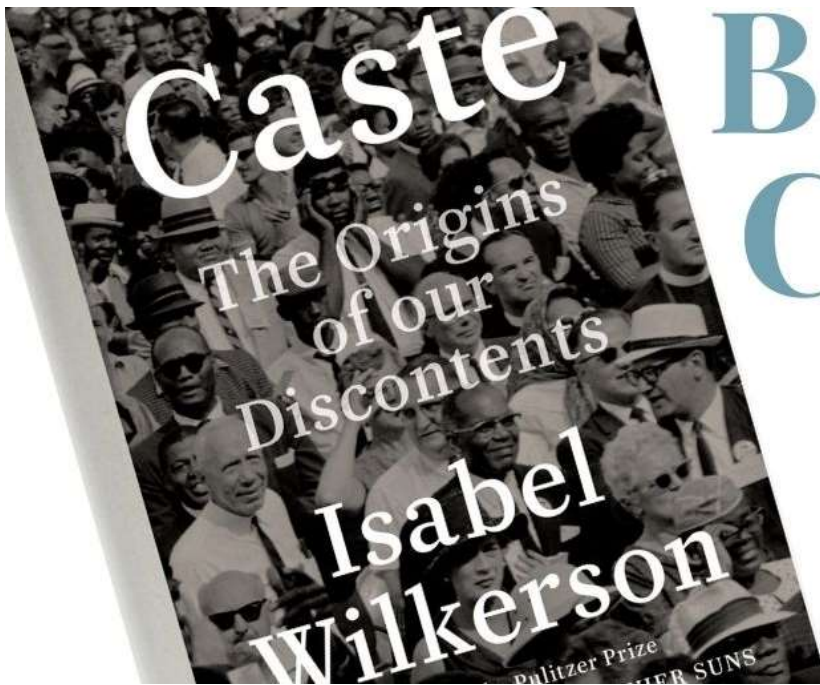


Join Reverend Carol for a socially distanced lunch under the tent on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month. Just bring your lunch and a chair. Start time is 12:30 pm and there is no sign up needed. Tell your friends! **The next lunch is July 13th.**



The Bible Study group meets 10:00 - 11:00 am Thursdays via Zoom and anyone interested is welcome.

Please contact Alan McDougall at alanmcd@verizon.net for the Zoom link.



Book Club

Join us on Zoom
First and Third Mondays
at 7:00 p.m.

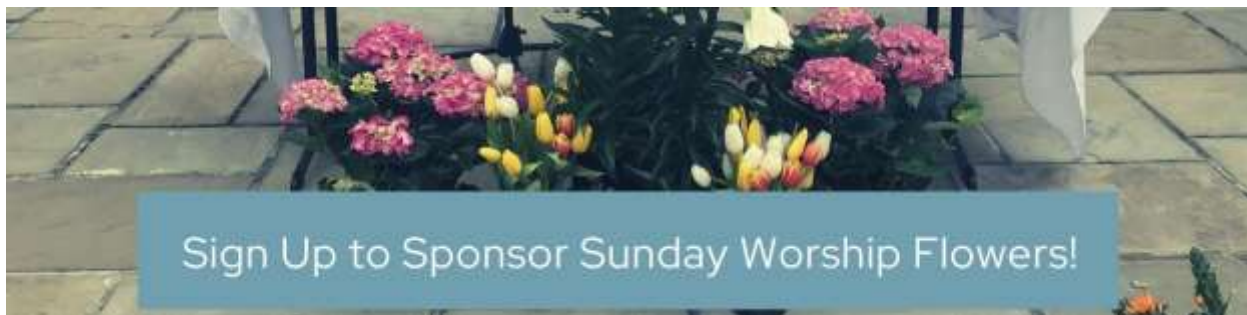


We will be discussing **Section 5** at our next meeting
on July 19th



Earlier this year, BPC hosted an inspiring discussion on Food and Faith with Derrick Weston, a pastor and food justice activist. As one of the founding congregations, BPC has long been a supporter of the Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry. During the pandemic, the financial support provided by our congregation was so generous, even while opportunities for volunteering were put on hold for safety reasons.

Now, happily the Pantry returns to its prior "choice" model welcoming guests in to select food and produce. This has created opportunities for us to volunteer at food distributions once again. To complement this, a few of us put our heads together to find additional ways to advocate for food justice in our community. Initially we have partnered with a local nonprofit organization, Intergenerate, to help tend their "giving gardens." Organic vegetables are grown in underused gardens on properties in the area. The harvest is distributed through a number of organizations including Neighbor's Link. Fresh, local produce is always much appreciated! If you are interested in volunteering for either of these initiatives helping our neighbors deal with food insecurity, or if you have additional ideas, please contact Sharon Seidell at: sps1256s@gmail.com.



Donating flowers couldn't be easier! Simply contribute \$50.00 to the church flower fund and create your own dedication line to run in the Sunday bulletin. Then, after worship, you or the person you're celebrating can take the flowers home!

If you are interested, please use the SignUpGenius on our website to submit your dedication and use the dedicated link to make your secure online donation. Checks and dedications can also be mailed to the BPC office.

Please sign up no later than one week prior to the Sunday you want to sponsor flowers to ensure that your dedication gets placed in the bulletin.



Upcoming Events at a Glance

- **Tuesday, July 13th** - Lunch with Friends
- **Tuesday, July 13th** – Pub Theology
- **Friday, July 16th** - View Sunday's Order of Worship. It will be available on our website by 3 pm.
- **Sunday, July 18th** - Worship with us either in person or virtually by accessing the Sunday worship link on our website.
- **Monday, July 19th** - Book Club
- **Tuesday July 20th** - Quilters
- **Tuesday, July 27th** - Lunch with Friends

Bedford Presbyterian Church Staff

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

Edwin & Ellida Acevedo, Building & Grounds Maintenance

Sunday Worship Service in person and virtual at 10:00 am

Email: Office@bedfordpreschurch.org ~ www.bedfordpreschurch.org

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