

BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



16th Sunday in
ORDINARY TIME



Sunday, July 18, 2021

Prelude

Recit de Nazard

L. N. Clerambault

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship from Psalm 23

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want.

People: You make me lie down in green pastures; you lead me beside still waters.

Leader: You restore my soul and lead me in right paths for your name's sake.

People: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil. For you are with me. Your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

Leader: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil.
My cup overflows.

People: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Opening Hymn 485

To God Be the Glory

1 To God be the glory, great things He hath done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory: great things He hath done.

2 Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. [Refrain]

Confession

God of mercy, you have called us to rest, but we have ignored your voice. We work all hours of the day. At night, we wake up, filled with worries. We have become bound by a demand for productivity that we cannot achieve. We lose sight of our priorities, and we neglect the restoration of our souls.

Help us, O God, to live in your abundance, to enjoy the smell of green pastures and the feel of still waters. Give us space so that the stress and anxiety of the day might melt away. Remind us to breathe deeply and reconnect with you, the soil, and one another. Amen.

(Silent confession)

Pardon

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

People: And also with you.

Sung Response

My Shepherd will supply my need;
Jehovah is His Name:
In pastures fresh He makes me feed,
Beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back

When I forsake His ways,
And leads me, for His mercy's sake,
In paths of truth and grace.

Hebrew Bible Lesson

Samuel 7:1-14a

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent."

Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me.

Gospel Lesson

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

Sermon

"A Deserted Place" Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

Offering

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

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.

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 466

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

1 O for a thousand tongues to sing
My dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of God's grace!

2 Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

3 Christ breaks the power of reigning sin,
And sets the prisoner free;
Christ's blood can make the sinful clean,
Christ's blood availed for me.

4 My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.

Charge and Blessing

Postlude

My Faithful Heart Rejoices

J. Brahms

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.



The BPC Quilting Group welcomes everyone to come and learn about the many joys of quilting **beginning Tuesday, July 20th**. Feel free to come anytime from 1 and 4 pm.

Tuesday dates alternate with Rev. Carol's Lunches under the tent. No experience necessary. You will learn as you go. Creating a quilt together for the Mistletoe Mart is the perfect antidote for coming out of the pandemic!

Reconnect or meet new members of BPC and socialize while you quilt. Quilting is very relaxing and excellent for your mental health! There is something for everyone to do. So, don't be shy. Quilting at BPC has been a tradition since the 1970's. It's a great learning experience for all ages.

RSVP to:

- Jeanne Morrison at Rjmorr145@verizon.net,
- Karen Ulanowski at karen.ulanowski@gmail.com, or
- Anne Bentzen at r.bentzen@verizon.net to join or inquire with any questions.

Come and go as you are able. RSVPs appreciated. We'll be in the Chapel Room. See you on **July 20th!!**

PUB THEOLOGY

2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 8PM

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.



**Flowers in the sanctuary this morning are
sponsored by**

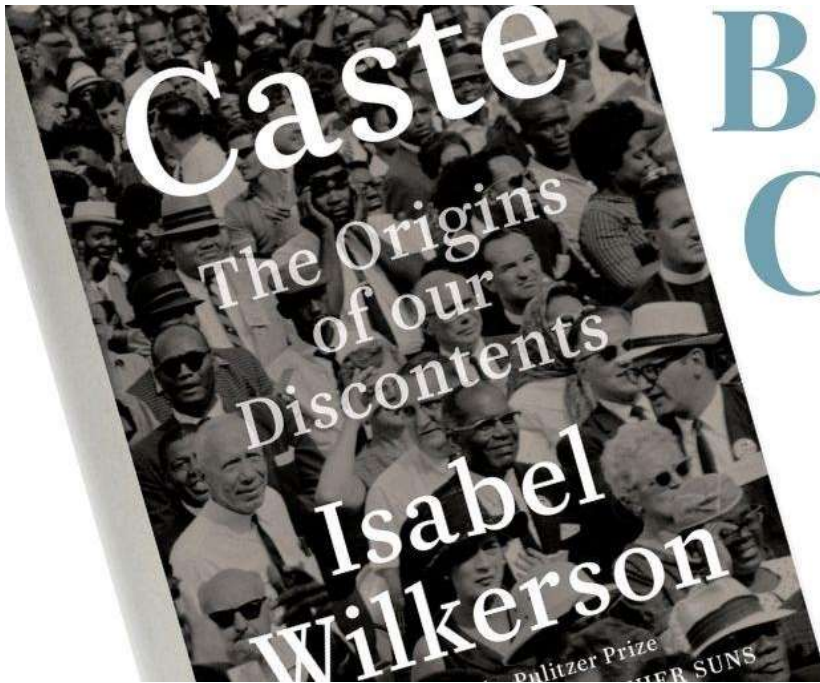
Carla Hawryluk

***In celebration of her daughter
Christa Collins***



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.

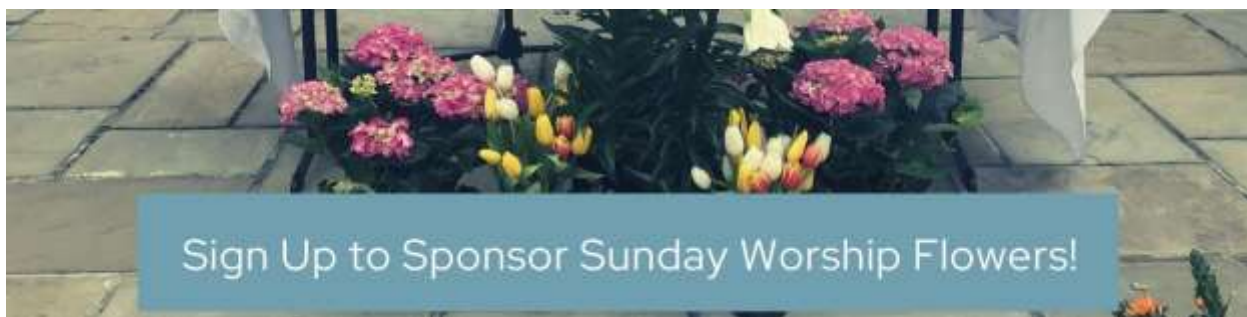


We will be discussing **Section 5** at our next meeting
on **July 19th**



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.



Our next Communion is Sunday, August 1st.



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 27th.

Upcoming Events at a Glance

- **Monday, July 19th** - Book Club
- **Tuesday July 20th** – Quilters
- **Thursday, July 22nd** – Bible Study
- **Friday, July 23rd** - View Sunday's Order of Worship. It will be available on our website by 3 pm.
- **Sunday, July 25th** - Worship with us either in person or virtually by accessing the Sunday worship link on our website.
- **Tuesday, July 27th** - Lunch with Friends
- **Thursday, July 29th** – Bible Study
- **Tuesday, August 10th** – Pub Theology

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

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