

BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Root of Jesse Tree, Orthodox Christian Icon

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

Prelude

Noel Étranger

L. C. Daquin

Introit

Soon and Very Soon

A. Crouch

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Candle of Love

Reader: “While they were there, the time came for Mary to deliver her child.” (Luke 1:6)

Mary, with her aching body and sore muscles, looked at Joseph’s calloused hands and kind eyes with expectation. For the time had come and Joseph was going to deliver this child. With the firm and gentle caresses that could massage cedar bark until it felt like silk, Joseph soothed the fear and grief that rose when they realized that Mary was going to have to give birth in a barn, with plenty of bleating animals in attendance, but no midwife.

Reader: When their eyes met, Mary’s chest filled with gratitude for Joseph’s patience, as he gathered the supplies that they would need. For Joseph had hidden her for many months, ensuring her safety. And during those frightening days, Mary’s love for her fiancé grew. Now her love was so large, she imagined that it could encompass the world. As Joseph settled Mary onto the hay, the smell of the dry grass itched her nose. Mary knew that Jesus would be born—not in a sterile setting with midwives close at hand—but he would be born in a world of love.

Reader: This fourth Sunday of Advent, may we sense the love of God, our friends, and our community surrounding us as we prepare for Christ's birth.

All: We light this candle, as we open ourselves to God's abiding love. May the glow remind us of the adoration that the Holy One has for us.

(Light the first, second, third, and fourth candles.)

Prayer (unison): O God, help us to create a world of love as we await Christ's arrival. Teach us how to mend broken relationships, let go of bitter disputes, and restore our affections. Amen.

***Opening Carol 3** *Comfort, Comfort You My People*

Prayers of Intercession

Lesson: *Genesis 22:15-18*

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Carol *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* Polish Carol arr. Gerre Hancock
Choir

Time with the Children

Lesson:

Adapted from Matthew 1:1-17

An abridged account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah fathered children with Tamar and six generations later Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and 13 generations later the Hebrew people were exiled to Babylon. Both before and during the exile, there were many prophets and there was a prophecy of a Savior born in Bethlehem.

Twelve generations after the deportation to Babylon: Joseph the husband of Mary, who was cousin to Elizabeth, wife of Zechariah and mother of John the Baptist. God chose Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

The children may leave for Sunday Spirit during the carol singing.

Carol 49 *Once in Royal David's City*

Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Carol	<i>Away in a Manger (Cradle Song)</i>	Frances L. Callahan
	Bell Choir	

Meditation		Courtney Steininger
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Offering		
Offertory	<i>Christmas Joy</i>	Michael Helman
	Bell Choir	

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Lesson:	<i>John 1:1-18</i>
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In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Anthem

Star Carol

John Rutter

Choir

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

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 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.

***Closing Carol 31** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Charge and Blessing

Choral Response

The Peace of God

H. Purcell (Blk. Bk.)

Postlude

Fugue on the Magnificat

J. S. Bach

**Thank you to the following people for so generously donating
to BPC to help with the beautiful flowers & greens in the
Sanctuary.**

Bradley & Tate Atkinson

*In loving memory of Carter's mom, Brenda, Bette Lou Mann, Bob Mann &
Adele Tegtmeier.*

Gordon & Judy Aydelott

*In memory of my parents, Jesse and Ruth Agor and Gordon's parents Marge
and Jack Aydelott.*

Rick & Anne Bentzen

Bob & Hope Black

*Given by Hope and Bob Black in celebration of our family, and thankful for
our many blessings.*

Bing & Marcy Carlson

*To our wonderful family, the members we've loved being with recently and
those we've lost.*

*To Vickie Day for all of her thoughtfulness and help for the older people in
our congregation.*

Pat Ferguson

*In loving memory of Tom Ferguson, who loved celebrating Christmas in our
beautiful church.*

Michael & Kate Flynn

Dedicate to our kids, Isla and Ronan Flynn.

Fried, Victor

Good will to all creatures great and small.

Carla Hawryluk

Peace on Earth.

Marilyn Hermansen

In Loving memory of Roy W. Hermansen who remains in our hearts forever.

Don & Brian Hiller-Dupont

From Brian and Don Hiller-Dupont in loving memory of Phyllis Hiller.

Richard & Natasha Mast

Dedicated to the memory of Mark London.

Tom & Lindsay Miserandino

In memory of Nelson H. Erb.

Mandana O'Connor

Wishing everyone good health, peace, love and happiness from the
O'Connors.

Jean Palmer

In loving memory of Joe Palmer.

Heather Raker

*In loving memory of our father, Bruce L. Beatty from Holly Bernene and
Heather.*

Jeff and Sharon Seidell

In gratitude for so many Christmas celebrations together as a family.

Andrew Strawcutter

For Daddy, born 12/25/26.

Matt Valenti & Jeanne Collins

To Tinsley and Luke.

Jill Ferguson Warmbier & Jane Ferguson Huebner

In loving memory of our father, Thomas Wells Ferguson III.

Christmas Eve Services

5 pm - Candlelight Service, Christmas Pageant,
& Joyful Noise Performance

7 pm - Candlelight Service

9 pm - Candlelight Service

11 pm - Candlelight Service & Communion

DECORATORS' LUNCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

JOIN US AFTER THE SERVICE TO HELP
US DECORATE THE SANCTUARY FOR
THE CHRISTMAS SEASON! THERE
WILL BE DECORATING ACTIVITIES
FOR THE KIDS AS WELL!

TOGETHER

WE CAN MAKE A CHANGE

JOIN US FOR SERVICE SUNDAYS (4TH SUNDAY OF
THE MONTH)!

OUR INITIAL SERVICE SUNDAY WILL BE JANUARY 23RD. WE
WILL GATHER TOGETHER AFTER CHURCH TO WORK ON A
SERVICE PROJECT TOGETHER. WE WILL BE PREPARING FOR
OUR UPCOMING MIDNIGHT RUN, PUTTING TOGETHER BAGS
FOR THE WOMEN'S PRISON, ETC.



EMERGENCY SHELTER PARTNERSHIP

DECEMBER 27TH - JANUARY 2ND



We need volunteers for our second week of ESP! It is less than two weeks away! We need 20 dinner meals made per night, as well as donations of water, soda, and snack options. Specific details for each of these items are on the sign up genius on our website. Also in need are volunteers to transport the food and check in guests at Saint Mark's Church in Mount Kisco.

We appreciate all of your help and support!

Please email Elyssa with any questions at Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5TH

7-9 PM VIA ZOOM

WOMAN 2 WOMAN TRAINING SESSION

Since April of 2020, when Covid originally shut down in-person visiting at NY State prisons, Woman 2 Woman visitors have relied primarily on email to stay connected with our incarcerated friends. Slowly but steadily we are headed back into Bedford Hills and Taconic Correctional Facilities for in-person visits. We have found the processes streamlined, Covid protocols routinely followed, and the visiting rooms depressingly empty. It's time to get back to our original mission.

And so, for the first time since September of 2019, we're thrilled to announce that we have scheduled an in-person visitors' training, to be held on Wednesday, January 5th from 7 - 9 pm.

To RSVP and to receive the Zoom link, please contact Nancy Gernert at nancygernert@gmail.com.

Join the
Bedford Bellringers



The Bedford Bellringers have been playing together for over 60 years at BPC. The Bellringers play 3-4 times a year and rehearse on Tuesday evenings, for a few weeks prior to performances. If you are interested in playing with the bells or have any questions, please contact **Heidi Michaels** at hmichaels425@gmail.com.



AA Meetings at BPC

AA BVIG Meetings

For more information contact NY Intergroup
office (212)647-1680

AA Women's Meeting
Friday 7:15 - 8:15 pm

BIBLE STUDY

Every Thursday, 10 -11 am via zoom

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

All are welcome.



SECOND SUNDAY SOUP



We will be having Second Sunday Soup on Jan. 9th, Feb. 13th and March 13th! We are looking for volunteers to make soup for each of these weekends. Please email Sarah Ryan to sign up at Sarahryan237@gmail.com.

You can help resettle an Afghan family in Northern Westchester

Through ReSET* we have adopted a family of 5 who will be arriving in Northern Westchester in late December. Bedford Presbyterian Church, along with other organizations have come together to help the family.

Our congregation is in charge of taking care of the living room area of their living space.

Help by donating some of the needed supplies! We created a google sheet with the needed items.

Please sign up on the google sheet or email Elyssa.

Items are needed by December 24th.



*Bedford Presbyterian Church, Temple Beth El, Temple Shaaray Tefila, Antioch Baptist Church & other local organizations have joined together to form an initiative called ReSET (Northern Westchester Refugee Resettlement Initiative). ReSET will play a direct role in helping refugees establish new homes in Northern Westchester.



*'twas the night before
ephipany*

Join us on Wednesday, January 5th at 6pm to
chalk the doors for the night before Epiphany.
There will be a bonfire and great company!

JOYFUL NOISE CHILDREN'S CHOIR



At Bedford Presbyterian Church, we LOVE music. We believe every child should have the chance to sing and find their voice. We are asking children of all ages to join us throughout the year. All the songs will be posted on-line well in advance of our singing and we will rehearse the song the morning of our sharing. Simple!

Don Hiller-Dupont, leads Joyful Noise. Please email Don with any questions at dondupont@outlook.com.

Parents, please join the Joyful Noise's Google Classroom through the website!

The date of our next performance is at 5pm on December 24th.

COFFEE WITH CAROL & COURTNEY

We are reviving Circle of Friends this year! With the wonderful additions of Carol and Courtney to the staff at BPC we would like to ask members to host small gatherings. Our goal is to help each of us to get to know Carol and Courtney better, foster and build relationships in our church community. You are welcome to be creative with how you would like to host the event. It could be a brunch, dinner or a sit down with some coffee. You decide the date, time and amount of people and we will organize the sign-up! If you are interested in hosting an event, please e-mail Don Hiller-DuPont at dondupont@outlook.com

*Communion is held the on the 1st Sunday
of every month.*

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 both Elyssa and Jessica by the end of the day Tuesdays for entry into that week's media.

Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org Office@bedfordpreschurch.org

Upcoming Events at a Glance

- **Sunday, December 19th** – 4th Sunday of Advent. Worship with us in person in the sanctuary at 10:00 am, or *virtually* by going to the link on our website. **Childcare available.** Decorator's Lunch
- **Monday, December 20th** – Yoga
- **Thursday, December 23rd** – Bible Study
- **Friday, December 24th** – Christmas Eve Services – 5, 7, 9, & 11 pm

Welcome to Bedford Presbyterian Church

A Worshiping Community

Shortly after the founding of the town of Bedford in 1680, plans were made to build a multi-purpose "meeting house" for town gatherings and religious services. In its first years, the church was Anglican and Congregational, but became Presbyterian by 1720 under the pastorate of Rev. William Tennent.

Today, Sunday morning worship at BPC is grounded in progressive Presbyterian tradition. Our values are exemplified by our short mission statements:

- *Love Your Neighbor*
- *Teach Our Children*
- *Never Stop Learning*



More than Just Sundays.

Opportunities to participate in outreach abound at BPC. BPC was a co-founder of the Emergency Shelter Partnership in which local churches and synagogues provide shelter for homeless people during the winter months. The Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry is an other organization we have a strong, ongoing partnership with. Additionally, we participate in Midnight Runs, and our high school youth participate in work trips both domestically, to Appalachia and internationally. We believe that living our faith means involving ourselves in social justice work.

For additional information about Bedford Presbyterian Church, visit us online at: www.bedfordpreschurch.org or call us at 914.234.3672



Bedford Presbyterian Church 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
Edwin & Ellida Acevedo, Building & Grounds Maintenance
The Reverend Thomas A. Hughart, Pastor Emeritus

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

Email: Office@bedfordpreschurch.org ~ www.bedfordpreschurch.org
P.O. Box 280 ~ 44 Village Green, Bedford, NY 10506
914-234-3672

Our Leadership

Session

Clerk of Session Brian Hiller-Dupont, Linda Burpee,
Alison Cape, **President Jeanne Collins**,
Michelle Gosh, Alan McDougall, & Suzanne Millette
Moderator Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

Deacons

Chair Don Hiller-Dupont, Sarah Alley, Marcy Carlson,
Kathy DiBiasi, Michele Eames, Pat Ferguson,
Kim Lapple, Natasha Mast, Rebecca Rivard, & Sarah Ryan