

BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 pm Service



“Nativity Mosaic” by Hanna-Cheriyen Varghese

Candlelight and Communion
Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2021

Prelude *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen* Norman Dello Joio
Rowan Pedraza and John Lettieri, piano-four hands

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Nativity Candles

Reader: In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

(Light the blue candles, which represent Mary and Joseph.)

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (Luke 2:1-7)

All: We light the Christ candle, with the assurance that hope will be fulfilled, peace will reign, joy will abound, and love will abide. For God has taken on flesh and dwells among us.

(Light the Christ Candle.)

***Hymn 25**

Away in a Manger

James R. Murray

Reader: Our Christmas story continues to tell us that “In that region there were shepherds in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.” (Luke 2:8)

All: Call us, mighty God, into the story of Christmas. Proclaim to us the good news, that we may respond as did the shepherds.

(Light the small votives and tealights, which represent the shepherds and their flocks.)

Reader: Indeed, as these shepherds and their flocks were in the fields, “Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”
(Luke 2: 9-12)

(Light the singular taper, which represents the angel of the Lord.)

Reader: “And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,” (Luke 2:13) as we say together now:

All: “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” (Luke 2:14)

(Light the cluster of tapers, which represent the multitude of the heavenly host.)

***Hymn 23**

Angels We Have Heard on High

French Carol

Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Anthem *Silent Night* for piano four-hands Norman Dello Joio
Rowan Pedraza and John Lettieri, piano-four hands

Meditation Courtney Steininger

Christmas Prayer:

All: O God, grant us such love and wonder that with shepherds and wisemen and pilgrims unknown, we may come to adore the holy child. As you came in the stillness of the night long ago, so enter our lives and world again this night. Overcome our doubts and our fears with the light of Christ's presence that we may see clearly the way to walk, the truth to speak, and the life you would have us live. Amen.

Offering

Offertory

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Passing of the Light

(Please dip the unlit candle toward the flame as the light is passed.)

Hymn 60

Silent Night

Franz Xaver Gruber

Charge and Blessing

***Hymn 40**

Joy to the World

George Frederick Handel

Please wait to extinguish your candles until you have processed outside.

We ask that you leave your candles in the boxes by the doors.

*Please stand, if able

Nativity Candles






*Thank you,
Thank you,
Thank you!*

We would like to thank the following
people for their wonderful contributions
to our Christmas Eve services.

Richard Clymer, Trumpeter
Kathy DiBiasi, Pageant Director
Don Dupont, Pageant Director
Abbott Fleur, Timpani
Rowan Pedraza, Piano (11pm service)
Sarah Ryan, Pageant Director
&
Henry Tate, Piano (5pm service)

We would also like to wish
a happy birthday to our
very own, Reverend Carol!



**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 Bette Lou & Bob Mann, Adele Tegtmeier, & Carter's
mom, Brenda.*

Gordon & Judy Aydelott

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

Rick & Anne Bentzen

*From the Bentzen family in gratitude for the blessings of our family's
youngest generation.*

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 Dey 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

Dedicated to our kids, Isla and Ronan Flynn.

Victor Fried

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 Raker.*

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.

About our Cover Photo

"Nativity Mosaic" by Hanna-Cheriyam Varghese

Hanna Cheriyam Varghese was a Malaysian Christian artist. Hanna worked with different medium like oil colors, metal-tooling and wood-block printing. Her passion was painting with acrylic on canvas and batik-dyeing in fabric. From the early eighties, Hanna began expressing her faith, spiritual thoughts and experiences together with biblical imageries into tangible form. This acrylic on canvas mosaic brings together multiple themes and symbols from the Christmas story while highlighting the intimacy among Mary, Joseph, and the newborn Jesus.



Follow this QR Code to see other paintings on the Christmas story.

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 another 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 working for social justice work.

For additional information about Bedford Presbyterian Church, visit us online at: 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

Office@bedfordpreschurch.org ~ 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