

# BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## 5 pm Service



"The Virgin Mary of Peace" by Shim Soon-hwa Catherine

**Pageant and Candlelight  
Christmas Eve Service  
December 24, 2021**

**Prelude**            *Festive Music and Carols for Trumpet and Organ*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Lighting the Advent and Christ Candles**

“And Mary 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.”

Jesus came into this world, crying out, as his parents wondered at his strong lungs, tiny fingers, and unfocused eyes. Mary held him so close to her chest so that she could feel him inhaling and exhaling. In their exhaustion, Jesus and Mary slept as the rhythmic movements of breath lulled both of them. When Jesus cried, Mary looked down on his fragile flesh and she knew that he was the Christ, the anointed one.

To anoint someone, to pour oil over their head, was to acknowledge the transfer of power, whether it had to do with handing over courage, healing, an inheritance, or a reign, that person was called forth and set apart with the act. The oil that flowed from Samuel’s horn to anoint David continues to pour throughout time when we recognize Jesus as the Christ.

**All: As we celebrate Christmas, we mark the fulfillment of our longings and the substance of our hope. For Jesus Christ is “God with us.” 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 first, second, third, and fourth candles, as well as the Christ candle.)*

### **Prayer**

**Anointed one, on this day of joy, illuminate us so that we might understand your mystery. As we celebrate your birth, may we be born again, by your Spirit. Amen.**

**\*Hymn 41**                      *O Come, All Ye Faithful*                      John Francis Wade  
*(During the hymn, the pageant participants will get in position.)*

### **The Christmas Story as a Pageant**

Bedford Presbyterian Church Children and Youth

Henry Tate, Piano

**Hymn 44**                      *O Little Town of Bethlehem*                      Lewis Henry Redner  
O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie.  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

**Hymn 60***Silent Night*

Franz Xaver Gruber

Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and Child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace;  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

**Hymn 23***Angels We Have Heard on High*

French Carol

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

**Hymn 25***Away in a Manger*

James R. Murray

Away in a manger  
No crib for a bed  
The little Lord Jesus  
Laid down His sweet head  
The stars in the bright sky  
Looked down where He lay  
The little Lord Jesus  
Asleep on the hay

**Hymn 56***The First Noel*

English Carol

The First Noel, the Angels did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!  
Noel, Noel  
Noel, Noel

**Christmas Wonderings**

Courtney Steininger

**Offering**

**Anthem** *Go Tell It on the Mountain* African-American spiritual  
Joyful Noise Children's Choir

**\*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

**Prayer**

**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




*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

"The Virgin Mary of Peace" by Shim Soon-hwa Catherine

It depicts the Virgin Mary dressed in traditional Korean Hanbok attire, including the traditional binyeo hairpin, as she holds the little baby Jesus, surrounded by cherubs and flowers. The painting includes children of the world sitting at the Virgin Mary's feet, representing Africa, South America, the Middle East and the Koreas, all groups of people that need "peace," the artist said.



**Follow this QR Code to see other paintings of 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 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 working for social justice work.

For additional information about Bedford Presbyterian Church, visit us online at: [bedfordpreschurch.org](http://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