

BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Detail from the Isenheim Altarpiece by Matthias Grunewald.

Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

Prelude *Savior of the Nations, Come* J. S. Bach

Introit *Veni Immanuel* John Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Candle of Peace

Reader: “Mary entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb.” (Luke 1:40)

In the Jewish tradition, people often greeted one another with “*shalom*,” a word that meant “peace, harmony, and wholeness.” That sense of wholeness enveloped Mary as she arrived at Elizabeth’s warm home and felt Elizabeth’s embrace.

Reader: In some ways, Mary’s life was shattered, as her pregnancy kept her in constant danger. Yet, all the broken pieces came together in Elizabeth’s arms, for Elizabeth knew Mary’s past, welcomed her present condition, and longed for her miraculous future. With that enfolding, the truth that Mary had been holding so close suddenly echoed in Elizabeth’s words: “Blessed are you among women.” Mary felt whole; she was at peace.

Reader: We walk in peace this Advent, even as we look at our own shattered lives—our broken relationships, stress, or depression. For

peace is a wholeness that comes, not when life is perfect or safe, but when we begin to understand that it is in God that we move and breathe and have our being. We nurture peace, knowing that even in our brokenness, we live in the womb of God.

All: We light the candle of peace, proclaiming God's wholeness in a broken world. We long for the day when we beat our swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks, when we will learn war no more.

(Light the first and second candle.)

Prayer (unison):

God of peace, grant us serenity and wholeness in this Advent season. Even when our lives are shattered, help us to sense your embrace. Amen.

Hymn 10 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Prayer of Confession

God of Peace, we confess that we walk away from your wholeness. We nurse our resentments, feed our bitterness, and stoke our anger. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your mercy. Forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way.

(Silent confession)

Pardon

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

People: And also with you.

Sung Response *Comfort, Comfort You My People (Hymn 3)*

Comfort, comfort you my people,
Tell of peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness
Bowed beneath oppression's load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover,
And their warfare now is over.

Time with the Children

The children can leave for Sunday Spirit after Time with the Children.

Hebrew Bible Lesson *Philippians 1:3-11*

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Anthem

Advent Carol

George Guest

Epistle Lesson

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

Sermon

Promise of Change

Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

Offering

Anthem

Alma Redemptoris Mater
(Sweet Mother of the Redeemer)

G. P. Palestrina

*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

Communion

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: We lift up our hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord

Leader: Let us give thanks to God...

Breaking of the Bread

Communion

Prayer after Communion and 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 13

Prepare the Way

*Charge and Blessing

*Choral Response

Sevenfold Amen

John Stainer

*Postlude

The Only Son from Heaven

J. S. Bach

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

Announcements

Christmas Eve Services

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

7 pm - Candlelight Service

9 pm - Candlelight Service

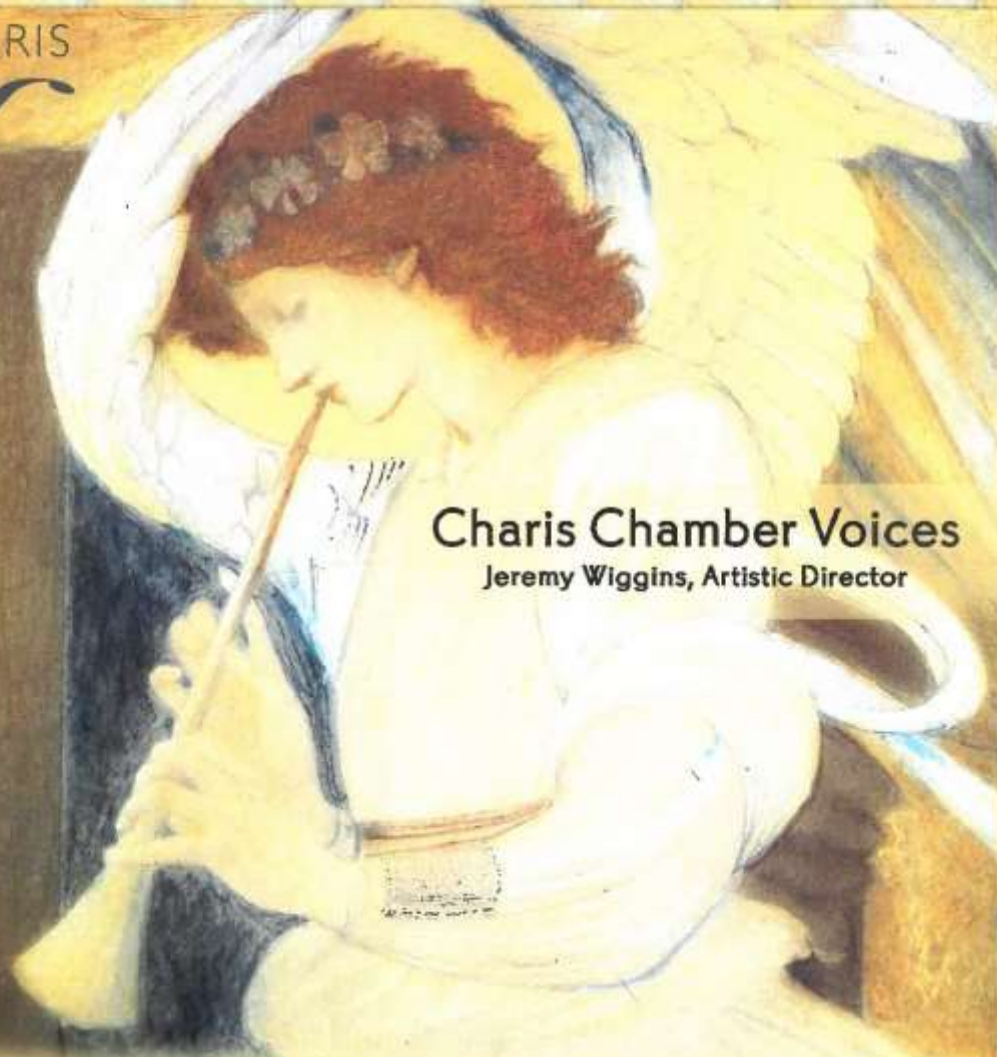
11 pm - Candlelight Service & Communion

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.

CHARIS

Charis Chamber Voices

Jeremy Wiggins, Artistic Director

Candlelight Christmas 2021

Buxtehude · Schütz · Tavener · Vaughan Williams

Saturday December 11, 2021 4:00 PM
Presbyterian Church of Mount Kisco
605 Millwood Rd. Mount Kisco NY

Sunday December 12, 2021 4:00 PM
Bedford Presbyterian Church
Village Green - Bedford NY

Tickets \$25/\$20 Seniors/\$15 Students

www.charisvocals.com

COVID protocols: All concert attendees must show proof of full vaccination against COVID-19, and all attendees must wear masks covering their nose and mouth. Members of Charis are fully vaccinated.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & GREENS

**Please help us decorate the church for
Christmas!**

A \$25.00 donation will help us beautify the church, and along with your donation, you can make a dedication to anyone you would like. Your name along with your dedication will go in our bulletin and E-NEWS.

The deadline is Thursday, December 9th.

Donations & dedications can be mailed to the church, made on the website under "donate" tab or call the church office at **914-234-3672** or email **Office@bedfordpreschurch.org**.



AA Meetings at BPC

AA BVIG Meetings

Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 7:15 - 8:15 pm

Sunday 7 - 8 pm

AA Women's Meeting

Friday 7:15 - 8:15 pm

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, go to our website to join the Joyful Noise's Google Classroom!

The date of our next performance is **December 24th** during the 5 pm Christmas Eve service.

Upcoming Youth Group Event

On **Friday, December 17th at 7 pm**, youth, their friends, and *any college students who are home* are invited to the Youth Group Christmas Party where there will be food, games and good times to celebrate the holiday season.

Flowers in the sanctuary were
sponsored by
Alan & Joan McDougall

In loving memory of Janet McDougall

Advent Spirituality Series

*Spiritually prepare
for Christmas
together!*

Wednesdays at 7 pm in the Chapel

DEC 8 | LECTIO DIVINA

DEC 15 | VISIO DIVINA

*Contact Courtney
for more
information*



Cookies Needed!!

The **Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry** will be distributing red holiday bags with some special items for pantry clients. The pantry is requesting 'store bought' packaged cookies (no tins and no larger than approximately 1 pound) to include in the bags. A donation box will be available in the church vestibule and our goal is to receive 30 packages of cookies by **December 15th**. For questions or more information, please contact **Cecilia Rosenblum** at: **914-645-2096** or **clr4tny@optonline.net**.



Neighbors Link Holiday Gift Drive

Drop off by December 12th

Neighbors Link's traditional Mercado de las Fiestas (Holiday Market) is back for their clients in Mount Kisco and Ossining!

Parents are able to select gifts for their children. They are collecting new, unwrapped gifts for children ages 0-12 and \$25 gift cards for teenagers 13-18.

Please drop off all donations in the bin at the church.



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.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

We are reviving Circle of Friends!
Members can host small celebrations throughout the year to help foster and build relationships in our church community. Some ideas could include hosting a dinner, a luncheon, or even an afternoon tea!

You decide the date, time, and amount of people, and we will organize the sign-up! If you're interested in hosting, please e-mail Don Hiller-Dupont at dondupont@outlook.com.

DECORATOR'S LUNCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

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




Please visit
CommunityCenterNW.org
to learn more about the
Share the Warmth Drive.

BIBLE STUDY


Every Thursday, 10 -11 am via zoom

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



2022 STEWARDSHIP

Please remember to make
your 2022 pledge.
Your generosity is very
appreciated.



CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT

Your child is invited to be a part of the Christmas pageant at BPC! The pageant will be presented at the Christmas Eve service at 5 pm. This beloved tradition offers each child a unique experience of the Christmas story, with its enduring message of hope, peace, joy and love.

If you are interested in participating, please email Don Hiller-Dupont at dondupont@outlook.com. We would like to have a confirmation of children interested so we can make preparations throughout the month of December.

Thank you,

Don Dupont, Sarah Ryan & Kathy DiBiasi

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

- **Monday, December 6th** - Yoga
- **Wednesday, December 8th** – Advent Spirituality Series
- **Thursday, December 9th** - Bible Study
- **Sunday, December 12th** – 3rd 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.***
- **Sunday, December 12th** - Charis Chamber Voices performance.
- **Monday, December 13th** - Yoga
- **Tuesday, December 14th** - Lunch with Friends

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