

BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Painting is "Desert Abstraction" by Georgia O'Keefe

Sunday, February 21, 2021

**First Sunday of Lent
February 21, 2021**

Prelude *When We Are In Deepest Need.* J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship based on Isaiah 33:2 Elyssa Michaels

As we gather on this first Sunday of Lent,
Give us grace, O God,
As we long for you.
Be our strength every morning.
And salvation in times of distress.

Hymn 81 *Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days*

Poetry Lesson *Psalms 25:1-10* Jim Fenimore

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.
Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD,
and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.
All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

Gospel Lesson

Mark 1:9-15

Alison Cape

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Sermon

"Wilderness Times " Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

Prayers of the People

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.

(Many people say the Lord's Prayer with "trespasses" or "sins" instead of "debts."
Please feel free to pray in any form that makes you feel the most comfortable.)

Charge and Blessing

Postlude

All People Must Pass Away

J. S. Bach

Announcements

Beginning in January of 2021, we will no longer be including Announcements along with the Order of Worship on our website each week. All announcements will be included in our weekly E-NEWS that goes directly to your email inbox every Thursday. The benefit of the E-NEWS is that there are 'live' links that bring you directly to websites/documents that are referenced in our announcements.

To sign up for our E-NEWS, please go to the BPC website at **bedfordpreschurch.org** and select either '**Contact**' at the top or **E-NEWS** just below it.

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

Sunday Virtual Worship Service 10:00 AM

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