

BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"Almond Blossom" by Vincent Van Gogh

Sunday, April 11, 2021

Second Sunday of Easter

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Kathy DiBiasi

Leader: We gather with one another
So that we might find
Strength in our weakness,
And hope in our doubts.

**People: We gather so we might feel
Peace in our turmoil,
And solidarity in our struggles.**

Leader: We gather so that we might live
Into the abundance of Christ.
Let us worship God!

Hymn *Breath on Me, Breath of God (all verse)*

1 Breathe on me, breath of God.
Fill me with life anew,
that I may love what you so love,
and do what you would do.

2 Breathe on me, breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with you, I will one will:
to do and to endure.

3 Breathe on me, breath of God,
my will to yours incline,
till all this selfish part of me
glows with your fire divine.

4 Breathe on me, breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with you the perfect life
of your eternity.

Gospel Lesson

John 20:19-31

Barbara Kanner

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord."

But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your

finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Sermon

"Breathing Peace" 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.)

Hymn

The Day of Resurrection (Vs. 1, 3)

1 The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness,
the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal,

from this world to the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over
with hymns of victory.

3 Now let the heav'ns be joyful,
let earth her song begin;
let all the world keep triumph,
and all that is therein;
let all things seen and unseen,
their notes let all things blBreathe on Meend,
for Christ the Lord hath ris

Charge and Blessing

Postlude

Announcements

The following announcements are also included in our weekly E-NEWS, which has 'live' links that bring you directly to websites and documents that are referenced here.

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.



Mihee Kim-Kort
Author and Pastor

April 13 at 7 pm

Mihee is a Co-Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis. She is a Teaching Fellow at the Newbiggin House of Studies, a Managing Editor for American Religion Journal, and a PhD student at Indiana University. She has written several books, including *Outside the Lines: How Embracing Queerness Will Transform Your Faith*.

#StopAsianHate

Tuesdays • 7 pm



<https://bedfordpreschurch.org/upcoming-zoom-gatherings/>



EARTH DAY

— WALK —

MUSCOOT FARMS · APRIL 25 · 11:00 AM

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 Worship Service
In person and virtual
10:00 AM

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