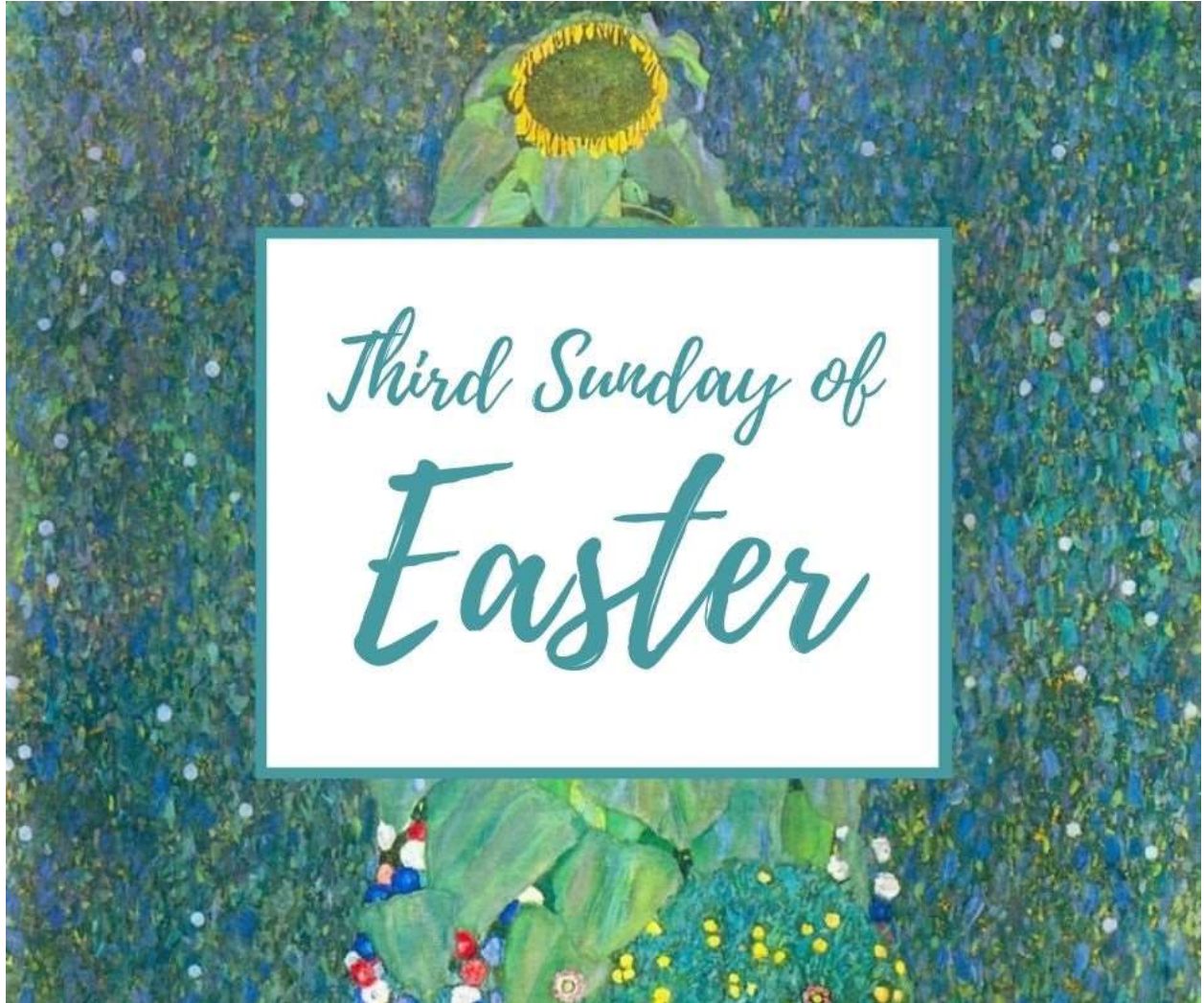


BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"Sunflower" by Gustav Klimt

Sunday, April 18, 2021

Third Sunday of Easter

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Linda Burpee

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

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

1 When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Gospel Lesson

Luke 24:36b-48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost.

Jesus said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?"

They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you--that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Sermon

"A Suffering God" Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

Hymn

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!

1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!
His the scepter, His the throne.
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone!
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion
Thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus out of every nation
Hath redeemed us by His blood.

3 Alleluia! Bread of angels,
Thou on earth our food, our stay.
Alleluia! Here the sinful
Flee to Thee from day to day.
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
Earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
Where the songs of all the sinless
Sweep across the crystal sea.

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

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.



Cindy Wang Brandt
Author & Podcaster
April 20 at 7 pm

Cindy Wang Brandt is the author of *Parenting Forward: How to Raise your Child with Justice, Mercy, and Kindness.*

Through her books, Facebook Group, and Podcasts, Cindy helps parents raise their children with a healthy spirituality.

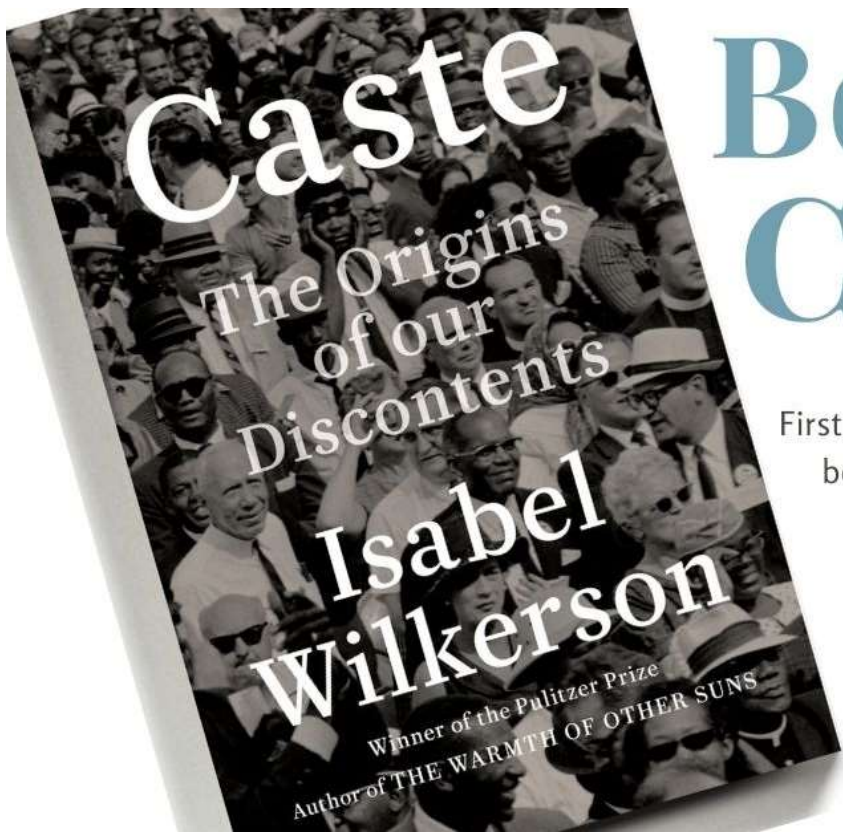
<https://bedfordpreschurch.org/upcoming-zoom-gatherings/>



EARTH DAY

— WALK —

MUSCOOT FARMS · APRIL 25 · 11:00 AM



Book Club

First and Third Mondays
beginning on May 3rd
at 7:00 pm





Beginning April 27th on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month, join Reverend Carol for a socially distanced lunch under the tent. Just bring your lunch and a chair. Start time is 12:30 pm and there is no sign up needed. Tell your friends!



Now that we are worshipping outside, we have volunteer opportunities.

Worship Assistant. We need someone who would be able to help Carol set up the worship space. The job would include making sure that candles are lit, the table is set, the kids' table is prepared, and the offering basket is out.

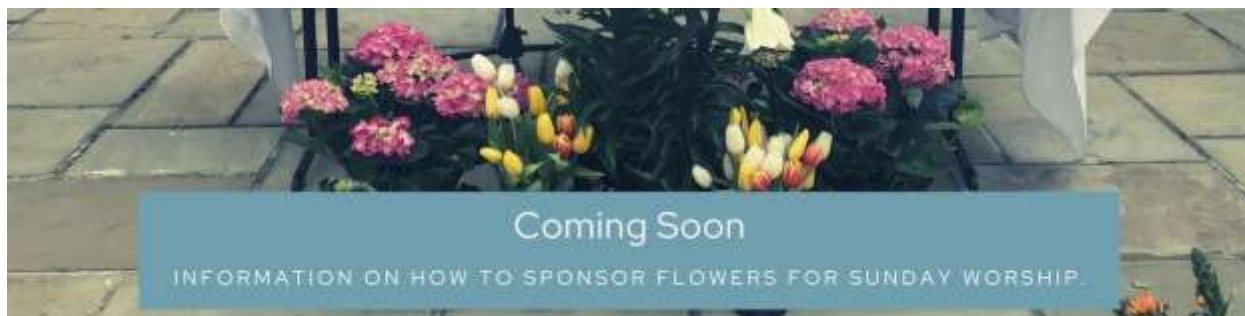
Sound Manager to fill in when David Burpee isn't available.

Please contact the BPC church office for more information.



Interested in helping with worship technology? During these unusual times we have learned that our ability to stream worship

services to the internet is a vital way to keep our congregation connected. Now that we are worshipping outside, and will someday return to the sanctuary, we know that streaming worship will continue to be as important as ever. As we continue this each week we are going to need individuals willing to be trained to perform this vital function. No experience or equipment is needed; all is provided. If interested contact Jim Fenimore jim@bedfordpreschurch.org for more info.



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

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