

BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"Water Lilies" by Claude Monet

Sunday, April 25, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

From Psalm 23

Sarah Ryan

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

You make me lie down in green pastures; You lead me beside still waters;

You restore my soul.

People: You lead me in right paths for your name's sake.

**Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil, for you are with me.**

Your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

Leader: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

People: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Hymn

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Vs. 1 and 2

1 My Shepherd will supply my need;

Jehovah is His Name:

In pastures fresh He makes me feed,
Beside the living stream.

He brings my wandering spirit back

When I forsake His ways,

And leads me, for His mercy's sake,

In paths of truth and grace.

2 When I walk through the shades of death
Thy presence is my stay;
One word of Your supporting breath
Drives all my fears away.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes,
Does still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows,
Your oil anoints my head.

Gospel Lesson

John 10:11-18

Betsy Palmieri

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away--and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

Sermon

"Preparing a Table" Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

Hymn

Christ Is Alive!

Vs. 1, 2 and 5

1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

2 Christ is alive! No longer bound
To distant years in Palestine,
But saving, healing, here and now,
And touching every place and time.

5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring
Good news to this and every age,
Till earth and sky and ocean ring
With joy, with justice, love and praise.

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.

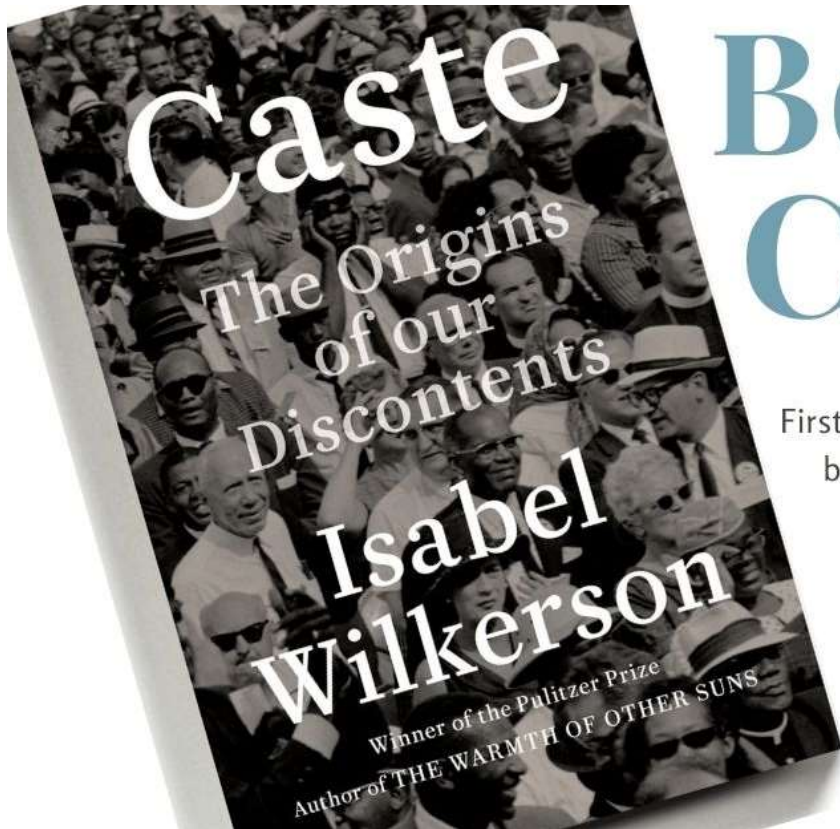


Today's Worship Flowers

Flowers for our April 25th worship service were donated by

Rebecca & Scott Rivard

In loving memory of George Rivard



Book Club

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



Beginning this Tuesday April 27th, and 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.



Flowers bring beauty to our Sunday morning service and can be a memorable way to celebrate a special day or a special person in your life. How to donate flowers couldn't be easier! Simply contribute \$50.00 to the church flower fund and create your own dedication line to run in the Sunday bulletin. Then, after worship, you or the person you're celebrating can take the flowers home! If you are interested, please use the SignUpGenius link below to:

- Sign up
- Submit your dedication
- Use the dedicated link to make your secure online donation of \$50.00

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f4daaab2ea5fa7-flower>

You can also access the above link by going to the BPC website.

Please sign up no later than the Wednesday before each worship service to ensure that we get your dedication into the Sunday Bulletin.

**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