

BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Field with Irises near Arles – Vincent van Gogh

Sunday, July 4, 2021

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 4, 2021

Prelude

Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: We gather together, remembering that the earth is full of
God's handiwork,

People: God's Wisdom is the source of life.

Leader: We celebrate the lilies of the field and the limbs of the trees,

People: for God is our Creator, and God's Spirit gives us life.

Leader: Let us worship God!

Hymn 429

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

1 Lord, you give the great commission: "Heal the sick and preach the word."

Lest the Church neglect its mission and the Gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.

2 Lord, you call us to your service: "In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.

3 Lord, you make the common holy: "This my body, this my blood."
Let your priests, for earth's true glory, daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us share your children's liberty;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.

4 Lord, you show us love's true measure: "Father, what they do, forgive."

Yet we hoard as private treasure all that you so freely give.

May your care and mercy lead us, to a just society;

with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.

Epistle Lesson

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Gospel Lesson

Mark 6:1-13

He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.

Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Sermon

"Strength of the Weak" Carol Howard Merritt

Call to Offering

Communion

Great Prayer of 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

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 564

Beautiful for Spacious Skies

1 O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with *brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

2 O beautiful for pilgrim feet,
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!

3 O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness
And every gain divine.

4 O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with servanthood
From sea to shining sea!

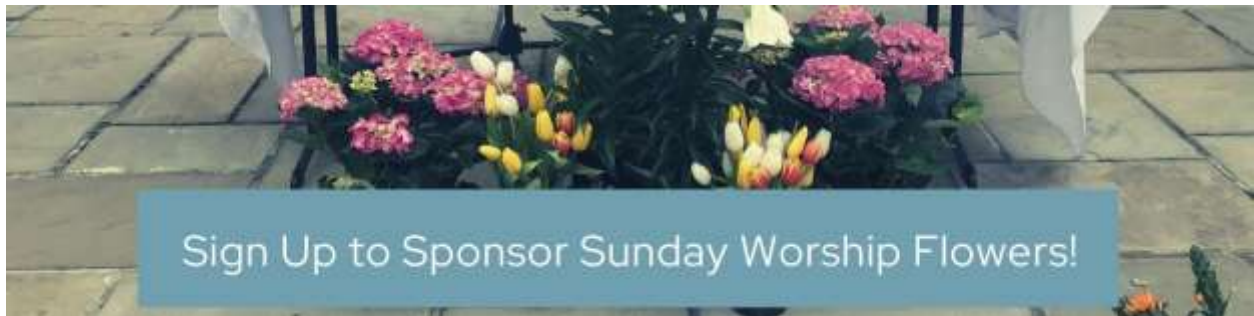
Charge and Blessing

Postlude

****** Many thanks go out to Michael Fennelly, our substitute organist
for today's worship service ******

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.



Donating 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 on our website to submit your dedication and use the dedicated link to make your secure online donation. Checks and dedications can also be mailed to the BPC office.

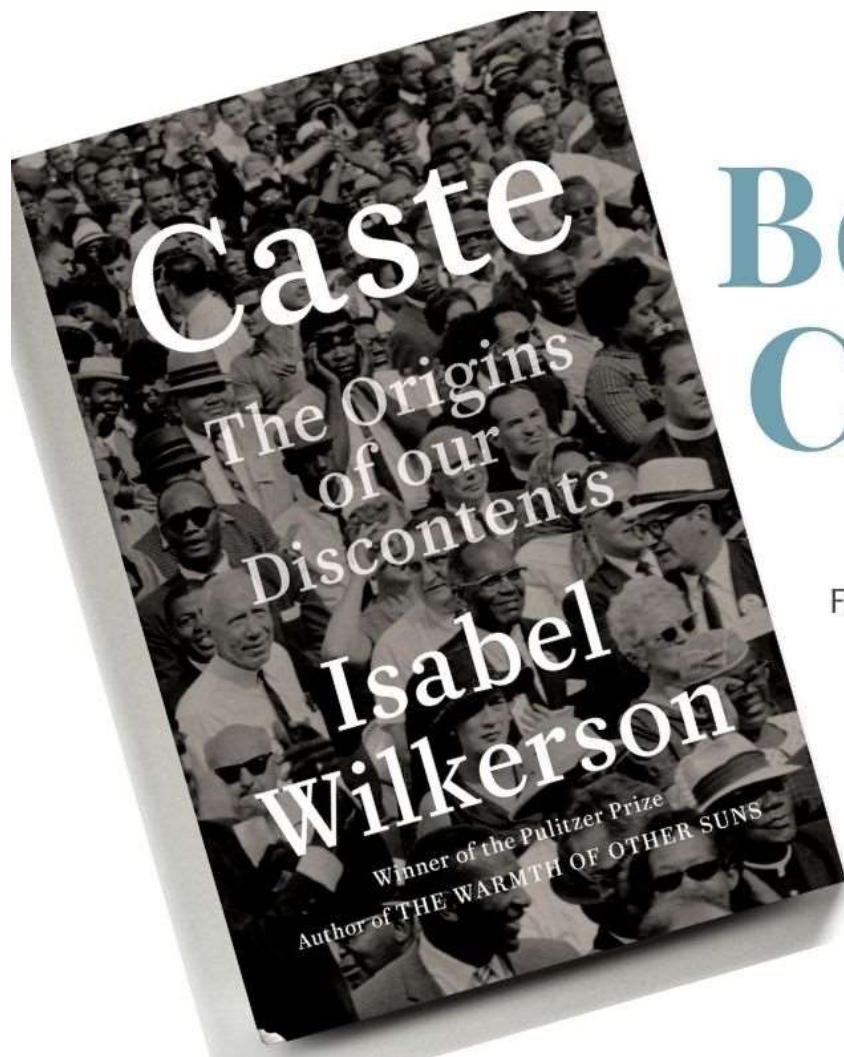
Please sign up no later than one week prior to the Sunday you want to sponsor flowers to ensure that your dedication gets placed in the bulletin.



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! **The next lunch is July 13th.**



Our next Communion is Sunday, July 4th



Book Club

Join us on Zoom
First and Third Mondays
at 7:00 p.m.



There will be no Book Club on July 5th due to the holiday.

**We will be discussing Section 5 at our next meeting
on July 19th**



Join a group of people with diverse faith backgrounds for an exchange of ideas. We are still meeting virtually via Zoom the second Tuesday of each month at 8pm. All are welcome. Please contact Sharon Seidell at sps1256s@gmail.com if you are interested.

Information to come next week on the following topics

Bible Study

The Farm

The Food Bank

Upcoming Events at a Glance



- **Monday, July 5th** – **Office Closed** - No Book Club
- **Tuesday, July 6th** – **Office Closed**
- **Friday, July 9th** - View Sunday's Order of Worship. It will be available on our website by 3 pm.
- **Sunday, July 11th** - Worship with us either in person or virtually by accessing the Sunday worship link on our website.
- **Tuesday, July 13th** - Lunch with Friends
- **Tuesday, July 13th** – Pub Theology
- **Monday, July 19th** - Book Club

Bedford Presbyterian Church Staff

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
Edwin & Ellida Acevedo, Building & Grounds Maintenance

Sunday Worship Service in person and virtual at 10:00 am

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