

# BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*Still Life* by William H. Johnson

**Candlemas**  
**Presentation of the Lord**  
**January 30, 2022**

This is the Presentation of the Lord Sunday, also known as Candlemas. We remember how Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the temple, and how Jesus met Prophet Anna and Simeon.

Also, on this day, we bless the sanctuary lamps. We will give you candles, as a symbol that Jesus is the light of the world, and as Christians, we bear the light of the world.

**Prelude** *Praeludium in F* G. Bohm

**Introit** *Holy, Holy, Holy* G. Thalben-Ball

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship from Psalm 24**

Leader: The earth is God's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.

**People: For God has founded the earth on the seas and established it on the rivers.**

Leader: Those who ascend the hill and stand in the holy place will receive blessing from God.

**People: Lift up your heads, O gates! Be lifted up, O ancient doors! So that the Holy One might enter.**

\* **Opening Hymn 376** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

**Confession**

**God, we have harmed our neighbors in what we have thought, said, and done. We have hurt our loved ones through our ignorance, through our weakness, and through our own deliberate fault. We have wounded your**

**love and marred your image in us. We are sorry. Forgive us for the past we cannot change and lead us into a future where we can be changed. Help us to walk in the color and diversity that only light can reveal.**

(Silent confession)

Amen.

## **Pardon**

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

## **Sung Response**

Jesus loves me! This I know,  
For the Bible tells me so;  
Little ones to Him belong;  
They are weak, but He is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
The Bible tells me so.

## **Time with the Children**

*The children can leave for Sunday Spirit.*

## **Epistle Lesson**

*I Corinthians 13:1-13*

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

**Anthem**

*God Is Light*

Harry Bramma

**Gospel Lesson**

*Luke 2:22-40*

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

**Sermon** *Peace for my Turmoil* Carol Howard Merritt

**Offering**

**Anthem** *Thou Wilt Keep Him in Perfect Peace* Samuel Wesley

**\*Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Joys and Concerns**

## Blessing of the Candles

### 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.

\* **Procession** *The Peace of the Earth* John Bell

### \*Charge and Blessing

\***Sung Response** *Sevenfold Amen* J. Stainer

\***Postlude** *Dialogue* N. deGrigny





# SPIRITUALITY GROUP

*We will be working through various spiritual practices from Julia Cameron's *The Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity* in order to re-ground our sense of self and our sense of faith.*

*Wednesdays at 7pm  
via zoom  
2/2, 2/9 & 2/16*

*The Zoom link for the meeting can be found on our website.*



**Read about our cover artist by using this QR code.**

During this church season, we are focusing on Howard Thurman's prayer, "Open unto me." Our covers feature doors painted by artists from the Harlem Renaissance.



## Join the Bedford Bellringers

The Bedford Bellringers have been playing together for over 60 years at BPC. The Bellringers play 3-4 times a year and rehearse on Tuesday evenings, for a few weeks prior to performances. If you are interested in playing with the bells or have any questions, please contact Heidi Michaels at [hmichaels425@gmail.com](mailto:hmichaels425@gmail.com).



## Joyful Noise Children's Choir

At Bedford Presbyterian Church, we LOVE music. We believe every child should have the chance to sing and find their voice. We are asking children of all ages to join us throughout the year. All the songs will be posted on-line well in advance of our singing and we will rehearse the song the morning of our sharing. Simple!

Please email Don Dupont with any questions at [dondupont@outlook.com](mailto:dondupont@outlook.com).

Parents, go to our website to join the Joyful Noise's Google Classroom!





Northern Westchester  
Refugee Resettlement Initiative  
resetwestchester@gmail.com

**Through ReSET\* we will be working with a family that is resettling from Afghanistan.**

**This is an ongoing mission that will need the help of many. Volunteers of all types of involvement are needed and welcomed. If you would like to volunteer email resetwestchester@gmail.com.**

**We currently need gift cards to Target, Khol's or Visa so that we can help the family settle and get everything they need. Gift cards can be dropped off at the church office or email Elyssa to coordinate other arrangements.**

\*Bedford Presbyterian Church, Temple Beth El, Temple Shaaray Tefila, Antioch Baptist Church & other local organizations have joined together to form an initiative called ReSET (Northern Westchester Refugee Resettlement Initiative). ReSET will play a direct role in helping refugees establish new homes in Northern Westchester.

**Bible Study meets via Zoom, every Thursday at 10 am.**

Contact Alan McDougal at [alanmcd@verizon.net](mailto:alanmcd@verizon.net) for the Zoom link.

# SECOND SUNDAY SOUP



We will be having Second Sunday Soup on Feb. 13th and March 13th! We are looking for volunteers to make soup for each of these weekends. Please email Sarah Ryan to sign up. Sarahryan237@gmail.com

## Bulletin & Weekly E-NEWS 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](http://bedfordpreschurch.org) and select either '**Contact**' at the top *or* **E-NEWS** just below it. To have information entered into the Bulletin and/or the E-NEWS, please email both Elyssa and Jessica by the end of the day Tuesdays for entry into that week's media.

[Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org](mailto:Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org)

[Office@bedfordpreschurch.org](mailto:Office@bedfordpreschurch.org)

# MIDNIGHT RUN

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**F r i d a y , M a r c h 4 t h**  
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*We will be holding a Midnight Run on Friday, March 4th.*

*We are looking for donations of new or gently used items. Please see the sign up genius for specific items.*

*We also need people to join us on the run. Please email*

*Courtney if you would like to attend.*

*[Courtney@bedfordpreschurch.org](mailto:Courtney@bedfordpreschurch.org)*

## **Upcoming Events at a Glance**

- **Sunday, January 30th** - Worship at 10 am.
- **Monday, January 31st** – **NO YOGA.**
- **Tuesday, February 1st** – Quilting at 1 pm.
- **Wednesday, February 2nd** – Spirituality at 7 pm.
- **Thursday, February 3rd** - Bible Study at 10 am.
- **Sunday, February 6th** - Sunday Worship & Communion at 10 am.

## **Staff**

The Reverend Carol Howard Merritt, Pastor  
Courtney Steininger, Director of Christian Education & Youth  
John Lettieri, Director of Music  
Elyssa Michaels, Director of Congregational Life & Digital Ministries  
Jessica DeAlto, Office Manager  
Edwin Acevedo, Building & Grounds Maintenance  
The Reverend Thomas A. Hughart, Pastor Emeritus

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## **Our Leadership**

### **Session**

**Clerk of Session Brian Hiller-Dupont**, Linda Burpee,  
Alison Cape, **President Jeanne Collins**,  
Michelle Gosh, Alan McDougall, & Suzanne Millette  
Moderator Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

### **Deacons**

**Chair Don Hiller-Dupont**, Sarah Alley, Marcy Carlson,  
Kathy DiBiasi, Michele Eames, Pat Ferguson,  
Kim Lapple, Natasha Mast, Rebecca Rivard, & Sarah Ryan