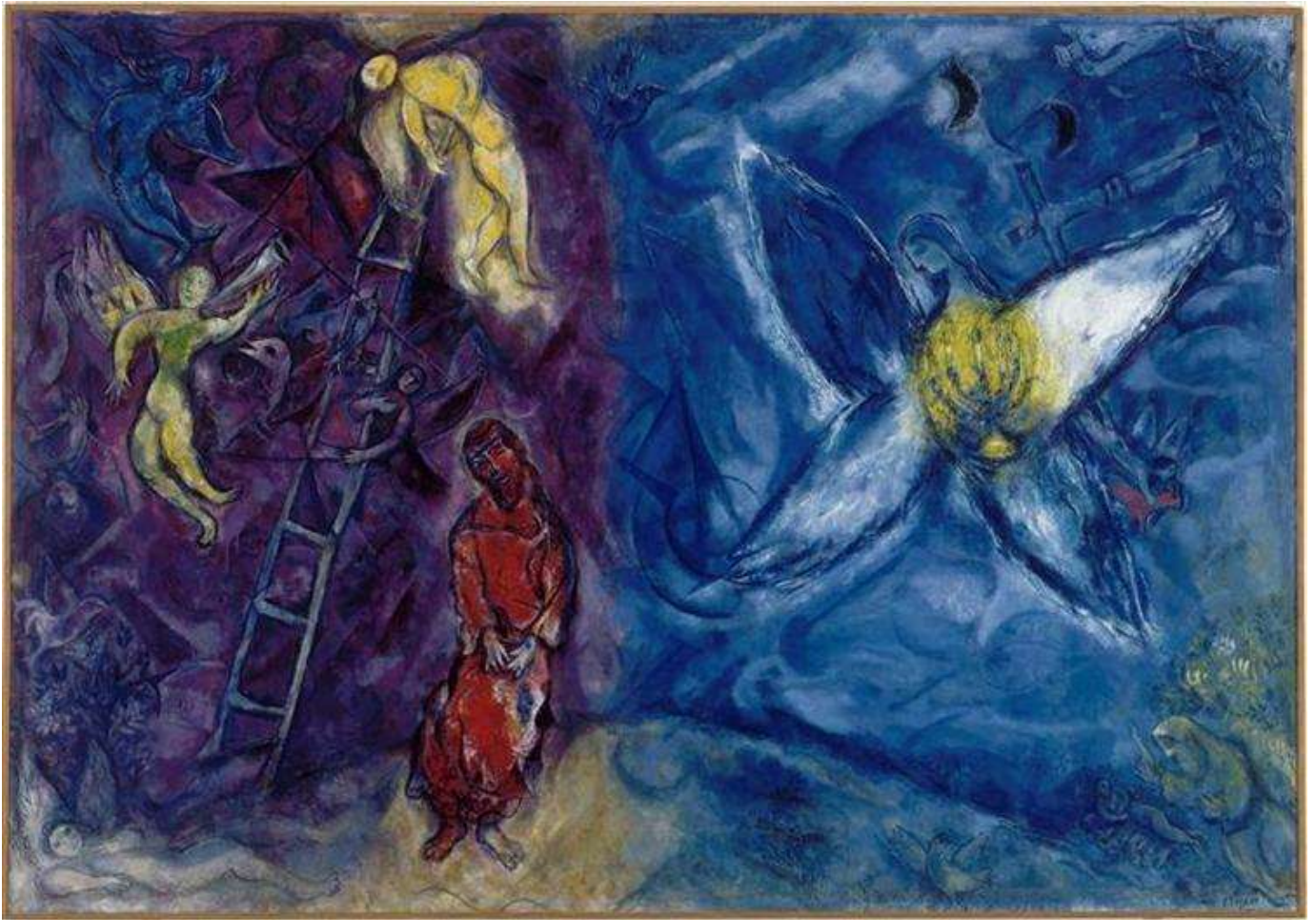




# BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"The Jacob's Dream" by Marc Chagall

# NOVEMBER 27, 2022

## First Sunday of Advent

**Prelude**

*Wake, Awake!*

J. S. Bach

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Lighting the Advent Candles**

Reader 1: This Advent season, we hear the stories of dreams and the longings of God's people.

Reader 2: On this first Sunday of Advent, we remember the invitation of John the Baptist to ponder and dream with him about the coming of God's reign.

Reader 1: He was a voice calling out in the wilderness, inviting all to dream with him.

Reader 2: He prophesied the Messiah, a world filled with justice and without hunger, and baptisms by the Holy Spirit and by fire.

**All: We light this candle, remembering our dreams and longings. We enter this Advent season, sharing John the Baptist's dream about baptisms by fire, God's reign, and peace that endures forever.**

(Light the first candle.)

**Prayer**

**All: Gracious God, grant us the imagination to dream big, the energy to keep dreaming, the love to share our dreams with others, and the intelligence to realize our dreams. In the name of Jesus, the incarnation of God's dream for the world. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn 9**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

## Confession

### Call to Confession

**God of justice, we confess that we pursue our own dreams and desires instead of Your dreams. Forgive the poverty of our imagining, for we fail to create the world of which You dream. We confess our dreaming to You, and ask for Your dreams of how the world could be. Release creativity in us, free our imaginations. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.**

(Silent Confession)

### Assurance of Pardon

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

**People: And also with you.**

### Passing of the Peace

### Time with the Children

*The children are welcome to stay for the service or they may leave for Sunday Spirit.*

### Hebrew Bible Lesson

*Isaiah 2: 1-5*

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come  
the mountain of the Lord's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,  
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.  
He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD!

**Anthem**                      *E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*                      Paul Manz

**Gospel Lesson**                      *Matthew 3:1-12*

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

**\*Hymn 10**            *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

**Sermon**                            *For the Dreamers*            Courtney Steininger

**Joys and Concerns**

**Prayers of the People and 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.**

**Offering**

**Anthem**                            *Alma Redemptoris Mater*            G. P. Palestrina  
(Loving Mother of the Redeemer)

**\*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**

**\*Hymn 13**                            *Prepare the Way*

**\*Charge and Blessing**

**Benediction Response**

*Twofold Amen*

James McGregor

**\*Postlude**

*Toccata in E*

Johann Pachelbel

\*Please rise, if able.

**Announcements**

*Please fill out the pew pads and pass them  
to your neighbor.*





## Update from Session

Dear Friends,

We are in the process of finalizing the Executive Summary from the Holy Cow survey. We hope to be able to share this summary with you in the coming weeks.

## 2022 QUILT RAFFLE



### "Garden Trellis Quilt

FOR THE PAST 15 YEARS, JEAN PALMER'S DAUGHTER, ABBY GROVES, HAS BEEN EMBROIDERING EXQUISITE LABELS FOR US WHILE LIVING IN NORTH CAROLINA. THANK YOU, ABBY!

The 2022 Garden Trellis Quilt is queen sized and hand-quilted by the Bedford Quilters. It will be raffled at our annual Mistletoe Mart on December 3rd. All proceeds go towards programs and mission projects at BPC and you can purchase tickets at the Bedford Free Library this Friday and Saturday. Single tickets are \$5 each or a booklet of 5 is \$20. Not on our mailing list and want to receive a booklet? Call the office 914-234-3672 to order your tickets and be entered in the quilt raffle. You need not be present to win!!

**DON'T FORGET TO RETURN YOUR  
RAFFLE TICKETSTUB(S)  
TO THE CHURCH**

# 2022 MISTLETOE MART

*Here are some ways to get involved*

## **Volunteer**

Want to volunteer a couple of hours to help out at the Mart? Call or text Judy Newton at 914-523-1324 or email at julianewton@yahoo.com.

## **Mistletoe Mart Bake Sale**

Calling All Bakers!! Are you looking for an easy way to get involved and help support the Mistletoe Mart? If you enjoy baking we would love your help!

Please use the SignUpGenius in the enews or contact Sharon Seidell at sps1256s@gmail.com to join in the fun!

## **Donations Needed: Vintage Treasures**

We are looking for new or old Christmas/holiday decorations. Any other treasures that you would like to donate would be greatly appreciated. They do not have to be holiday. They will be part of the Mistletoe Mart's sale.

If you would like to donate, please contact:  
Vickie Dey: 914-419-9062 | vdey1@optonline.net or  
Pat Ferguson: 914-234-7833 | pkferg1@gmail.com

**\*Donation pickup available**

## **Wreath Making**

Join Mary Lou Pappas on Wednesday, Nov. 30th from 9am-5pm at the Church for wreath making! Come for an hour or come all day! Help us to make wreaths to sell. You can even make your own wreath to purchase.



# Chili for Mistletoe Mart



Sign up to cook chili, contribute supplies for chili or hot drinks, and loan out your crock-pots!



All proceeds from selling chili, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate go to the youth mission program. Contact Courtney to sign up.

Save the Date

## Annual Senior Citizens Christmas Luncheon, *in honor of Millie Kane*

Wednesday, December 7th  
12 - 2 pm in Fellowship Hall

Come join us for some good cheer, food & Christmas carols during our annual luncheon. This is for senior congregation members, age 65 and older. Please RSVP to the church office by Nov. 27th at (914)-234-3672 x1001 or [Office@bedfordpreschurch.org](mailto:Office@bedfordpreschurch.org). Please make sure to mention the number & names of the people who are in your party.

We are also looking for volunteers to help serve, clean up or make a dish. Please call Vickie Dey at (914)419-9062 or email [vdeyl@optonline.net](mailto:vdeyl@optonline.net).





# THOSE WHO *dream*



BPC's Advent theme this year is "Those Who Dream." During worship, we are considering the dreams of key players in the Christmas story each week. Advent I we will focus on John the Baptist, followed by Elizabeth and Zechariah, Joseph, and Mary. On Christmas Eve, we will consider the dreams of the shepherds.

Additionally, the Christian Education Committee put together a devotional resource entitled "Those Who Dream." Read this devotional and pray about the Christmas Dreams of member of our own congregation while you consider your own dreams for the world this Advent season.



# CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & GREENS

**Please help us decorate the church for Christmas!**

A \$25.00 donation will help us beautify the church, and along with your donation, you can make a dedication to anyone you would like. Your name along with your dedication will go in our bulletin and E-NEWS.

**The deadline is Sunday, December 11th.**

Donations & dedications can be mailed to the church, made on the website under “donate” tab or call the church office at **914-234-3672** or email

## DECORATORS' LUNCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

Join us after the service to help us decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season!



## Dove Tree

A BPC tradition, the Dove Tree provides opportunities for alternative giving during the Advent season. Individuals and families can visit the Tree to learn about various organizations--such as A-HOME, Midnight Run, ESP--and select a gift to donate. Donations can be made in the form of cash or check and the person donating will receive a dove for their tree. Members of the mission committee will then purchase the donated items.

**Purchases can be made at the Mistletoe Mart on Saturday, 12/3 or on the following Sundays during coffee hour: 12/4, 12/11 or 12/18.**



## Advent Class for Middle and High School Youth

*9:15 am on December 4 and 18*

*Participants will be invited to help lead worship on December 18!*





## Calling All Kids: Christmas Pageant & Choir Opportunity

After the service on December 11th, we will have our annual Christmas Pageant.

The Joyful Noise Children's Choir will be singing at the 5 pm Christmas Eve Service.

If your child would like to participate in either event, please email

Don Hiller-Dupont at [dondupont@outlook.com](mailto:dondupont@outlook.com).



## RSVP for the Mission Trip















LA GUAMA,  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
FEB 18 - FEB 25, 2023

TO RESERVE YOUR  
SPOT, EMAIL  
COURTNEY

NOV 27 - DEC 3, 2022

Probable State of the Weather (with Moon Cycle)

Bedford Village, NY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						
						
Rainy 52°	Partly Cloudy 49°	Mostly Sunny 41°	Partly Cloudy 45°	Showers 50°	Partly Cloudy 42°	AM Showers 42°

## WHAT WE ARE READING

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.

*Isaiah 2:1-3*

PHRASE OF THE WEEK

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# EMERGENCY SHELTER PARTNERSHIP

## DECEMBER 26 - JANUARY 1



ESP starts on Monday, December 26th. We are looking for volunteers to bring dinner, desserts, snacks, and drinks or sign up to be a back up volunteer.

Specific details for each of these items are on the SignUpGenius. We will again be hosting ESP at our church so you can cook your meal at the church or bring it with you to heat it up.

Email Elyssa with any questions. [Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org](mailto:Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org).

## **SECOND SUNDAY SOUP**

### **Volunteers Needed**

We are looking for two volunteers for Second Sunday Soup on  
December 11th, January 8th,  
February 12th, and March 12th.

If you are interested, please contact  
Diane Palmento at [skippyhouse@aol.com](mailto:skippyhouse@aol.com).

## **Upcoming Events at a Glance**

### **Sunday, November 27th**

10:00 am      Worship and First Sunday of Advent.

### **Monday, November 28th**

9:00 am      Yoga at 9 am.

### **Tuesday, November 29th**

1:00 pm      Quilters.

7:15 pm      Bells Practice.

### **Wednesday, November 30th**

9 – 5 pm      Wreath Decorating.

### **Thursday, December 1st**

10:00 am      Bible Study. Please contact Alan McDougall  
at [alanmcd@verizon.net](mailto:alanmcd@verizon.net).

### **Saturday, December 3rd**

9 - 3 pm      Mistletoe Mart.

### **Sunday, December 4th**

10:00 am      Worship, Second Sunday of Advent and  
Children's Offering.

## **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 at [Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org](mailto:Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org) and Jessica at [Office@bedfordpreschurch.org](mailto:Office@bedfordpreschurch.org) by the end of the day Tuesdays for entry into that week's media.

### **Our Leadership**

#### **Session**

**Clerk of Session Brian Hiller-Dupont, President Michelle Gosh,**  
Linda Burpee, Jessica Cunningham, Danielle Gamar,  
Maria Andrea Laverde,  
Suzanne Millette, Sarah Ryan, & Bart Tyler  
Moderator Reverend Carol Howard Merritt

#### **Deacons**

**Chair Kim Lapple,** Sarah Alley, Marcy Carlson,  
Kathy DiBiasi, Michele Eames, Pat Ferguson, & Diane Palmento

#### **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  
The Reverend Thomas A. Hughart, Pastor Emeritus

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