



BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



“Couple and Fish” by Marc Chagall

December 11, 2022
Third Sunday of Advent

Prelude *Come, Savior of the Nations* J. S. Bach

Introit *Veni Immanuel* John Bell

Ringling of the Bells

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

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

Reader 2: On this third Sunday of Advent, we remember that Joseph was dreaming when he learned of God's plan for him.

Reader 1: (Re-light the first and second candle.) While he was sleeping, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph, announcing that Mary would bear a son. He would be named Emmanuel, which means God is with us.

Reader 2: Joseph awoke from sleep, and carried out all that was told to him in his dream. He stood by Mary and named her precious baby Jesus.

All: We light the third candle, remembering our dreams and longings. This candle of joy reminds us that while God's dreams may differ from our own, they will always bring joy and love into our hearts.

(Light the third 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

Confession

Loving God, in this time of Advent, we confess that we become so distracted by the busyness and stress of the celebration that we have forgotten to savor the love that surrounds us. You appear when we least expect it, but we do not always recognize your presence. Grant us joy for our despair, grace for our turmoil, and forgiveness for our offenses. Pour peace into our lives so that we might share peace with one another, through your Spirit.

(Silent confession)

Assurance of Pardon

*Passing of the Peace

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

People: And also with you.

Anthem

Christmas Joy
Bedford Bellringers

Michael Helman

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him 'Emmanuel,' which means, "God is with us."

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but they did not come together until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

Anthem

Lullaby Carol arr. Barbara Baltzer Kinyon
Bedford Bellringers

Sermon

*Hymn 3

Comfort, Comfort You My People

Offering

Anthem

Dixit Maria
(And Mary said to the Angel)

Hans Leo Hassler

*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**

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

Prayers 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.

***Hymn 12** *People, Look East*

***Charge and Blessing**

***Benediction Response** Fourfold Amen John Stainer

***Postlude** Rejoice Greatly, O My Soul Johann Krebs

*Please rise, if able.

Announcements

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



*Flowers in the sanctuary were donated by
The Glad Hayes Family,
in memory of George F. Glad.*



Together

Together we give.
Together we share.



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Cookies Needed!!

The **Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry** will be distributing red holiday bags with some special items for pantry clients. The pantry is requesting 'store bought' packaged cookies (no tins and no larger than approximately 1 pound) to include in the bags. A donation box will be available in the church vestibule and our goal is to receive 30 packages of cookies by **December 15th**. For questions or more information, please contact **Cecilia Rosenblum** at: **914-645-2096** or **clr4tny@optonline.net**.



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.



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 on the following Sundays during coffee hour: December 11th or 18th.

Christmas Crafts & Carols

Sunday, December 11th at 6 pm

Join us for holiday crafts and carols from Mannes Musicians



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 **Office@bedfordpreschurch.org**.





CHILDREN'S OFFERING

Next Sunday: December 18

This will be the last Children's Offering of the year! Each year, the Presbyterian Mission Agency publishes the Presbyterian Giving Catalog, an opportunity to make specific small gifts that can make a big impact. Our children voted to put the Children's Offering money towards a community garden.

For more information, visit presbyteriangifts.org.



Community Garden

More than 23 million Americans live in food deserts, typically low-income neighborhoods where fresh, affordable food is nearly impossible to find. With few healthy food choices, residents in these areas often experience lasting health effects, like higher rates of diabetes. Community gardens supply nutritious produce where it's most needed, while providing employment and educational opportunities that nurture communities:



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Christmas Eve Services

5 PM - FAMILY SERVICE,
JOYFUL NOISE SINGS,
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

7 PM - CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

9 PM - CHOIR, CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Did you know...

The history of the Christmas wreath is multifaceted. Wreaths were originally used as decorations for Christmas trees, made from branches that were trimmed. The round shape symbolizes eternal life, and Christmas wreaths can also be understood as a symbol of Christ. The holly represents the crown of thorns Jesus wore at his crucifixion and the red berries stand for the blood he shed.

Confirmation class is an opportunity for 9th and 10th grade students and older to think about what they believe about God and Christianity, to explore our Presbyterian tradition as well as other Christian and non-Christian traditions, and to think critically about the world around them. At the end of the Confirmation class, students are given the opportunity to become adult members of the Church and "confirm" their baptism (or become baptized if they were not baptized as children).

If your child is interested in participating in this year's confirmation class, please email Courtney at courtney@bedfordpreschurch.org.

Christmas Day Brunch Church

Join us in Fellowship Hall for a combined worship service and community meal.

December 25, 2022

10 AM

All are welcome!





RSVP for the Mission Trip

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

TO RESERVE YOUR
SPOT, EMAIL
COURTNEY

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.

DEC 11 - 17, 2022

Probable State of the Weather (with Moon Cycle)

Bedford Village, NY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						
						
PM Rain 40°	AM Clouds 39°	Mostly Sunny 39°	PM Showers 43°	Showers 46°	Rain/Snow Showers 46°	Partly Cloudy 42°

WHAT WE ARE READING

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord— and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

Isaiah 11:2-4a

PHRASE OF THE WEEK

root stock

N | F

To all the wonderful Mistletoe Mart volunteers!

Thank you so much for the gift of your time and energy. The Mistletoe Mart is a result of all men and women in the church working together in loving concern for our church and each other while serving to help meet the needs of our church and community. This event cannot be done without your help!

Update from Session

Dear Friends,

After dissecting the results of the Holy Cow assessment, Session has determined the need for a Visioning Committee.

The individuals involved in this work will further examine the



results of the Holy Cow assessment, as well as take stock of any other relevant information, in order to make recommendations to Session as to the next steps in order to help make this Congregation even stronger. We anticipate a small steering committee, supported by a

number of other roles that help us work to further strengthen who we are and who we hope to be. If you are interested in being a part of this effort, please scan the QR Code to fill out this form to express your interest or call or email

Michelle Gosh at **845-721-2182** or **ms_gosh@hotmail.com**.

SECOND SUNDAY SOUP

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for two volunteers for Second Sunday Soup on

January 8th,

February 12th, and March 12th.

If you are interested, please contact

Diane Palmento at **skippyhouse@aol.com**.



Upcoming Events at a Glance

Sunday, December 11th

- 10:00 am Worship, Third Sunday of Advent, Bells Play &
- 11:00 am Christmas Pageant & Second Sunday Soup.
- 4:00 pm Skylark Concert.
- 6:00 pm Christmas Crafts & Carols.

Monday, December 12th

- 9:00 am Yoga at 9 am.

Tuesday, December 13th

- 12:30 pm Lunch with Friends.

Thursday, December 15th

- 10:00 am Bible Study. Please contact Alan McDougall
at alanmcd@verizon.net.

Sunday, December 18th

- 10:00 am Worship, Children's Offering.
- 11:00 am Decorator's Lunch.

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 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 and Jessica at 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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