



BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Madonna of the Village by Marc Chagall

December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Claude Balbastre

Where Are These Happy Shepherds Going?

Introit

French Carol arr. Gustav Holst

Let All Mortal Flesh Be Silent

Ringling of the Bells

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Henry & Charlie Tate

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

Reader 2: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we consider how many of Mary's dreams for herself had to change when she found out she was pregnant.

Reader 1: (Re-light the first, second, and third candles.) Mary continued dreaming and following God's dream for her life.

Reader 2: She envisioned a world where she would be called blessed and the hungry were filled with good things.

All: We light the fourth candle, remembering our dreams and longings. The light of this candle magnifies the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in God and God's dreams for the world.

(Light the fourth 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 49 *Once in Royal David's City*

The First Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

Madison Kalarchian
Anabelle Ryan

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Carol

Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming

Michael Praetorius

The Second Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

Luke Ryan

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because

he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Carol

French Carol arr. Healey Willan

What Is This Lovely Fragrance?

Time with the Children

The children may leave for Sunday Spirit after Time with the Children.

The Third Lesson

Luke 2:8-20

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds

returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Carol 23

Angels We Have Heard on High

Homily

The Fourth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-11

*Ava Rose Kalarchian
Ruby Steins*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Offering & Children's Offering

Carol

English Carol arr. John Rutter

Sans Day Carol

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication and Lord's Prayer**

The Fifth Lesson

John 1:1-14

Kody Alvarez
Matteus Steins

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Carol 31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

***Charge and Blessing**

***Postlude**

Fugue on the Magnificat

J. S. Bach

*Please rise, if able.

Announcements

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



Thank you to the following people who so generously donated the beautiful flowers & greens in the sanctuary.

Bradley & Tate Atkinson

For Emma Grace Atkinson, miraculously born in August 2022.

The Bentzen Family

In deep gratitude for the blessings of home, health, family and friends.

Jana & Richard Bertkau

In memory of William, Frances and Elise Bertkau.

Bob & Hope Black

In loving memory of their parents, Margaret and Charles Hunter and Faye and Frank Black.

Bing & Marcy Carlson

To our wonderful family, the members we've loved being with recently and those we've lost.

Eleanor Cox

In memory of Lloyd Cox, Jr.

Peter & Kathy DiBiasi

In honor of the people of Ukraine.

Victor & Linda Fried

In honor of the BPC Quilters.

Marilyn Hermansen

In loving memory of Roy W. Hermansen.

Judy & Simon Newton

Dedicated to the wonderful, supportive volunteers who make the Mistletoe Mart a success every year!

Jean Palmer

In memory of loved ones and especially Joe, my better half.

Courtney Steininger

To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Marie Naddeo Melville. Merry Christmas!

Andrew Strawcutter

With love and gratitude for Daddy, born on Christmas Day 1926.

Kirsten Tegtmeier & Carter Kramer

Happy 1st Christmas to our Niece, Emma! Love Aunt Kir and Uncle Carter.

Rick & Tracy Tegtmeier

In memory of Bette Lou and Bob Mann, Adele Tegtmeier, & Brenda Kelly Cohn.

Kim & Jeff Touzeau

Flowers are given in celebration of our parents, Bing and Marcy Carlson, and Don and Lorrie Touzeau, who have shared so many Christmas Eves with us in this beautiful place. Merry Christmas!

Matt Valenti & Jeanne Collins

For our family.



CHILDREN'S OFFERING

Today During Worship

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.



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 during coffee hour on Sunday, December 18th.



Calling All Kids:

Choir Opportunity

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

If your child would like to participate, please email

Don Hiller-Dupont at dondupont@outlook.com.



BEDFORD
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve Services

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

7 PM - CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

9 PM - CHOIR, CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Did you know... prior to various cathedrals adapting Services of Lessons and Carols at the end of the 19th century, Christmas carols were normal sung by individuals visiting people's houses. Carols were generally considered secular until the Victorian era, when church musicians introduced carols into worship. The original Service of Lessons and Carols is often attributed to King's College, Cambridge, but Truro Cathedral in Cornwall likely had the first Festival of Lessons and Carols.

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!



Thank You, Mary Lou Pappas

Many thanks go out to Mary Lou for her help and abundant talent in beautifying BPC with flowers throughout the year and especially at Christmas Time.



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 18 - 24, 2022

Probable State of the Weather (with Moon Cycle)

Bedford Village, NY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						
						
Mostly Sunny 37°	Mostly Sunny 37°	Mostly Sunny 36°	Partly Cloudy 33°	Snow Showers 38°	Rain/Snow 33°	Partly Cloudy 28°

WHAT WE ARE READING

December 18 is International Migrants Day.

- "Remember, remember always, that all of us, and you and I especially are descended from immigrants and revolutionists." - *Franklin D Roosevelt*
- "We can't deter people fleeing for their lives. They will come. The choice we have is how well we manage their arrival, and how humanely." - *Antonio Guterres*

PHRASE OF THE WEEK
dispersion

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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 18th

- 10 am Worship, Fourth Sunday of Advent.
- 11 am Decorator's Lunch.
- 6 pm Christmas Crafts & Carols.

Monday, December 19th

- 9 am Yoga.

Thursday, December 22nd

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

Saturday, December 24th

- 5 pm Family Service, Joyful Noise Sings & Candlelight Service.
- 7 pm Candlelight Service.
- 9 pm Choir & Candlelight Service.

Sunday, December 25th

- 10:00 am Worship & Christmas Day Brunch Church.

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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