

# BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*Mother Hen* by Lauren Wright Pittman

# Fifth Sunday in Lent

## April 3, 2022

Prelude *Meditation* C. M. Widor

Introit *Lord, Have Mercy* Swee Hong Lim

### Welcome and Announcements

#### \*Call to Worship

Leader: O God, you are our God. We seek you.

**People: Our souls thirst for you as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.**

Leader: Restore our fortunes, Lord, just as streams renew the desert.

**People: Those who plant in tears will harvest with songs of joy.**

Leader: O God, you satisfy our souls as with a rich feast. In the shadow of your wings, we sing for joy, and you uphold us.

**People: We are your people; let us worship God.**

\*Opening Hymn 391 *Take My Life*

### Confession

#### Call to Confession

**God of light and darkness, we have seen the glimmer of your starlight beckoning us, but we have turned away and followed other paths. We confess that we have not loved you with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We struggle with the stories of faith. We read them as if you only worked in ancient times. Open us, so that these stories might form us and reform us now. We worship with set patterns with no vulnerability for the imagination. And we pray as if we are too scared to see what God may be doing with us or through**

**us. Forgive us, Holy One. Strengthen our faltering steps and guide us in your holy way of peace.**

(Silent Confession)

### **Pardon**

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

**People: And also with you.**

**Sung Response 303** *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

**Jesus, lover of my soul, Let me to Thy bosom fly,  
While the nearer waters roll, While the tempest still is high:  
Hide me, O my Savior, hide, Till the storm of life is past;  
Safe into the haven guide; O receive my soul at last!**

### **Time with the Children**

*The children can leave for Sunday Spirit.*

### **Hebrew Bible Lesson**

*Isaiah 43:16-21*

Thus says the Lord,  
    who makes a way in the sea,  
    a path in the mighty waters,  
who brings out chariot and horse,  
    army and warrior;  
they lie down, they cannot rise,  
    they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:  
Do not remember the former things,  
    or consider the things of old.  
I am about to do a new thing;  
    now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
    and rivers in the desert.

The wild animals will honor me,  
the jackals and the ostriches;  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

**Anthem**

*Lord, I Trust Thee*

G. F. Handel

**Gospel Lesson**

*John 12:1-8*

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

**Sermon**

*Rivers in the Desert*

Courtney Steininger

**Offering**

**Anthem**

*God So Loved the World*

John Stainer

**\*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**

### **Communion**

#### **Invitation to the Table**

#### **Great Thanksgiving**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to God...

#### **Breaking of the Bread**

#### **\*Communion**

*Prelude and Fugue in F# minor, Book Two*

J.S. Bach

Rowan Pedraza, Piano

#### **Prayer after Communion 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 436**

*We Are Your People*

#### **\*Charge and Blessing**

#### **\*Sung Response**

*Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing*

John Stainer

#### **\*Postlude**

*Dialogue – Agnus Dei*

Francois Couperin

## About the "Inner Journey" Banner

Lent is a time of fasting, prayer, and transformation. A time to journey within, to empty ourselves and make room for God. The fieldstone path symbolizes this Inner Journey. There are forty stones representing the forty days Jesus spent praying in the wilderness. I handpainted the dusty, ashen, and desert-like colors to reflect the mood of the unknown. Who knows where our journeys will lead us?

--Karen Eckmeier



This week's flowers have been donated by  
**The DiCorpo Family,**  
*in honor of*  
***Evandro and Felicia DiCorpo.***

*Remember Holy Week with us.*

## **Maundy Thursday Service**

**Thursday, April 14th - 7 pm**



On the night before he was arrested, Jesus joined with his friends for a meal. We will also gather together in Fellowship Hall on April 14th at 7 pm for a service to share a simple meal.

*Remember Holy Week with us.*

## **Good Friday Service**

Online Premier:  
Friday, April 15th - 12 pm

In lieu of a traditional Good Friday service, our confirmands have prepared a video vigil. That video will be available on our YouTube page at noon.



## Nativity Farm Opening Work Days

APRIL 14, 15 & 16

Join us as we build up our soil and build up each other!  
Let's build relationships and build our learning garden!

### **FEATURED WORKSHOP: Compost & Resurrection**

Introduction to a natural theology of resurrection  
with a focus on soil health &  
regenerative agriculture

**April 16th at 12:00 p.m.**



# Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 10th

During Worship,  
children  
are invited to play  
tone chimes and  
participate in the  
processional.



# Easter Reception Volunteers Needed

We will be having our Easter Reception at 10 am, between the services. We need volunteers to help us make this a success. We need people to sign up for the various food items we need that day.

Go to the website to sign up for items.

If you have any questions please email Pat Ferguson - [pkferg1@gmail.com](mailto:pkferg1@gmail.com) or  
Marcy Carlson - [marciabcarlson@gmail.com](mailto:marciabcarlson@gmail.com).



## Easter Services

Sunday, April 17th  
9 am & 11 am



## Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 17th

Easter Egg Hunt at  
10 am  
(in between 9 am &  
11 am services).





# ***Easter Flowers***

Help us decorate the church for  
Easter!

*With a \$25 donation you can add flowers to the sanctuary. You may also submit a dedication that will appear in the Sunday bulletin.*

You can pay by check or on our website. Dedications should be email or mailed to the office. Deadline is April 9th.



## **Congregational Meeting**

In person,  
Sunday, April 24th - 11 am



Northern Westchester  
Refugee Resettlement Initiative  
resetwestchester@gmail.com

We are excited that through ReSET Westchester, we now are helping three refugee families!

We are currently looking for financial donations to help support the families and organization. A link is available on our website to donate. Checks can be made payable to Neighbors Link (ReSET on memo line) and dropped at the church.

This is an ongoing mission that will need the help of many. Volunteers of all types of involvement are needed and welcomed. There are many committees within ReSET ranging from education, finance, youth, housing, etc. We also need drivers to bring the families to their appointments and such. We would love to have you involved! If you would like to volunteer email resetwestchester@gmail.com.

Email Elyssa Michaels or Linda Burpee with any questions.

**Communion is being held today, and on the  
1st Sunday of every month.**



# CARD WRITING REQUESTS



If you know of anyone who could use a card from the church for any reason please reach out to Kate Branch ([Katebranch@gmail.com](mailto:Katebranch@gmail.com)) or Rebecca Rivard ([rebeccarivard@me.com](mailto:rebeccarivard@me.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 Elyssa ([Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org](mailto:Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org)) and Jessica ([Office@bedfordpreschurch.org](mailto:Office@bedfordpreschurch.org)) by the end of the day Tuesdays for entry into that week's media.

## Upcoming Events at a Glance

- **Sunday, April 3rd** - Sunday Worship & Communion. Egg Dyeing after worship
- **Monday, April 4th** - Yoga at 9 am.
- **Tuesday, April 5th** - Quilting at 1 pm.
- **Wednesday, April 6th** - Spirituality Group at 7:30 pm.
- **Thursday, April 7th** - Bible Study at 10 am.
- **Sunday, April 10th** - Palm Sunday Worship 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  
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, Sarah Ryan  
& Bart Tyler  
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