



BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Les Alpilles, Mountain Landscape near South-Reme

Vincent Van Gogh

January 29, 2023
ORDINARY TIME

Prelude

Aeolian

J. McGregor

Introit

What Does the Lord Require

E. Routley

Ringing of the Bells

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Those who are poor, and those in solidarity with them,

People: God is on your side.

Leader: Those who mourn and grieve the state of the world,

People: God is on your side.

Leader: Those who are non-violent and work with gentle power,

People: God is on your side.

Leader: Those who are merciful and compassionate,

People: God is on your side.

Leader: Those who keep seeking justice,

People: God is on your side.

***Opening Hymn 209** *My Song Forever Shall Record*
Verses 1, 2, 3

Confession

**God, you have called us to bind up the brokenhearted,
proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners. But
too often, we ignore those who grieve, we disregard those who
are trapped, and we turn away from the incarcerated. Help us
to show mercy, compassion, and justice to ourselves and to our
neighbors.**

(Silent confession)

Assurance of Pardon

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

People: And also with you.

***Passing of the Peace**

(You may stand and greet one another.)

Time with the Children

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

Hebrew Bible Lesson *Micah 6:6-8*

“With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?”

Anthem *I Sat Down Under His Shadow* E. Bairstow

Gospel Lesson *Matthew 5:1-12*

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Sermon

Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

***Hymn 405**

What Does the Lord Require

Offering

Anthem

How Lovely are the Messengers F. Mendelssohn

***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 & Concerns

***Prayer of the People & 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 298**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

***Charge and Blessing**

Benediction Response

The Peace of the Earth

J. Bell

***Postlude**

Praeludium in C

J. S. Bach

*Please stand if able

Announcements

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



CANDLEMAS

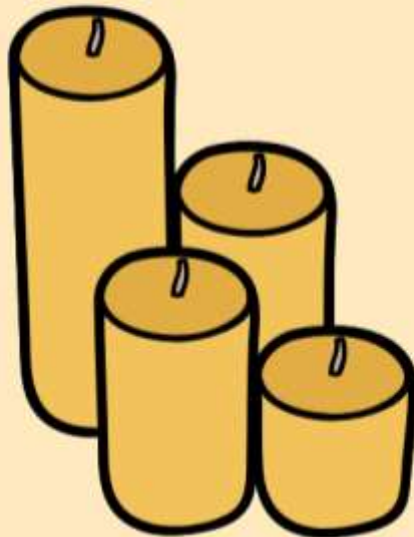
Candlemas, also known as the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ or the Feast of the Holy Encounter, commemorates the presentation of Jesus at the temple.

- Candlemas (February 2) takes place forty days after Christmas. First Century Jewish law held that after the birth of a child, women were considered impure for 40 days. On the 40th day, the child and mother would be re-welcomed into the community.
- Just as Christ, the Light of the World, was presented to the Temple on the 40th day, Christians present their candles for blessing in the church on the 40th day after Christmas.
- Candlemas also notes that winter is coming to an end and spring is coming! It is considered the start of the "farmer's year," which is why many agricultural customs and proverbs are associated with the date. This is why in the United States, we celebrate Groundhog Day on February 2!
- In France and Belgium, it is custom to eat pancakes and crepes on Candlemas. Their round shape and golden color, reminiscent of the solar disc, refer to the return of spring after the dark and cold of winter.



Candlemas Candlemaking

Join us after worship on Sunday, February 5th in Fellowship Hall. During Coffee Hour, there will be opportunities to make and bless candles to take with you to celebrate Candlemas!



Did you know..... Pope Francis proposed six "modern beatitudes" on All Saints' Day in 2016. What do you think of them?
" Blessed are those who remain faithful while enduring evils inflicted on them by others and forgive them from their heart; Blessed are those who look into the eyes of the abandoned and marginalized and show them their closeness; Blessed are those who see God in every person and strive to make others also discover Him; Blessed are those who protect and care for our common home; Blessed are those who renounce their own comfort in order to help others; Blessed are those who pray and work for full communion between Christians."

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH
7-9 PM VIA ZOOM

WOMAN 2 WOMAN TRAINING SESSION

This year marks the tenth anniversary of Woman 2 Woman, Bedford Presbyterian Church's prison ministry program. Over the years, we have connected well over 150 women in this community with those incarcerated at the two women's prisons in Bedford. And yet, sadly, the need persists. We have a long list of women who would love to have a visitor.

If you are interested in learning more, please attend our visitors' training on Wednesday, February 8th from 7-9 p.m. via Zoom.

To RSVP and to receive the Zoom link, please contact Nancy Gernert at nancygernert@gmail.com.

BIBLE STUDY

Every Thursday
10 - 11 am via zoom

Please contact Alan McDougall at alanmcd@verizon.net for the Zoom link.
All are welcome.



SECOND SUNDAY SOUP

Volunteers Needed

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

If you are interested, please contact
Diane Palmento at **skippyhouse@aol.com**.














Winter Youth Group Schedule

- **February 12th, 12pm**
Bowling at Spins Bowl
- **February 18th-25th**
Bridges to Community
HS Mission Trip
- **March 17th, 8pm**
Midnight Run into NYC
...and more to come!

JAN 29- FEB 4, 2022

Probable State of the Weather (with Moon Cycle)

Bedford Village, NY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						
						
Cloudy 46°	Mostly Cloudy 42°	Partly Cloudy 40°	AM Snow Showers 35°	Partly Cloudy 33°	Partly Cloudy 26°	Partly Cloudy 26°

WHAT WE ARE READING

"For the ecological reader [of the beatitudes], however, the language of inheriting the earth needs a prophetic critique because the dominant understanding of land in Israel was that it belonged to God and was given to Israel for its rightful use not its ownership or possession. The ecological reader will attend to and engage with land in its materiality and sociality. It is not simply dirt or ground. It is rich with diversity and relationality and it is a gift." -*Elaine Wainwright*

PHRASE OF THE WEEK

humus

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FLOWER DONATIONS

Every week the sanctuary is decorated with beautiful flower arrangements donated and dedicated by congregants.



If you would like to sign up to sponsor a week of flowers, please do so no later than one week prior. You can sign up, enter your dedication and make your



\$50 secure online donation on the BPC website.

Checks and dedications can also be sent to the church office.

Upcoming Events at a Glance

Sunday, January 29th

10 am

Worship.

Monday, January 30th

9 am

No YOGA FOR 1/30, 2/6 or 2/13/23.

Tuesday, January 31st

1 pm

Quilting.

Thursday, February 2nd

10 am

Candlemas

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

Sunday, February 5th

10 am

Worship, Celebration of Candlemas and Blessing of the Candles, Communion, and Children's Collection.

11 am

Candlemaking.

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 (Mission), Jessica Cunningham (Personnel),
Danielle Gamar (Christian Education),
Maria Andrea Laverde (Nativity Farm),
Suzanne Millette, Sarah Ryan (Property & Maintenance), &
Bart Tyler (Members & Friends)
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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