

"Extreme Humility" Icon Painted on a Ukrainian Ammunition Box

# December 10, 2023 2nd Sunday of Advent

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

Introit Veni Immanuel John Bell

Ringing of the Bells

**Welcome and Announcements** 

\*Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Eric and Lindsay Eichhorn

- Reader 1: The psalmist saw how God provides for us, how faithfulness springs forth from the earth.
- Reader 2: The prophet *felt* comforted by God's words that "uneven ground shall become level and the rough places a plain and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed."
- Reader 1: (Re-light the first candle.) The one in the wilderness believed in the future. He knew Christ's presence was growing as he proclaimed, "Prepare the way of the Lord! He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."
- Reader 2: We do good in the world while we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.
- All: We light the second candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. As the Lord has promised, Jesus is coming soon. Come, Lord Jesus!

(Light the second Advent candle as we join in singing.)

O Come, O Come, Emanuel, (Verse 25)

O come, thou day-spring, come and cheer Our spirits by Thine advent here; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

All: Gracious God, grant us the ability to see the coming light of Christ, to feel the quiet presence of the Holy Spirit, to believe in the great mystery of this season, and to do in the world actions that only reflect incarnational hope. Amen.

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

#### Confession

God, too often we think that we need to work harder to prove ourselves. We tie our value to our success. We feel like our worth depends on our productivity. We burn ourselves out trying to achieve more. Help us to remember that we are your children, and you love us without any conditions.

[Silent confession]

#### **Assurance of Pardon**

\*Passing of the Peace

You may stand and greet one another.

**Hebrew Bible Lesson** 

Isaiah 40:1-11

Judith Dillingham

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him. and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

**Anthem** Rejoice in the Lord Always Henry Purcell

## Gospel Reading Mark 1:1-8

who will prepare your way;

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

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

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

**Sermon** Rev. Carol Howard

## Offering

Offertory 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

O most Compassionate Life-giver, may we honor and praise you. May we work with you to establish your new order of justice peace and love. Give us what we need for growth, and help us, through forgiving others, to accept forgiveness. Strengthen us in the time of testing, that we may resist all evil, for all tenderness, strength and love are yours, now and forever. Amen.

\*Hymn 12

People, Look East

\*Charge and Blessing Benediction Response

The Peace of God

Henry Purcel

\*Postlude

Rejoice Greatly, O My Soul

Johann Krebs

### **Announcements**

#### Child Care Available

In addition to Sunday Spirit for elementary school kids, childcare is provided during worship for kids not yet in kindergarten.

Please contact Courtney for more information.



# Can you help our local children have a warm and joyful holiday season?



Please help us SHARE THE WARMTH this holiday season at the Community Center by donating new blankets, hats, socks and gloves for our local children!





#### WE ARE CURRENTLY COLLECTING:

NEW warm and cozy blankets, hats, socks and gloves for children newborn to 18 years

Unwrapped donations gratefully accepted at the Center during regular business hours. We begin distributing on December 1st.

HOURS: TUES, WED, FRI from 10 AM to 4 PM, THURS from 12 PM to 6 PM, SAT from 10 AM to 1 PM

Please email Nicole, nsorgi@communitycenternw.org, with any questions about the Share the Warmth drive.

SHOP FROM OUR AMAZON WISHLIST

Thank you for sharing with your neighbors in need this holiday season!

COMMUNITY CENTER OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER
4 BEDFORD ROAD, KATONAH, NEW YORK 10536 | 914.232.6572 | communitycenternw.org

<sup>\*</sup>Please stand, if you are able.

# 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.

#### The deadline is Wednesday, December 13th.

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.

This week's flowers are given to celebrate
Bob and June Lapple's
69th wedding anniversary!
The Lapple-Gosh Family



# MIDNIGHT RUN

Friday, January 12th

We will be holding a Midnight Run on Friday, January 12th. We are looking for donations of new or gently used items. Please see the sign up genius for specific items. We also need people to join us on the run. Please email Courtney if you would like to attend.



# DECORATORS' LUNCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH

JOIN US AFTER THE SERVICE TO HELP US DECORATE THE SANCTUARY FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON! WE WILL HAVE FOOD & GREAT COMPANY!

# Cooking for the Food Pantry



Tuesday, December 19th 12pm | BPC Kitchen

Join us & the Westchester Local Food Project as we cook for the Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry & the Community Center of Northern Westchester

Socialize and Cook for a great cause!

# 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 50 packages of cookies by December 12th.

For questions or more information, please contact Cecilia Rosenblum at: 914-645-2096 or rosenblumclr12@gmail.com.

# **EMERGENCY SHELTER PARTNERSHIP**

JANUARY 1 - 7, 2024 AND FEBRUARY 26 - MARCH 3, 2024



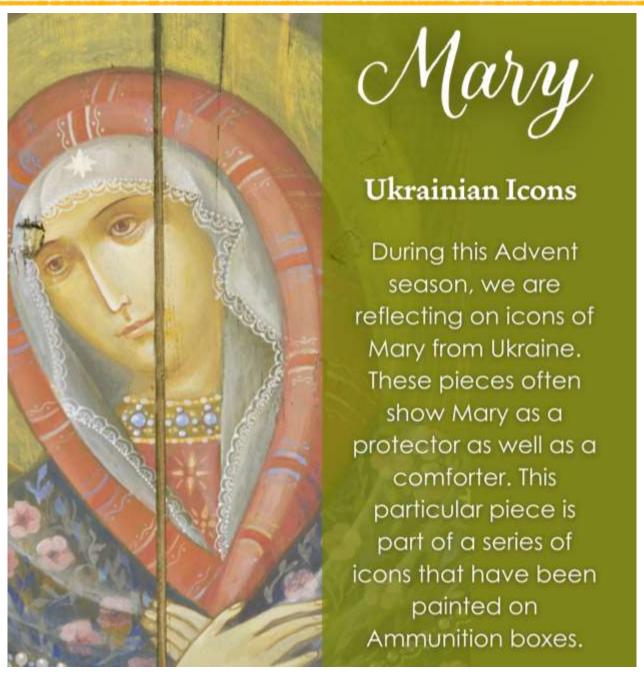
We still need volunteers for our January dates! We are set for dinner for our January dates but need volunteers for sandwiches, dessert, snacks and drinks.



All March dates are available!

Go to the website or the enews to sign up.

Email Elyssa with any questions. Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org.





# Dominican Republic Trip

February 17-24, 2024

If you are interested in joining the trip or learning more please contact Courtney. All are welcome!





### Thank you to all the kids who worked so hard on our Advent Art piece! I am amazed at how focused, creative, and talented you are! The piece illustrated Mark 13:28, "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its

leaves, you know that summer is near." It was based on a Van Gogh painting (shown on the top left).

# **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 Jessica at Office@bedfordpreschurch.org and Elyssa at Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org by the end of the day Tuesday for entry into that week's media.

# **Upcoming Events at a Glance**

# Sunday, December 10th

10 am Worship

11 am Second Sunday Soup & Christmas Pageant

# Monday, December 11th

9 am Yoga

## Tuesday, December 12th

7:15 pm Bells rehearse

# Thursday, December 14th

10 am Bible Study. Please contact Alan McDougall

at alanmcd@verizon.net.

# Sunday, December 17th

10 am Lessons and Carols Worship and

Youth Collection

11 am Decorator's Lunch

# Our Leadership

#### Session

Clerk of Session, Michelle Gosh, President Brian Hiller-Dupont,

Anne Bentzen, Linda Burpee (Mission),
Jessica Cunningham (Personnel and Stewardship),
Amy Drabek, Danielle Gamar (Christian Education),
Ashley Glod-Hayes, Maria Andrea Laverde (Nativity Farm),
Sarah Ryan (Property & Maintenance),
& Bart Tyler (Members & Friends and Stewardship)
Moderator Reverend Carol Howard

#### **Deacons**

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

#### Staff

The Reverend Carol Howard, Pastor

The Reverend Courtney Steininger, Minister of Christian Education

John Lettieri, Director of Music

Jessica DeAlto, Administrative and Financial Manager

Elyssa Michaels, Director of Congregational Life & Digital Ministries

The Reverend Thomas A. Hughart, Pastor Emeritus

Office@bedfordpreschurch.org www.bedfordpreschurch.org P.O. Box 280, 44 Village Green, Bedford, NY 10506 914-234-3672