



BEDFORD
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Ukrainian Mother of God
by Maria Harasowka-Daczyszyn

December 24, 2023
5pm Family and Candlelight Worship
Christmas Eve

Prelude *Festive Music and Carols for Trumpet and Organ*
Richard Clymer, Trumpet

***Hymn 41** *O Come, all Ye Faithful*

Welcome

Lighting the Advent and Christ Candles

Reader 1: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Reader 2: Mary felt joy and pondered it in her heart at the birth of her son.

Reader 1: (Re-light the first, second, third, and fourth candles.) The shepherds believed the angel of the Lord and the multitude of the heavenly host who praised God!

Reader 2: We do good in the world, glorifying and praising God for all that has been told to us.

All: We light the Christ candle, celebrating the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places.

(Light the Christ candle.)

***Response Hymn 56** *The First Noel* (Verse 1 only)

Prayer

All: Gracious God, grant us the ability to see the 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 the hope of the babe born in the manger. Amen.

Presentation “The Prophets Show the Way to Bethlehem”

Anthem

Mary's Little Boy Child Jester Hairston
Go, Tell it on the Mountain African-American Spiritual
 Joyful Noise Children's Choir
 Don Hiller-Dupont, Director
 Brian Hiller-Dupont, Soloist

Presentation “Mary and Joseph Show the Way to Bethlehem”

***Hymn 44** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (Verses 1 and 2)

Presentation “The Shepherds Show the Way to Bethlehem”

Gospel Lesson *Luke 2: 1-14, 15-20*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor 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 for them in the inn.

In that 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. But 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, as it had been told them.

Presentation "The Magi Show the Way to Bethlehem"

Offering

Offertory Carol

English Traditional Carol

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

Trumpet and Organ

***Prayer of Dedication**

Presentation "Meeting the Christ Child"

Anthem Solo

What Child is This?

English Traditional

Michele Eames, vocals and Don Hiller-Dupont vocals, piano

The Passing of the Light

(Please dip the unlit candle toward the flame
as the light is passed.)

***Hymn 60**

Silent Night

The Prayer for Christmas

O God, grant us such love and wonder that with shepherds and magi and pilgrims unknown, we may come to adore the holy child. As you came in the stillness of the night long ago, so enter our lives and world again this night. Overcome our doubts and our fears so that we may see clearly the way to walk, *feel* the Light of Christ's presence, *believe* the promises of the Good News, and live life as you would have us do. Amen.

Charge and Blessing

***Hymn 40** *Joy to the World*

***Postlude** Richard Elliott
Toccata on Angels We Have Heard on High

*Please stand, if able



With immense gratitude,

we would like to thank the following people for their wonderful contributions to our Christmas Eve services:

Richard Clymer, Trumpet
Michelle Eames, Soloist
Abbot Fleur, Timpani
Brian Hiller-Dupont, Soloist
Don Hiller-Dupont, Soloist
and Joyful Noise Director

Brian Kanner, Trumpet
Jeremy McEvilly, Soloist
Frank Moore, Tenor
And all of our wonderful
choir members who make
beautiful music year-round!

Additional thanks to Mary Lou Pappas for her help making BPC so beautiful throughout the year and at Christmas.

Finally, a very happy birthday to Rev. Carol Howard!



As we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, beautiful flowers & greens for the sanctuary have been presented by the following people to the Glory of God and dedicated for the following reasons.

Gordon & Judy Aydelott

To family and loved ones.

Suzy Beatty

So many blessings in my life--My children Heather and Holly, six grandchildren, Bruce who loved our church so much and left us too soon, and Sandy, my loving partner for the rest of my life. Also, my love and thanks to Marcy and Bing Carlson for all they have contributed over the years to the life of our church. We are so fortunate and grateful to have the Carlsons in our lives.

Rick & Anne Bentzen

For the blessings of friends and family.

Bob & Hope Black

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

Bing and Marcy Carlson

In memory of Al Jacobsen, our long time friend of 56 years, who was a caring, generous, friendly, and very active member of the Town of Bedford community. Also, In Honor of our three daughters, Kim, Cathy, and Debbie who grew up in the Bedford Presbyterian Church and the many very special friends we have in our church community. You've all given us so many wonderful memories to take with us as we move to Durham, NC. We'll be back to visit, and please come see us too!

Eleanor Cox

In memory of Lloyd Bedford Cox.

Kathy DiBiasi

In memory of my mother and father, Liz and Frank Files.

The Ferguson Family

In memory of Tom, who loved Christmas at BPC.

Michael & Kathryn Flynn

Dedicated to our children, Isla, Ronan, and Nora.

John & JoAnne Greenwood

In honor of our first grandchild Edward (Teddy) Joseph Greenwood.

Marilyn Hermansen

In Loving memory of Roy W. Hermansen.

Judy & Simon Newton

Dedicated to my five precious grandchildren, Brendan, Sadie, Claire, James and Cecily.

Jeff and Sharon Seidell

In gratitude for our wonderful family, near and far.

Kevin Tejada

Jeff & Kim Touzeau

By the Touzeau, Winchester and Sabato families (Kim, Cathy, and Debbie) in honor and celebration of our parents Marcy and Bing Carlson, who raised us well in this wonderful church. Bing and Marcy moved to Bedford in 1967 and generously shared their time, talents and gifts with this congregation for 56 years! We will greatly miss their leadership, bell ringing, trumpet playing, choir singing, "unique" Sunday School teaching style with teens, friendship, smiles, and so much more. So long Bedford, Hello Durham NC! Make room for visitors, y'all! We love you!

Matt Valenti & Jeanne Collins

For Grandma Collins.

Jill Ferguson Warmbier

In loving memory of my father, Thomas Wells Ferguson III who loved this church, especially at Christmas time.

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