



# BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"The Sower" by Albin Egger-Lienz

# Fifth Sunday of Lent

## March 26, 2023

**Prelude**                      *Have Mercy on Me, O Lord*                      J. S. Bach

**Introit**                      *What God Ordains is Always Good*                      Arr. J. S. Bach

### Ringing of the Bells

### Welcome and Announcements

**\*Call to Worship** from Psalm 130

Leader: Out of the depths we call to you, O God.

**People: Hear our voices! They are raised up and pleading.**

Leader: If you kept a record of all of our wrongs, who would survive?

**People: But because you forgive, we stand in awe.**

**\*Opening Hymn 85**    *What Wondrous Love Is This*

### Confession

God of love and mercy, deliver us,  
From a lack of respect for your creation,  
From a cowardice that denies truth,  
From an arrogance that assumes we know everything,  
From being pompous or rude,  
From intolerance or cruel indifference,  
From selfishness, or self-pity.  
Forgive us and restore us to your ways,  
Through your Spirit.

(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.*

## **Baptism of Emma Grace Atkinson**

**Baptism Hymn 498** *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

## **Time with the Children**

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

## **Hebrew Bible Lesson**

*Ezekiel 37:1-14*

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?"

I answered, "O Lord God, you know."

Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So, I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore, prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

**Anthem**

*Teach Me, O Lord*

Thomas Attwood

**Gospel Lesson**

*John 11:38-44*

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone."

Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days."

Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

**Sermon**

Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

**Offering**

**Anthem**

*Ave Verum Corpus*

C. Saint-Saens

## **\*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 and Concerns

Prayers 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**

## **\*Charge and Blessing**

**\*Benediction Response** *The Peace of God* Henry Purcell

**\*Postlude** *Kyrie – Dialogue* F. Couperin

\*Please stand, if able

## Announcements

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

### Cover Art

The painting is by Albin Egger-Lienz (1868-1926), an Austrian painter. His father was a religious painter and his mother was a peasant. Like Van Gogh and Dali, Egger-Lienz was also inspired by Jean-Francois Millet.



We have been studying images of the sower to illustrate our Lenten theme: "Longing is like the Seed." On Palm Sunday, we will celebrate with a seed starting event.

"Longing is like the Seed  
That wrestles in the Ground,  
Believing if it intercede  
It shall at length be found."

--Emily Dickinson

Today's flowers are dedicated in honor of

Emma Grace Atkinson's baptism  
and Dick Tegtmeier's 90th Birthday!

Tracy & Rick Tegtmeier

**From Emma Grace Atkinson**

**A thank you to ...**

*My godparents, Kirsten & Carter and  
my family and friends celebrating with me today.*



The poster features a light blue background with white clouds and colorful Easter eggs hanging from a string at the top. At the bottom, there are more colorful Easter eggs and small flowers. The text is centered and uses a mix of blue, red, and black fonts.

## **EASTER ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS**

**EASTER EGG DYEING**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 26 - 11 AM**

**EASTER EGG HUNT, SUNDAY, APRIL 9TH - 10 AM**  
**(IN BETWEEN SERVICES)**

# Senior Luncheons



March 30th & May 4th at 12 pm

Join us for lunch and the opportunity to meet and enjoy the company of friends (old and new). Everyone is invited, women, men, and couples, to reconnect and connect anew after our past two years of being so isolated. Bring a friend who is not a member of BPC if you'd like. Maintaining our connections is very important to many of us, so please join us on the above dates.

Please bring your bag lunch and come whenever you can.

## SEED STARTING SUNDAY

Led by Allison Turcan of Dig Farm

Take seedlings home and plant seeds for Nativity Farm

April 2

11:30 am

Fellowship Hall, Bedford Presbyterian Church




## PAINT & PIZZA

Saturday, April 1st 6 pm

- Join us at 6 pm for pizza
- Painting begins at 6:30 pm
- Ages 9 & up is recommended
- All are welcome! Bring your friends!

**RECOMMENDED DONATION OF \$20**



Go to website,  
E-NEWS or  
email Elyssa to  
RSVP



# Holy Week & Easter

## 2023 Schedule



Palm Sunday

April 2nd, 10 am

Worship service featuring Bell Choir



Maundy Thursday

April 6th, 7 pm

Worship with a simple meal in Fellowship Hall



Easter Sunday

April 9th, 9 & 11 am worship

Reception & Easter Egg Hunt at 10 am

## Easter Reception Volunteers Needed

We will be having our Easter Reception at 10 am, between the 9 am & 11 am services.

We need volunteers to help us make this a success so please sign up for the various food items we need to make this day special.

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 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 March 30th.



5th Week















FARMERS ALMANAC

3rd Month

MAR 26- APRIL 1, 2022

Probable State of the Weather (with Moon Cycle)

Bedford Village, NY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						
						
Sunny 60°	Partly Cloudy 60°	Mostly Cloudy 50°	AM Showers 45°	Partly Cloudy 49°	AM Showers 50°	AM Showers 54°

## WHAT WE ARE READING

"God is the prototypical gardener who leads us into a life of care. Every one of us eats. Each one of us is joined intimately through our bodies with the lives of all the creatures of the earth - a bewildering array of relationships that connect us to earthworms, butterflies, chickens, and co-gardeners."

-Norman Wirzba

## PHRASE OF THE WEEK

extensive farming



Our summer mission trip to Webster Springs, WV will take place on June 25 - July 2. Please reserve your spot with Courtney!

## Upcoming Events at a Glance

### Sunday, March 26th

10 am      Worship & Baptism  
11 am      Easter Egg Dyeing

### Monday, March 27th

9 am      Yoga

### Tuesday, March 28th

12:30      Lunch with Friends  
1 pm      Quilting  
7:15 pm      Bells Practice

### Thursday, March 30th

10 am      **Deadline for Easter flower dedications**  
Bible Study. Please contact Alan McDougall at [alanmcd@verizon.net](mailto:alanmcd@verizon.net).  
12 pm      Senior Luncheon  
7 pm      Choir Rehearsal

### Saturday, April 1st

6 pm      Paint & Pizza

### Sunday, April 2nd

10 am      **Palm Sunday**  
Worship, Communion, Youth Collection & Bells play.  
11:30 am      Seed Starting Sunday

# 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 (Finance), 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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