



BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



“Starry Night and the Astronauts”
by Alma Woodsey Thomas

January 21, 2024
3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Prelude

Recit de Nazard

L. N. Clerambault

Ringling of the Bells

Introit

African-American Spiritual

It's Me, O Lord, Standing in the Need of Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

***Opening Sentences from Psalm 62**

Leader: My soul waits, silent for God, for God alone is my hope.
God is my rock, my safety, my refuge. I stand secure.

People: Steadfast love belongs to God.

***Opening Hymn 434** *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

Confession

God, forgive us for all of the times that we neglect to love one another. In our shame, we isolate ourselves. In our bitterness, we cut ourselves off. In our busyness, we neglect our friendships.

Forgive us. Help us to be vulnerable with one another when we are in need. Make us merciful when resentments choke us. Make us mindful when we become overwhelmed. Remind us of what is important, through the life and hope of Jesus Christ, our brother and friend.

[Silent confession]

Assurance of Pardon

Sung Response

**I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in-a my soul.**

***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

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. Humans and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish."

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

Anthem

Spiritual arr. M. Hogan

Lord, I Want to Be A Christian

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:14-20

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, for they were fishers. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Sermon

Rev. Carol Howard

***Hymn**

Will You Come and Follow Me

Please see the back page of the bulletin for this hymn
from the *Glory to God* hymnal.

Offering and Children's Offering

Anthem

Come, Thou Morning Star
Barbara Kanner, Flute

Orlando Gibbons

***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

Eternal Life-giver,
Focus your light within us.
Create your reign of unity now, through our fiery hearts and
willing hands.
Help us love beyond our ideals and sprout acts of compassion
for all creatures.
Animate the earth within us,
So that we might feel the Wisdom underneath supporting all.
Untangle the knots within so that we can mend our hearts'
simple ties to each other.
Don't let surface things delude us,
But free us from what holds us back from our true purpose.
Out of you, the astonishing fire,
Returning light and sound to the cosmos. Amen.

***Hymn 343** *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*
verses 1, 3, 4

*Charge and Blessing

Benediction Response *May the Lord, Mighty God* Chinese Folk

***Postlude** *Dialogue sur les Grands Jeux* N. de Grigny

*Please stand, if you are able.

Announcements

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

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.*

SECOND SUNDAY SOUP

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



OUR NEXT SECOND SUNDAY SOUPS
ARE 2/11 AND 3/10.

WE NEED 2 VOLUNTEERS FOR EACH DATE.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED HELPING PLEASE EMAIL
ELYSSA OR ANDRES MEJIA.



Mistletoe Mart Organizational Meeting

Sunday, January 21st following
the service in the Conference Room

This is an opportunity to decide how to allocate the funds from the 2023 Mart and to brainstorm new ideas and organize the 2024 Mart. Your help and ideas are greatly appreciated.

Please come and bring your ideas, concerns, expertise and support. If you are unable to attend the meeting, but would like to contribute your ideas and/or time, please email Julia Newton at julianewton@yahoo.com.

Quilting

Tuesdays 1 - 4 pm
Chapel Room



Learn as you go
from other quilters.

Annual Meeting Reports

As a reminder to session members and
committee heads:

Committee reports for the February
Congregational Meeting are due into the
BPC office by January 31st.

Please contact Carol or Jessica
with any questions.

Children's Offering

Collected on the 1st and
3rd Sunday of the Month

At the end of each year, the children
vote on how to gift the money collected
to gifts in the Presbyterian Giving Catalog.

In 2023, they donated \$1,189.50 for:



- Emergency Life Packs
- Fishing Kits
- Rainwater Catchment System
- Water Filters
- Pair of Goats
- 8 Chickens
- Farming Tools



Join us on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month!

LUNCH WITH FRIENDS

12:30 pm - Chapel Room

EMERGENCY SHELTER PARTNERSHIP

FEBRUARY 26 - MARCH 3, 2024



We are looking for volunteers to sign up for our
March dates of ESP.

Go to the website or enews to sign up.

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

**In case of inclement
weather, please check
the BPC website by
9 am Sunday morning
for any updates
regarding worship
service.**

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 Tuesdays for entry into that week's media.

Upcoming Events at a Glance

Sunday, January 21st

10 am	Worship and Youth Collection
11 am	Coffee Hour, Session Meeting & Mistletoe Mart meeting

Monday, January 22nd

9 am	No Yoga
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Tuesday, January 23rd

12:30 pm	Lunch with Friends
1 pm	Quilting

Thursday, January 25th

10 am	Bible Study. Please contact Alan McDougall at alanmcd@verizon.net .
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Sunday, January 28th

10 am	Worship
11 am	Coffee Hour

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, and 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

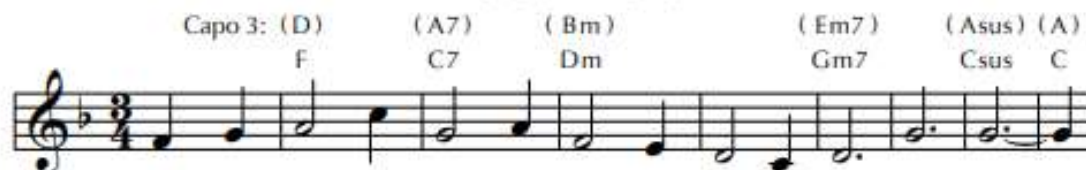
Elyssa Michaels, Director of Congregational Life & Digital Ministries

The Reverend Thomas A. Hughart, Pastor Emeritus

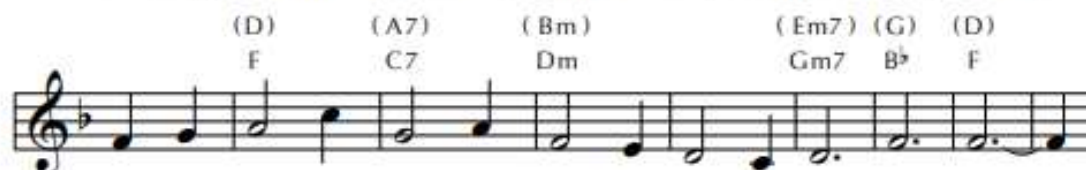
Office@bedfordpreschurch.org www.bedfordpreschurch.org
P.O. Box 280, 44 Village Green, Bedford, NY 10506
914-234-3672

726 Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
3 "Will you let the blind-ed see if I but call your name?
4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
Will you set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same?
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at-tract or scare?
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

The first four stanzas of this ballad-like hymn are understood to be in the voice of Christ, with the fifth reflecting the individual singer's response. Created for this traditional Scottish tune, the text was written to mark the conclusion of a youth volunteer's time of ministry.