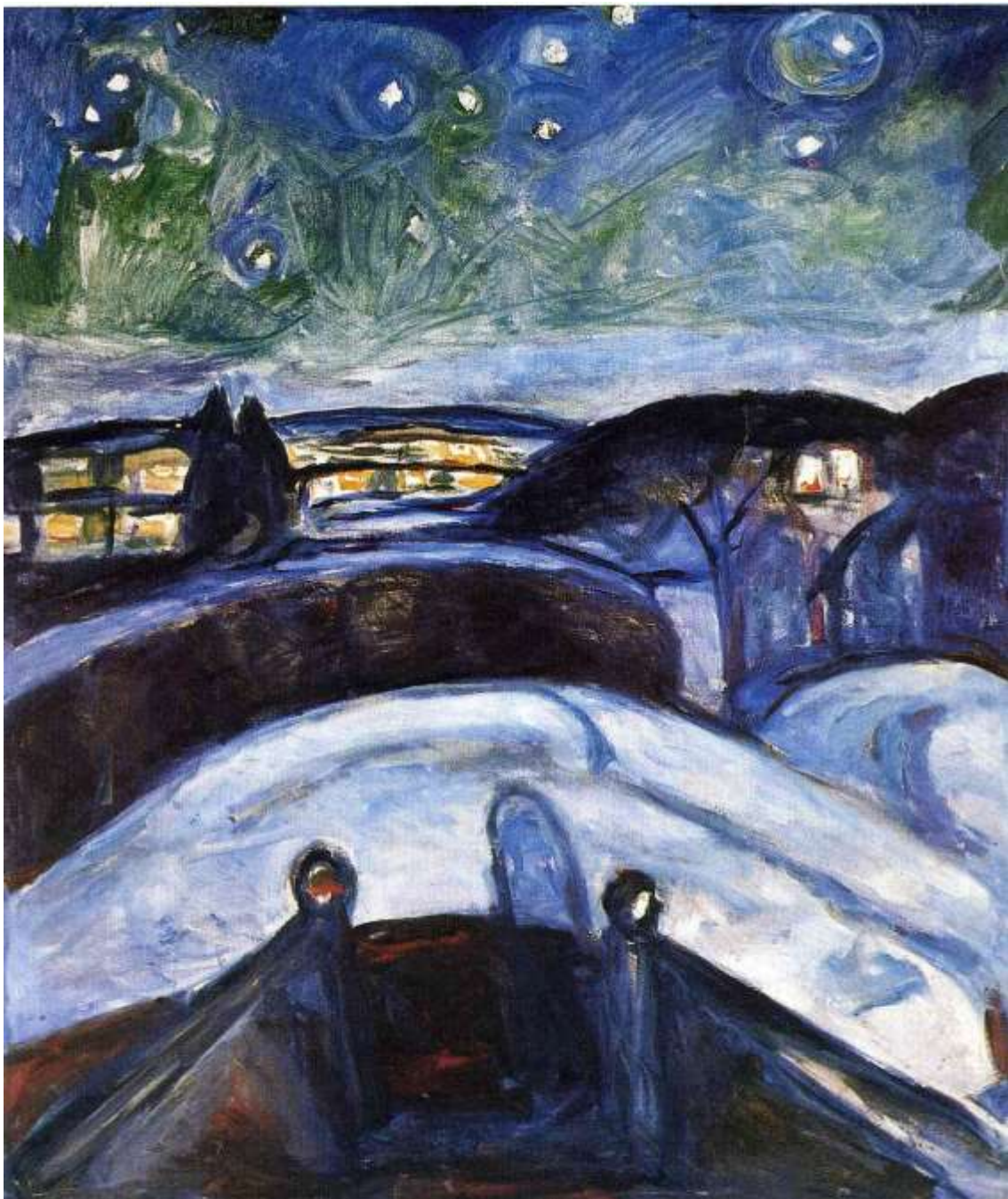




BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"Starry Night" by Edvard Munch

January 7, 2024
Epiphany Sunday

Prelude *How Brightly Shines the Morningstar* Johann L. Krebs

Introit James P. Harding
Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

Ringling of the Bells

Welcome and Announcements

*Opening Sentences

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come! The glory of God has risen upon you.

People: Nations will come to the light, and rulers will seek its radiance.

Leader: The mystery of the ages is revealed, and the eternal plan of God is known to all.

***Opening Hymn 66** *We Three Kings of Orient Are*
verses 1 - 4

Confession

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us to reveal your love for all people. We confess that we have used religion to fester hatred. We ignore cries for justice and do not strive for peace. In your mercy, help us to let go of the bitterness we have toward ourselves. Open us to your forgiveness that falls like rain, like showers that water the earth.

[Silent confession]

Assurance of Pardon

Sung Response Hymn 66, verse 5

**Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

***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

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage."

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people, Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.'

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Sermon

Rev. Carol Howard

Hymn 53

What Child Is This

Offering and Youth Collection

Anthem

F. Mendelssohn

There Shall A Star From Jacob Rise Up

*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

Communion

Invitation to the Table

Joys and Concerns

Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: We lift up our hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise...

Breaking of the Bread

*Communion

Prayer after Communion

Eternal Life-giver, Focus your light within us—make it useful. 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: we then 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 56**

The First Nowell
verses 1, 2, 3, 4

***Charge and Blessing**

***Benediction Response**

Sevenfold Amen

John Stainer

***Postlude**

Prelude on an Introit for Epiphany

M. Duruflé

*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



**Our next Second Sunday Soups are January 14,
February 11 and March 10!**

We need 1 more volunteer for January and 2 volunteers for February & March!

If you are interested helping please email Elyssa.

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



MIDNIGHT RUN

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Friday, January 12th
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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.



Martin Luther King Jr. Day Service

January 14th - 4 pm
Antioch Baptist Church,
Bedford Hills

2024 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Events
We invite your participation in the annual observances of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. The 54th Annual Interfaith Community Worship Service will be held on Sunday, January 14, 2024 at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. On Monday, January 15th we will hold the 37th Annual Educational Seminar. Our 2024 theme is, "Civil Rights: Looking Back, Marching Forward." The Interfaith Community service will feature music from the youth and adult community choirs and inspiring liturgy led by local clergy. All clergy and choristers are invited to participate in the service, please contact Antioch for the rehearsal schedule.

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.

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 7th

10 am	Worship and Communion
11 am	Coffee Hour

Monday, January 8th

9 am	Yoga
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Tuesday, January 9th

12:30 pm	Lunch with Friends
1 pm	Quilting

Thursday, January 11th

10 am	Bible Study. Please contact Alan McDougall at alanmcd@verizon.net .
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Friday, January 12th

8 pm	Midnight Run – Off Site
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Sunday, December 14th

10 am	Worship
11 am	Second Sunday Soup

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

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EPIPHANY

The Epiphany of the Lord takes place this upcoming Friday, January 6th. Here are some traditions you can celebrate with:

- The eve of Epiphany (January 5th) is known as Twelfth Night. It is traditional to take your Christmas decorations down on this evening. If you do not, you may keep your decorations up through Candlemas (February 2).
- In honor of the Magi, star gazing is a traditional Epiphany activity!
- Many Christians bless their houses and chalk their doors on Epiphany. To do so, take a piece of chalk and write on your front door or its lintel, "20 + C + M + B + 24." 2024 refers to the year for which you are doing the blessing. C + M + B stands for *christus mansionem benedicat*, which is Latin for "May Christ bless this house." The letters may also stand for Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, the traditional names for the Magi.

