

BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



JOURNEY INTO THE LIGHT

Darkness cannot drive out darkness. Only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate. Only love can do that. ~MLK
#BPCintotheLight

Sunday, December 13, 2020

Third Sunday of Advent

Prelude

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Candle Lighting from Luke 8

Miserandino Family

Jesus said, "No one lights a lamp and hides it under a jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light."

God, on our Advent journey, do not let us hide our gifts, wisdom, or abundance.

Remind us to share our light with one another.

(Light the first, second, and third candle. If you have a pink candle, you can light it as your third candle.)

Let us pray:

God, let your light shine upon us. Let it illuminate our lives, as we share it with one another. Through Jesus, our light. Amen.

Hymn 8

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Hebrew Bible Lesson

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Suzanne Sironi

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion-- to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of

righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:46b-55

Suzanne Sironi

Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Sermon

Spark of the Soul

Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

Minute for Mission

Emergency Shelter Partnership

Elizabeth Messinger

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.

(Many people say the Lord's Prayer with "trespasses" or "sins" instead of "debts." Please feel free to pray in any form that makes you feel the most comfortable.)

Charge and Blessing

Postlude

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

J. L. Krebs

Announcements for the Week of

December 13 - 19, 2020

Upcoming Events



Bedford Presbyterian Church

JOURNEY INTO THE LIGHT

ADVENT THREE • DEC 13 • 4 PM
CHRISTMAS-O-RAMA ZOOM TALENT SHOW

ADVENT FOUR • DEC 20 • 4 PM
FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

CHRISTMAS EVE • DEC 24
4 PM POP-UP PAGEANT
7:30 PM SERVICE ON THE LAWN
9 PM ON-LINE SERVICE

#BPCintothelight

Mistletoe Mart 2020 - ENJOY THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS
From the Mistletoe Mart Committee

Please visit our website and read about wonderful Mistletoe Mart activities that will bring the anticipation and enjoyment of Christmas activities, smells and sounds into your home this year.



Share the Light

ADVENT THREE • DEC 13 • 4 PM

CHRISTMAS-O-RAMA

**WE WOULD LOVE TO SHOWCASE YOUR TALENTS AT
OUR VIRTUAL TALENT SHOW THIS YEAR. DUST OFF
YOUR INSTRUMENTS, READ YOUR FAVORITE POEM,
SING A SONG, OR PLAY YOUR LAST RECITAL PIECE!
PLEASE SIGN UP TO PARTICIPATE!**

#BPCsharethelight

To view the Christmas-O-Rama Talent Show, use the following Zoom link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/afooNRccxIUAYniExwU5>

Please see this past week's E-NEWS for the link as well.



Bedford Presbyterian Church
Feel the Light

ADVENT FOUR • DEC 20 • 4 PM

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

**CELEBRATE THE LONGEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR
BY MAKING LUMINARIES AND LANTERNS!**

**SANTA WILL BE THERE TO
RECEIVE YOUR FOOD BOXES.**

#BPCfeelthelight

Mount Kisco Food Pantry

Did you know that in 2020 the Mount Kisco Food Pantry is expected to serve more than 38,000 families? That's a 38% increase vs. 2019. **The Mount Kisco Food Pantry serves more than 400 households every single week.**

Please watch the video below of Mount Kisco Food Pantry's amazing work during the COVID crisis and don't forget to fill out your reverse advent calendar box with food donations!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhUkv2CSJ-E>

Reverse Advent Calendar

1

Find a box.
Decorate it with joyful colors!

2

Fill box with food donation each day.
See list on next page.

3

If you want to share, take a photo of your box and send to Jess at office@bedfordpreschurch.org

4

Drop off donation boxes at BPC on Dec. 20th between 3:30-5 pm

#BPCIntotheLight

Journey into
The Light

Reverse Advent Calendar Donation List

| | | | |
|---------|----------------------------|---------|---------------------|
| Dec. 1 | Box of cereal | Dec. 11 | Box of cereal |
| Dec. 2 | Jar of peanut butter | Dec. 12 | Bag of rice |
| Dec. 3 | Bag of rice | Dec. 13 | Can of beans |
| Dec. 4 | Box of potatoes | Dec. 14 | Box of crackers |
| Dec. 5 | Box of macaroni and cheese | Dec. 15 | Oatmeal |
| Dec. 6 | Can of fruit | Dec. 16 | Box of pasta |
| Dec. 7 | Can of corn | Dec. 17 | Jar of pasta sauce |
| Dec. 8 | Can of tuna | Dec. 18 | Can of soup |
| Dec. 9 | Dessert mix | Dec. 19 | Chicken noodle soup |
| Dec. 10 | Jar of applesauce | Dec. 20 | Box of pasta |

Generosity

The pandemic has disrupted all of our lives, but we continue to serve in a surprising variety of ways. This includes serving God through our generosity.

Most of us at BPC write checks to financially support the congregation. The Finance Committee is regularly checking the mail and making deposits. Please send your contribution to the church at: **P.O. Box 280, Bedford NY 10506.**

Also, giving online is remarkably simple and convenient. Please go to the BPC website, click on 'Donate' at the very top, and select from the 'Fund' drop down where you want your donation applied.

Virtual Coffee Hour

Please join us *virtually* for Coffee Hour at 10:30 am. Find the link on our website or on this past week's E-NEWS.

The Reverend Carol Howard Merritt, Pastor

John Lettieri, Director of Music

Elyssa Michaels, Director of High School & Middle School Youth Groups

Jessica DeAlto, Office Manager

Sunday Virtual Worship Service 10:00 AM

**Email: Office@bedfordpreschurch.org www.bedfordpreschurch.org
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