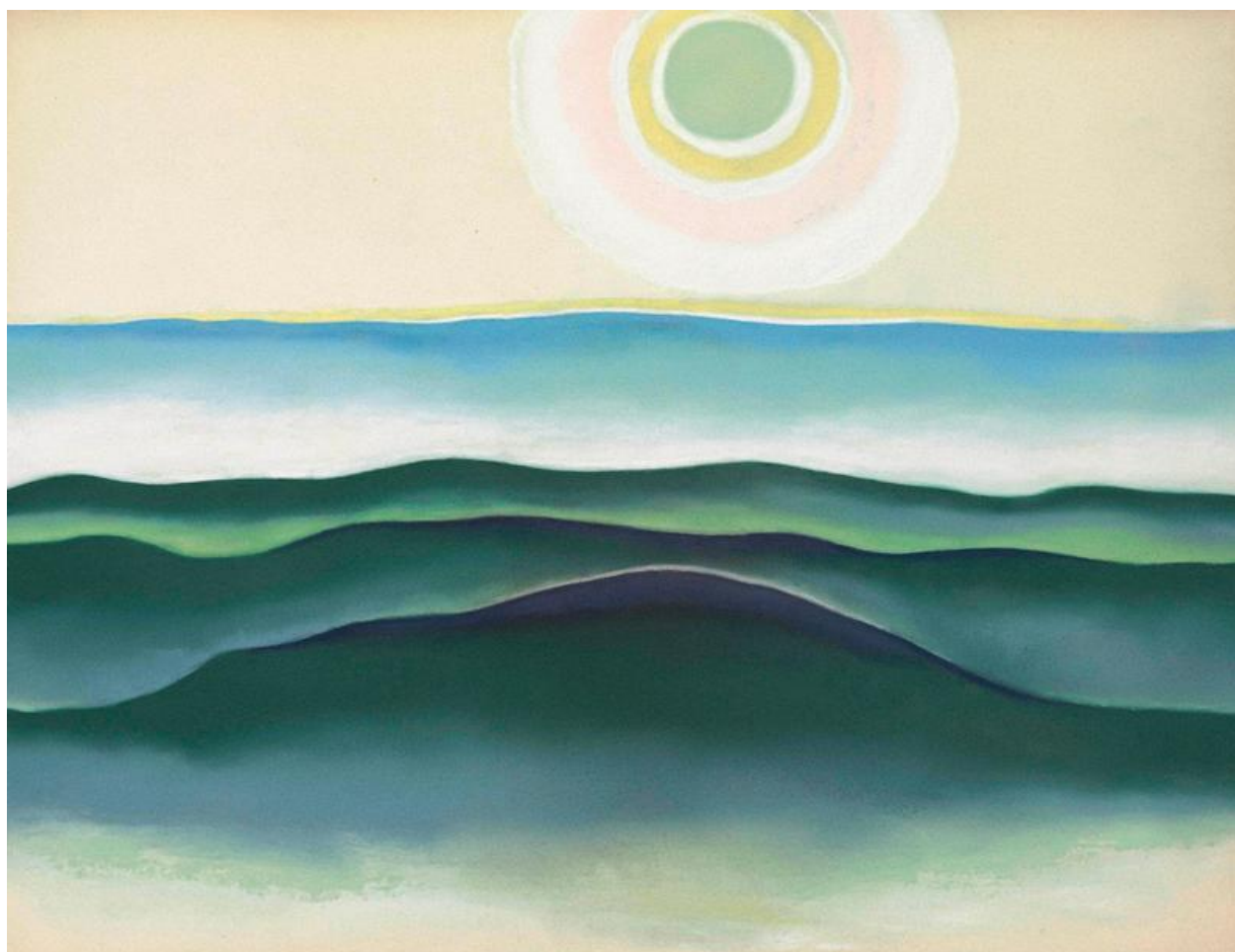


# **BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**



*"Sun Water Maine" by Georgia O'Keeffe*

**Sunday, March 21, 2021**

## **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**Prelude**

*Meditation*

C. M. Widor

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

Dylan Eichhorn

Walking in the wilderness of Lent,

We become aware of what we've lost.  
We long to visit with our loved ones,  
To hug the necks of friends,  
And see the smiles of strangers.

Traveling through this desert,  
We begin to understand the importance  
Of the land behind us,  
As we look for hope in the horizon.

Let us worship God.

**Hymn 343**

*Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

**Poetry Lesson**

*Psalms 51:1-12*

Suzy Beatty

Have mercy on me, O God,  
    according to your steadfast love;  
    according to your abundant mercy  
    blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
    and cleanse me from my sin.  
For I know my transgressions,  
    and my sin is ever before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
    and done what is evil in your sight,  
    so that you are justified in your sentence  
    and blameless when you pass judgment.

Indeed, I was born guilty,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.  
You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.  
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.  
Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

**Gospel Lesson**

*John 12:20-33*

Jason Welsch

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say — ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

**Sermon**

*"Search for Meaning"* Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

**Musical Offering**

*Ave Verum Corpus*

Gabriel Faure

Anne Bentzen and Kathy Perry, soloists

**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**

*Chaconne*

Louis Couperin

**Announcements**

We will no longer be including Announcements along with the Order of Worship on our website each week. All announcements will be included in our weekly E-NEWS that goes directly to your email inbox every Thursday. The benefit of the E-NEWS is that there are 'live' links that bring you directly to websites/documents that are referenced in our announcements.

To sign up for our E-NEWS, please go to the BPC website at **[bedfordpreschurch.org](http://bedfordpreschurch.org)** and select either '**Contact**' at the top **or E-NEWS** just below it.

**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](mailto:Office@bedfordpreschurch.org) [www.bedfordpreschurch.org](http://www.bedfordpreschurch.org)  
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