



# BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*"The Expectant Mother of God", Ukrainian Icon*

# December 3, 2023

## 1st Sunday of Advent

**Prelude** *Wake, Awake!* J. S. Bach

**Ringling of the Bells**

**Introit** *Veni Immanuel* John Bell

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Reader 1: Jesus spoke to his disciples and told them that they would see 'the Human One coming in clouds' with great power and glory.

Reader 2: The psalmist wrote that we would be restored when we feel God's face shining upon us.

Reader 1: The prophet believed in the Lord's awesome deeds, and that no one has heard or seen anything as good as God is.

Reader 2: We do good in the world while we stay awake, watching for signs of hope of the coming of Christ.

**All: We light the first candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. As the Lord has promised, Jesus is coming soon. Come, Lord Jesus!**

(Light the first Advent candle.)

**Hymn 9** **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**  
*Verse 1*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**All: Gracious God, grant us the ability to see the coming light of Christ, to feel the quiet presence of the Holy Spirit, to believe in the Great Mystery of this season, and to do in the world actions that only reflect incarnational hope. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn 1** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

### **Confession and Pardon**

**All: God of the future, you are coming in power to bring peace to all nations. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promises. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace.**

**In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes!**

Leader: With joy, let us draw water from the springs of salvation. Let us call on God's name!

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### **\*Passing of the Peace**

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

*You may stand and greet one another.*

### **Hebrew Bible Lesson**      *Isaiah 64:1-9*

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence —  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil —  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity  
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

**Anthem**    *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*    Chorale arr. J. S. Bach

**Gospel Lesson**                      *Mark 13:24-37*

“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Human One coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass

away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

## **Sermon**

“Wake-up Call” Rev. Courtney Steininger

## **Offering**

**Offertory Anthem** *E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come* Paul Manz

## **\*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**

## **The Lord's Supper**

### **Invitation to the Table**

### **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 the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise...

## **Breaking of Bread**

### **\*Communion of the People**

### **Prayer after Communion and the 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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

### **\*Hymn 13**

*Prepare the Way*

### **\*Charge and Blessing**

### **Benediction Response**

*Fourfold Amen*

F. Glynn

### **\*Postlude**

*The Only Son From Heaven*

J. S. Bach

\*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.*

# CHRISTMAS EVE *Services*

DECEMBER 24TH  
10 AM  
CANDLELIGHT SERVICES  
5 PM | 7 PM | 9 PM

## SECOND SUNDAY SOUP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



WE ARE LOOKING FOR 2 VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE SOUP FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING SUNDAYS:

12/10, 1/14, 2/11 AND 3/10.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED HELPING PLEASE EMAIL ELYSSA.

## MIDNIGHT RUN



----->  
Friday, January 12th  
-----<

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.

This weeks' flowers are given in memory of Rete Carie, spouse of Cindy Houston & sister-in-law to Anne and Rick Bentzen.



## Christmas Flowers & Greens

**Please help us decorate the church for Christmas!**

A \$25.00 donation will help us beautify the church, and along with your donation, you can make a dedication to anyone you would like. Your name along with your dedication will go in our bulletin.

**The deadline is Sunday, December 13th.**

Donations & dedications can be mailed to the church, made on the website under "donate" tab or call the church office at 914-234-3672 or email [Office@bedfordpreschurch.org](mailto:Office@bedfordpreschurch.org).



## DECORATORS' LUNCH

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH**

JOIN US AFTER THE SERVICE TO HELP US DECORATE THE SANCTUARY FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON! WE WILL HAVE FOOD & GREAT COMPANY!



# Cooking for the Food Pantry



Tuesday, December 5th

12 pm | BPC Kitchen

Join us & the Westchester Local Food Project as we cook for the Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry & the Community Center of Northern Westchester

Socialize and Cook for a great cause!



see  
●  
feel  
●  
believe  
●  
do

**BPC invites you to see, feel, believe, do.**

●  
SEE our beautiful building.

BPC stands peacefully in the heart of Bedford Village. Our building has been a community center since the 1860's. The inside and outside of the sanctuary spark awe and calmness. It allows space for moments of reflection and action.

●  
FEEL our inviting community.

First-time visitors often say they same thing, "I just felt so welcomed and at home." From Sunday morning services, to special events like the fall picnic, to regular gatherings like lunch with friends, we simply enjoy being together. All are invited and embraced.

●  
BELIEVE in faith for today.

Our shared faith values tie us together. At the same time, we are open to different beliefs and respectful of various practices of faith. There is no "right place" to sit. There is no "shushing" of kids (we love joyful noise!). We are a community where all can worship and fully be themselves.

●  
DO make a difference where you are inspired.

BPC has a long history of caring for the community. We put our faith in action to make a positive impact. There are many ways to be inspired and get involved in the Mt. Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry, the Woman 2 Woman Prison Ministry, Nativity Farm's Garden, the Emergency Shelter Partnership, and many more.

# Cookies Needed!!



The Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry will be distributing red holiday bags with some special items for pantry clients. The pantry is requesting 'store bought' packaged cookies (no tins and no larger than approximately 1 pound) to include in the bags.

A donation box will be available in the church vestibule and our goal is to receive 50 packages of cookies by December 12th.

For questions or more information, please contact Cecilia Rosenblum at: 914-645-2096 or rosenblumclr12@gmail.com.



## Dominican Republic Trip

February 17-24, 2024

If you are interested in joining the trip or learning more please contact Courtney. All are welcome!



## EMERGENCY SHELTER PARTNERSHIP

JANUARY 1 - 7, 2024 AND FEBRUARY 26 - MARCH 3, 2024



We are looking for volunteers to make dinner, desserts, snacks, and drinks. Find a friend or someone you would like to get to know in the congregation to host dinner one night together!

It's a wonderful way to connect and help some of neighbors.

Go to the website or the 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, December 3rd Advent begins**

10 am      Worship, Communion and Pageant rehearsal  
11 am      Coffee Hour

#### **Monday, December 4th**

9 am      Yoga

#### **Tuesday, December 5th**

12 pm      Cooking for the Interfaith Food Pantry

#### **Wednesday, December 6th**

12 pm      Millie Kane luncheon

#### **Thursday, December 7th**

10 am      Bible Study. Please contact Alan McDougall at **alanmcd@verizon.net**.

#### **Sunday, December 10th**

10 am      Worship  
11 am      Second Sunday Soup, Christmas Pageant & Session Meeting

# 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 & 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