



BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"Sparks III" by Mikalojus Konstantinas Ciurlionis

February 4, 2024
Candlemas

Prelude	<i>Andante Cantabile</i>	C. M. Widor
Introit	<i>Alleluia, Alleluia</i>	Native American

Ringing of the Bells

Welcome and Announcements

***Opening Sentences**

Leader: Open the gates of goodness,

People: We will enter and give thanks.

Leader: We recall the day on which Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the Temple. In their old age, Simeon and Anna saw God in him. Today we give thanks to God and we seek God's blessing as we set apart our sanctuary lamps and candles for our homes as a sign of Christ's liberating love.

***Opening Hymn 469** *Morning Has Broken*

***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 *Malachi 3:1-4*

"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty.

But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

Anthem *What God Ordains is Always Good* arr. J. S. Bach

Gospel Reading *Luke 2:22-40*

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word,
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts

of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

Sermon

Rev. Carol Howard

Hymn 603

Song of Simeon

Offering

Anthem

Locus Iste

Anton Bruckner

This place was made by God, a priceless sacrament

***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.

Communion

Invitation


Joys and Concerns

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.



BPC would like to congratulate Courtney and Jon on their wedding yesterday! We wish them a lifetime of health & happiness!

We also thank them for providing us with their beautiful wedding flowers today.

Annual Meeting Reports

As a reminder to session members and committee heads:

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

Please send to the office no later than Wednesday, February 7th.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!



On February 5th, we will be launching a survey to gather information on a variety of opportunities for the church.

Please watch for it and make sure to respond. We need everyone's participation!

Upcoming Events

Feb. 11 - Burning of the Palms

Feb. 14 - Ash Wednesday

Feb. 18 - First Sunday of Lent



SECOND SUNDAY SOUP

Volunteers are needed for a vegetarian soup for our next
Second Sunday Soups on 2/11 & 3/10.

If you are interested in helping out please
email Andres Mejia or Elyssa.

Sunday, February 25th

Annual Meeting

Directly after the service
in Fellowship Hall

Thanks to the generosity of the following members of BPC's congregation, 20 of our neighbors without homes of their own found warm shelter, delicious dinners, hot showers, portable takeaway food, and loving hospitality through the wintry first week of the New Year. The Emergency Shelter Partnership (ESP) is sustained by the person-to-person collective care of congregations like ours at Bedford Presbyterian Church, and that takes individual commitment.

We are deeply grateful for their participation and invite everyone to get in on the action during our upcoming second session: the week of February 26th-March 3rd.

To participate, contact either ESP Coordinator, Elizabeth Messinger at ehjmessinger@gmail.com | 914-980-0059 or Elyssa elyssa@befordpreschurch.org. You can also sign up directly by clicking [here](#) or by going to the website or enews.



ESP January volunteers 🍷:

Sarah Alley
Anne Bentzen
Kate Branch
Kathy DiBiasi
Lara DiCorpo
Brian and Don Hiller-Dupont
Laurie Fancher
Nancy Gernert
Ashley Glod-Hayes
Carol Howard
Greenwood Family
Barbara Kanner

Dave Keffe
Sue Kelly
Frieda Kautsky
Kim Lapple
Deirdre Lewin
Anne Lloyd
Joan McDougall
Elizabeth Messinger
Elyssa Michaels
Chris and Kathy Perry
Sarah Ryan
Jason Welsch



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

LUNCH WITH FRIENDS

12:30 pm - Chapel Room

Quilting

Tuesdays 1 - 4 pm
Chapel Room



Learn as you go
from other quilters.

MIDNIGHT RUN

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Friday, February 23rd
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We will be holding a Midnight Run on Friday, February 23rd. We are looking for donations of new or gently used items. Go to the website or enews to sign up. We also need people to join us on the run. Please email Courtney if you would like to attend.

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, February 4th

10 am

Worship, Communion and Youth Collection

11 am

Coffee Hour

Monday, February 5th

9 am

Yoga

Tuesday, February 6th

1 pm

Quilting

Thursday, February 8th

10 am

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

Sunday, February 11th

10 am

Worship

11 am

Second Sunday Soup & Session Meeting

Our Leadership

Session

Clerk of Session Michelle Gosh, President Brian Hiller-Dupont,

Anne Bentzen, Linda Burpee (Mission),
Jessica Cunningham (Personnel and Generosity Team),
Amy Drabek, Danielle Gamar (Christian Education),
Ashley Glod-Hayes, Maria Andrea Laverde (Nativity Farm),
Sarah Ryan (Property & Maintenance),
& Bart Tyler (Members & Friends and Generosity Team)
Moderator Reverend Carol Howard

Deacons

Chair Kim Lapple, Sarah Alley, Marcy Carlson,
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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