



BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



December 24, 2025
5pm Family and Candlelight Worship
Christmas Eve

Prelude *Music by Purcell, Corelli and Carols for Trumpets and Organ*
Brian Kanner and Michael Flynt, Trumpets

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Fastert Family

One: We light a candle on this Christmas Eve,
for Christ is born.

All: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.

One: We call this candle Hope. (Light the first candle.)
We call this candle Peace. (Light the second candle.)
We call this candle Joy. (Light the third candle.)
We call this candle Love. (Light the fourth candle.)
We call this candle Christ. (Light the center candle.)
This baby will bring hope, embody peace, give joy,
and be God's love incarnate. Emmanuel, God with us.

***Carol 41**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

***Prayer of the Day** (said in unison)

Holy child of Bethlehem, you are the hope of the world, the song of the angels, the treasure of our hearts, and the glory of God among us. Call us to worship you in the places where your love is born anew: wherever kindness prevails, justice flourishes, and peace reigns. Send us out to serve you, sharing good news of great joy, and praising God through you in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hebrew Scripture Reading *Isaiah 9:2,6-7*

Lola Magill

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and
with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Anthem Solo *Go Tell It On the Mountain* African-American Carol
Joseph Gansert, Baritone Solo

Gospel Reading *Luke 2:1-20*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

The Christmas Story

Rev. Dr. John Miller

***Carol 23**

Angels We Have Heard on High

Offering

Solo

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

Joseph Gansert, Baritone

Prayer of Dedication

The Coming of the Light *John 1:1-14*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Lighting of Our Candles

Please dip the unlit candle toward the flame as the light is passed. Please remain seated during the singing of the carol.

Carol 60

Silent Night, Holy Night

Stille Nacht

A Prayer for Christmas (said in unison)

O God, grant us such love and wonder that with shepherds and magi and pilgrims unknown, we may come to adore the holy child. As you came in the stillness of the night long ago, so enter our lives and world again this night. Overcome our doubts and our fears with the light of Christ's presence that we may see clearly the way to walk, the truth to speak, and the life you would have us live, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Carol 40**

Joy to the World

Antioch

***Blessing**

Please extinguish your candles as the carol begins.
Please leave your candles in the baskets by the doors.

***Postlude**

Richard Elliott

Toccatina on "Angels We Have Heard On High"

*Please stand, if you are able.

Pastor Miller will be on vacation from Dec. 25 - Jan. 3. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please call the office at 914-234-3672, ext. 1002 and leave a voicemail. He will return your call as soon as he is able.



Beyond Grateful

We would like to thank the following people for their wonderful contributions to our Christmas Eve services:

Brian Kanner, Trumpeter
Jerome Burns, Trumpeter
Joseph Gansert, Vocal Soloist
&

All of our wonderful choir members who make beautiful music year-round!

Mary Lou Pappas for her help and talent in beautifying BPC with flowers throughout the year and especially at Christmas Time.

Norman Michaels, Abbot Fleur and the Bedford-Armonk Rotary Club for donating this year's Christmas trees.



Thank you to the following people who so generously donated the beautiful flowers & greens in the sanctuary.

Gordon & Judy Aydelott: *Dedicated to family and loved ones.*

Suzy Beatty: *I have so many blessings in my life for which I am grateful. My children, Heather and Holly, six grandchildren, my husband Bruce who left us too soon, and my loving partner Sandy Babos, who came into my life 5 years ago and who has give me so much joy and love.*

Rick & Anne Bentzen: *In gratitude for the love and support of family & friends everywhere.*

Richard & Jana Bertkau: *In loving memory of William, Francis and Elise Bertkau.*

Bob & Hope Black: *In gratitude for our family.*

Cindy Black: *In honor of my parents, Hope and Bob Black.*

Eleanor Cox: *In memory of my husband, Lloyd B. Cox, Jr.*

Peter & Kathy DiBiasi: *Dedicated to those who continually work towards peace in the world.*

The Fastert Family: *In loving memory of Henry John Fastert.*

Michael & Kathryn Flynn: *To our kids: Isla, Ronan, and Nora.*

Glod-Hayes Family: *In loving memory of George F. Glod.*

John & JoAnne Greenwood: *In honor of the Mitchell family with love and prayers for continued healing for Billy.*

Alanna & Gavin Hilder and Caitlin & Adam May: *In loving memory of Fred Fichtel.*

Jinu & Laura Kim: *In memory of Sophia's grandfather, Rolfe Conover Marsh, who passed away before she was born.*

Chris & Christina Litchford: *In honor of our sister in law, Erika Phillips.*

Alan & Joan McDougall: *For the joy of Christmas.*

Polly Muller-Girard: *In loving memory of Sheila Muller-Girard.*

Judy Newton: *In memory of my sister, Janet Anne Davis.*

Chris & Kathy Perry: *The Moore and Perry families wish everyone a joyous Christmas and New Year.*

Inger Savitt: *In memory of Sam and Bette Savitt.*

Andrew Strawcutter: *To Philip on our 26th Christmas together. A chance encounter in this sanctuary, Philip was hired as the tenor for our Christmas concert. Thank you Kathryn Nichols.*

Rick & Tracy Tegtmeier: *In memory of Bette & Bob Mann, Adele Tegtmeier and Brenda Kelly Kramer.*

Carter Cramer & Kirsten Tegtmeier: *Given in celebration of Colette's first Christmas.*

Bart Tyler: *In Loving Memory of Diana Tyler.*

Jeanne Collins & Matt Valenti: *For our kids, Tinsley and Luke.*

The Walker Family: *To our newborn, Margaux Walker.*

Peter & Julie Williams: *In loving memory of our dear Uncle Paul who always brought joy to our family at Christmas and throughout the year.*



BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEE ● FEEL ● BELIEVE ● DO

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL
Sundays at 10 am

Come **SEE** our beautiful building.
FEEL our inviting community.
BELIEVE in faith for today.
DO make a difference where you are inspired.

Here are some ways you can get involved:

- Provide meals for local homeless people with the Emergency Shelter Partnership.
- Join our quilting group.
- Distribute food and clothing to the homeless on a Midnight Run.
- Join our online bible study group via Zoom.
- Join us on a work trip to build houses in the Dominican Republic with Bridges to Community.
- Get your family involved in our programs for children and youth.
- Put together toiletry bags for the women's prison.
- Help cook meals for the The Pantry.



Giving to Bedford Presbyterian Church

Online donation options are available by scanning this QR code which will access the giving page on our website. Many thanks for your continued generosity and support of the church.

Our Leadership

Session

Clerk of Session, Michelle Gosh
President of Trustees, Bart Tyler
(Finance & Generosity)
Anne Bentzen (Worship & Music)
Jessica Cunningham (Human Resources)
Amy Drabek (Giving Garden)
Danielle Gamar (Christian Education)
Dale Forster (Vision)
Dave Keeffe (Mission)
Maria Andrea Laverde
(Giving Garden & Christian Education)
Judy Newton (Friends & Membership)
Sarah Ryan (Property & Maintenance)



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Barbara Kanner
Andres Mejia
Diane Palmento
Lisa Sayre

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Jessica DeAlto, Administrative
& Financial Manager
Jackie Kunhardt, Director of
Family Ministries
John Lettieri, Director of Music
Elyssa Michaels, Director of
Congregational Life
& Digital Ministries
The Rev. Thomas A. Hughart,
Pastor Emeritus

Christmas Eve

By David Steele

We place the precious Christmas manger
Upon the mantle ... out of danger.
Hand-painted Kings from Hummel lands
Are putty in young, chubby hands;
And glass-blown sheep are too exquisite
And fragile for a child to visit.
So, while we like them very much,
We ask the kids to look... DON'T TOUCH!

But once, I saw on a low table,
Mary, Joseph, star and stable,
The Babe, some sheep, and several kings
Heavy, sturdy, rough-hewn things.
Here children dawdled-took their ease,
Read the sign: "Come, touch us, please."
And every child produced a fresh
Arrangement of that Christmas Creche.

While donkeys watched the Baby sleep,
Angels petted woolly sheep.
And Mary rested from the noise
As Joseph chatted with the boys.
Each child knew to some degree
Just how that scene was meant to be.
I watched, with quite a little mirth
Them orchestrate the Holy Birth.

So God, for her who understands,
Entrusts His coming to our hands.
He urges us now to begin
To place ourselves, our kith and kin
And choose, among the many choices,
Where best we'll hear those angels' voices;
And join that Hallelujah Chorus
Knowing God's at hand ... and for us.

So, friends, with bright and shiny faces,
The King is coming! Take your places!

