



# BEDFORD

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"De la création au désert"  
"De la vie nomade à l'implantation"  
"La parole dans le désert"  
by Dorothée Duntze-Starck

**February 25, 2024**  
**Second Sunday in Lent**

**Prelude**                      *Kyrie: Plein jeu and Fugue*                      F. Couperin

**Ringling of the Bells**

**Introit**                      *Kyrie Eleison*                      A. Dvorak

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Opening Sentences**

Leader: The God of our ancestors has led us to this place.

**People: We are witnesses.**

Leader: We have sworn to teach God's promises to all  
generations.

**People: We are witnesses.**

Leader: Let us tell the world of God's faithful love.

**People: We will worship and witness together!**

**\*Opening Hymn 488**                      *The God of Abraham Praise*

**Confession and Pardon**

**God of Mystery, we want to stay awake and be ready for your surprises, but we are tired and overcome with the usual routine. We want to wait patiently for the fulfillment of your kingdom, but we are frustrated by our need for immediate gratification. We want to believe your promises from ancient days, but we are overwhelmed with postmodern doubts. Come to us again, O God. Awaken us with your unexpected grace. Shock us with your daring mercy. Lift us up from lethargy and set our feet on your path once more. Lord, have mercy.**

Hear now our silent prayers of confession...

Encourage one another with these words: "We will be with the Lord forever."

God's promises are never forgotten. Do not grieve as those who have no hope. Our hope is in God, and not even death can overcome that hope. Enter into God's mercy and love!

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### **Sung Response**

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;  
when I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;  
come and listen to me.

### **\*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.*

### **Time with the Children**

*The children are welcome to stay for the service or they may leave for Sunday Spirit.*

### **Hebrew Bible Lesson      Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16**

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face, and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you

and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her and also give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

### **Anthem**

*Let Thy Merciful Ears, O Lord*

Thomas Weelkes

### **Epistle Lesson**

*Romans 4:13-25*

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham, who with Sarah is the ancestor of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations", in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), and the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore "it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

## Sermon

Rev. Courtney Steininger

*"Witness in the Wilderness"*

## Offering

**Offertory Anthem**

*Wash Me Thoroughly*

Samuel S. Wesley

### **\*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**

## Joys and Concerns

## Prayers of the People

God our hope and our holy companion, we come before you on this Second Sunday of Lent, knowing we can be honest because you know us; you know our thoughts, our concerns, our joys...

**O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos, you create all that moves in light.**

**O Thou! The Breathing Life of all, Creator of the Shimmering Sound that touches us.**

**Respiration of all worlds, we hear you breathing--in and out-- in silence.**

**Source of Sound: in the roar and the whisper, in the breeze and the whirlwind, we hear your Name.**

**Radiant One: You shine within us, outside us--even darkness shines--when we remember.**

**Name of names, our small identity unravels in you, you give it back as a lesson.**

**Wordless Action, Silent Potency-- where ears and eyes awaken, there heaven comes.**

**O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos!**

**\*Hymn 77**

*Forty Days and Forty Nights*

**\*Charge and Blessing**

**\*Sung Response**

*Twofold amen*

Henry Purcell

**\*Postlude**

*Have Mercy on Me, O God*

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.*

*This week's flowers are dedicated in loving memory of our  
parents, Tom and Mary Ellen Collins,  
and Bob and Jeannette Burpee.*

*- David & Linda Burpee*



**YOUR OPINION  
MATTERS!**



The BPC survey is now live! We will gather information on a variety of opportunities for the church.

We need everyone's participation!

Email us for a survey or paper copies are available at the church office.

**If you picked up a paper copy on Sunday, 2/4 please be sure to grab a new one, as we had a printer error and pages were missing.**



## EMERGENCY SHELTER PARTNERSHIP

FEB. 26 - MAR. 3



We are looking for volunteers for the following items for our March dates:

**Sodas:  
Thursday, 2/29**

Go to the website or enews to sign up. Email [Elyssa@befordpreschurch.org](mailto:Elyssa@befordpreschurch.org) with questions.

# Easter Flowers

*Decorate the church for Easter*

With a \$25 donation you can add beautiful flowers to the sanctuary. We welcome you to submit a dedication that will appear in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

You can pay by check or on our website. Dedications should be emailed or mailed to the office. Deadline is March 17th.



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

## LUNCH WITH FRIENDS

12:30 pm - Chapel Room

**In case of inclement weather,  
please check the BPC website for  
notices regarding delayed openings  
and Sunday Worship.**

**Monday thru Friday, BPC follows  
the Bedford Central School  
District's determination on school  
closings and delays.**

VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED FOR

# Coffee Hour

Sunday, February 18th

Email Kim Lapple to help.  
[Kjlapple@gmail.com](mailto:Kjlapple@gmail.com)



## SECOND SUNDAY SOUP

Join us Sunday, March 11th for Second Sunday  
Soup!

Thank you to Barbara Kanner and Sue Kelly for  
providing the soups!



# DONATIONS NEEDED

WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW OR GENTLY USED TOWELS FOR OUR EMERGENCY SHELTER PARTNERSHIP GUESTS.

Please drop off to the church by Sunday, February 26th.

let's play

## NEIGHBORS LINK FAMILY NIGHT

We are looking for people to join us at  
Neighbors Link Family night on  
March 1st to help make  
the event a fun night!!

Contact Courtney  
if you can come.



## Quilting

Tuesdays 1 - 4 pm  
Chapel Room



Learn as you go  
from other quilters.

## 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 25th**

10 am

11 am

#### **Second Sunday in Lent**

Worship

Congregational Meeting

#### **Monday, February 26th**

9 am

#### **ESP WEEK BEGINS**

Yoga

#### **Tuesday, February 27th**

12:30 pm

1 pm

Lunch with Friends

Quilting

#### **Thursday, February 29th**

10 am

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

#### **Friday March 1st**

6:30 pm

Neighbors Link Family Night (offsite).

#### **Sunday, March 3rd**

10 am

Worship, Communion &  
Youth Collection

11 am

Coffee Hour

# **Our Leadership**

## **Session**

**Clerk of Session Michelle Gosh, President Brian Hiller-Dupont** (Worship),  
Anne Bentzen (Vision), Linda Burpee (Mission),  
Jessica Cunningham (Personnel),  
Amy Drabek, Danielle Gamar (Christian Education),  
Ashley Glod-Hayes (Friends & Members),  
Maria Andrea Laverde (Nativity Farm),  
Sarah Ryan (Property & Maintenance),  
& Bart Tyler (Finance)  
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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