

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2020 (176 Years)



Week of July 26th

We will continue sending out this combination of the newsletter and bulletin to keep you up to date on announcements, prayers, needs and scheduled activities for those that are uncomfortable to attend service yet.

Included will be the usual newsletter information along with prayers, scripture and a sermon.

We hope that you can utilize this format to keep up to date while being away from actual services, meetings, activities and watching the online sermon.

Please be in prayer for the end of the coronavirus and healing for those affected by it.



Bedford Presbyterian Church
serving Christ since 1844

A Biblically Guided Christian Community,

Loving God, Loving Others,

Serving the World & Growing Disciples

The Approach to God

Prelude

“For the Beauty of the Earth”
arranged by Diane Bish

Bill Rutledge

One: The peace of Christ be with you

All: And Also with you

Welcome and Announcements

- Please remember that when the Prelude begins the service is being recorded. We ask that you please refrain from talking when the service starts, as conversation can be heard on the recording.
- Something More will resume August 4th
- Any other announcements are printed at the back of this bulletin.

Call to Worship:

One: We are individuals and we are a community, called of God.

All: We gather to worship at God’s bidding.

One: We are individuals and we are a community, called of God.

All: We gather to listen for God’s fresh speaking of the Word.

One: We are individuals and we are a community, called of God.

All: We gather in preparation of being sent to do God’s bidding.

Introit

“Let Us Adore”

Praise Team

Prayer of Confession:

Holy and merciful God, in these days of fear and uncertainty, forgive our little faith, forgive our selfishness, forgive our carelessness. As we stay indoors, forgive us if we also turn inward, forgetting those in need and neglecting our time with You and Your Word. Have mercy we pray, in the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: (1 John 1:8-9)

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

One: Brothers and Sisters believe the good news

All: In Christ Jesus, we have been forgiven and born again to new life.

Gloria

“Glory Be to the Father”

Proclaiming the Word of God

Time for all God's Children

Solo

"I Can Only Imagine"

Shawn Webb

Scripture:

Psalms 8, Romans 8: 26-39, Matthew 5: 13-16

Sermon:

Being Salt and Light in a Pandemic World

I think it's fair to say that since mid-March of this year, we have been living in a Pandemic World. One might tend to characterize our world in some other way depending on some other circumstances that we face today. Be that as it may, in our discussion of that characterization of our world we must somehow get back to the fact that the Coronavirus Pandemic still dominates our world.

In the Commonwealth of Virginia we are still under COVID-19 guidelines, albeit in phase 3 of re-opening the different areas of our daily lives. And depending for the most part on whether we see things from a conservative or liberal viewpoint or somewhere on that spectrum, most of us have our own views as to what we should and should not be allowed to do at this point in the Pandemic world that we are in.

And of course, added to the ramifications of the Pandemic world that we find ourselves in, there is the social unrest that has touched most corners of our nation since the horrific death of George Floyd. And as most people who try to see things objectively would agree, the social unrest in our country has moved far beyond the peaceful protests that naturally followed the tragedy in Minneapolis. Much of what is happening in the streets of our nation has nothing to do with that death.

In the midst of all of this, Jane and I are reading a refreshing little book of essays by Steven Garber titled "The Seamless Life." Steven is professor of marketplace theology at Regent College, Vancouver, B.C. This little book speaks volumes to the situation we are in as a society and as a world. "The Seamless Life" simply described is this: to see the truest truths of the universe woven into the very meaning of life, labor, learning and liturgy. That pretty well covers all the meaningful aspects of life as we know it and life and it should be.

Steven Garber in this little book, makes reference to the essayist Wendell Barry, who talks about all the economies that make up life as we know it—family life, work, politics, the environment, the Church, etc.—and the fact that over all of these "economies" is a greater economy which he says is the "kingdom of God." And Wendell Barry says you can call that overarching economy what you like, but you can't deny it.

And here we are today at Bedford Presbyterian Church gathered in a beautiful, serene House of Worship as we meditate on that greater economy that we know as the kingdom of God. As we worship here in this sanctuary away from the busy world around us, we must admit that no matter

where we might appear on the political spectrum, the conservative-liberal spectrum, if you will, all of what I have described about the state of our country and our society is something that we must consider.

In our consideration of what's going on around us and among us, as Christ followers we must give some prayerful thought to some serious questions such as "How do we view the circumstances we find ourselves in and how does our view square with a Biblical Worldview? And another question is this: Will we search our own hearts and ask for the leading of the Holy Spirit not only in how we view the circumstances we are in, but equally importantly, will we be willing to follow His leading in possible ways that we as a church—the people of God—might be a part of the solution to what's going on around us?"

Since the effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic began to settle around us in March, I have been reminded several times that during many of the world's serious pandemics during the past two millennia, it has been Christians who have tended to run into the fray to give aid rather than away from it. That is no less true with this pandemic.

Besides all the medical personnel who have worked tirelessly to bring healing to the thousands of folks stricken by COVID-19, I am thinking, too, of Samaritan's Purse, who went to NYC and set up a portable hospital next to Sinai Hospital to help with the overflow of victims and recently Samaritan's Purse has set up a portable facility in Alaska to help medical personnel there to be prepared for the great influx of fishermen coming from all over the world for the salmon run.

And I might add that the medical staff of Samaritan's Purse did their job in NYC with utmost dignity, professionalism, and loving care despite some outspoken critics of their presence there. The bottom line is that their critics do not appreciate the biblical worldview of Samaritan's Purse.

Those critics need our prayers because what they do not realize is that it is the biblical worldview of Samaritan's Purse that caused them to travel to NYC and to work in the midst of a pandemic hotspot. Those tireless workers at Samaritan's Purse are simply doing in their sphere of influence, what we all need to be doing in ours: being "salt" and "light" in the world.

After Jesus began His "Sermon on the Mount" with the Beatitudes as Matthew records it, He looked around at those multitudes gathered on the hillside that day and said to them, "You are the salt of the earth." His hearers that day would immediately make a connection with what Jesus was saying because salt was an essential commodity, so important that workers were often paid with salt, giving rise to our term salary.

Jesus and His hearers knew that salt was not only a flavor enhancer but also a preservative. So, He followed that statement with an immediate conjecture: What if salt could lose its saltiness? Well, it would then be of no use except to be thrown out like sand for people to walk on. I'm sure the point was well taken, maybe with a smile so as to say, "I never thought about it that way!"

A legitimate question that we might ask ourselves this morning is this: Is Jesus speaking to us today and reminding us, too, “You are the salt of the earth”? Might a significant part of our calling as Christ followers in our world be to act as a “flavor enhancer” in a society that is so desperately in need of the sweet savor of Christ’s loving Presence? We never know when some discouraged soul is in need of a word of hope from a Christ follower who is sensitive to their need.

And as salt is a preservative, we are called to hold fast to the truth that is God’s Word. We are called to gently and lovingly display the truth of God’s Word in our conversation and in our manner of life. We are called to walk in the Truth and to speak the Truth in a gentle and loving way so as to draw others to that Truth. That’s our calling: to be salt.

Then in another metaphor equally intriguing Jesus said to the multitude (and to us), “You are the light of the world.” Jesus knew the conditions under which the people gathered on that hillside lived. He knew there was a lot of spiritual darkness in their world. He knew the significance of telling His hearers that they were “the light of the world.” He was challenging them to live in such a way as to be a light to those caught up in the darkness of their day. What happens when you turn a light switch on in a dark room? The darkness flees!

Likewise, Jesus knows that there is so much darkness in our world, too. Jesus knows that our world is in desperate need of His peace and His presence. Jesus knows that the clamor and unrest in the streets of our cities is pointing to an absence of peace and hope and love that we know He can bring to a dark, broken and dying world around us.

The lingering effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic in our communities and the rise of new cases in some areas has left many, many people without hope. They need desperately to see others in similar situations to theirs, but who are living examples of hope in a world filled with darkness and despair. Are we displaying the hope that Jesus gives us as we interact with those in our world even as we practice social distancing?

What the world needs to see in us as individual Christ followers as well as corporately as the Church of Jesus Christ in the world, is an attitude of hope. We are called to this hope: Christ in us! Paul says in Colossians 1:27: “Christ in you, the hope of glory!” The New English Bible translates that verse this way: “The secret is simply this: Christ in you! Yes, Christ in you, bringing with Him the hope of all the glorious things to come!”

That’s a secret you want to shout to your world! You want to display the kind of confidence in our Lord Jesus Christ that inspired the Apostle Paul to say in Romans 8:28: “For we know that for those who love God, all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.” Do we love God? Do we know that we are called according to His purpose? Then we know that God will somehow work the circumstances of our lives for our ultimate good. Our daily lives should display that kind of confidence in His goodness.

Paul was so confident in God's love that he could say, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" He could ask the rhetorical question, "Who can separate us from God's love?" because he knew that nothing in all of creation could ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord!

All of this kind of confidence was displayed by a man who was imprisoned because of his faith in Jesus Christ. Paul knew persecution first hand. He knew that he was going to die for the Faith. Yet he could say about all of the hardship, persecution, want, abandonment by friends and all the rest, "...We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us!

If Paul were writing today, he would be assuring believers that absolutely nothing can separate us from the love of God, in Christ Jesus our Lord. He would remind us with assurance that the Coronavirus Pandemic can't separate us from the Love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

So as we face our world—our Coronavirus Pandemic world, our social upheaval and unrest world, our anti-Christian society world—Jesus would remind us to face that world keeping ever before us His admonition that we are called to be salt and light in the world. No matter how much opposition we may face in our world, we are commissioned by Jesus Christ to let our light shine—the light of His joyous presence living in us—let our light shine before the world so that all may see our good works and give glory of our Father in heaven.

When we think of the love our heavenly Father has for us, that He would send His own Son into the world to die so that we might have life, how can we say thanks for such a gift of love and grace and mercy? We say "Thanks!" with our lives being salt and light in the world because we have the assurance that God's greater economy—His kingdom— is ruling over us and we want to share His love to those in our world.

Amen and amen!

Response to the Word of God

Worship Song

"How Great Are You, Lord"

Praise Team

Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. On the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

Doxology

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Closing Prayer- Lord's Prayer

Gracious God, we give our best, lest in gaining the world we lose life itself. As a covenant people, we seek to witness to Your will and way. Help us to know more clearly what You would have us do with all that You have entrusted to our care. With these tithes and offerings we also present ourselves to You as living sacrifices, take and use us for Your glory and honor. This we pray through Christ, our Lord.

Now let us pray together the prayer the Lord taught us...

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.

The Sending Forth

Benediction

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Postlude

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"
arranged by Diane Bish

Bill Rutledge

Joys- July 26th

Joy Linda Benton visited with Dot and Dick, both are doing well
Joy to see Walter & Gina Foster in service along with baby Josiah

Concerns- July 26th

Barnes: Kim Hedrick- (friend) health issues
Eunice- sciatica

Benton: Linda Crawford- (friend) cancer, struggling with chemo

Blair: James Thorne- (scout) rare skin infection, doing better
Katy Neel- (LHS student) scleroderma
Glen Murgacz- (friend) end stages of cancer

Boone: Jim Hedrick - (friend) recovering from partial lung removal
Michael -(son) out of work during pandemic
Ray Graeber- (Sammy's cousin)- recovering from colon surgery
Nancy Boone- (Sammy's cousin's wife) cancer

Chryssikos: Linda Arendt- (neighbor) disabled

Clarke: Ben Daniels - (Pat's grandson) deployed to Syria late summer

Compter: friends exposed to Covid

Cram: Winslow's-(friends of Sally) family & medical problems
Janice Campbell-(friend) under hospice care
Mary Keys- (friend) hospice care
Military away from home

DeWitt: Terry Sharp- (cousin) ceases chemo treatment- hospice

Diddams: Lois- problems with medications
Paul (brother)- loss of wife, not doing well

Dills: Katy Neel- lymphoma

Fleming: family dealing with addiction and self- esteem
Steve Trombecky- (friend) home recovering
Christina- (daughter) lives in Covid hotspot

Foster: Joyce Abbott- (former member) cancer
Andre Nemenek- (Shepherds table cook) prostate cancer
Ellen- doing well
Betty Dudek- home

Glass: Ken (Steve Glass' father) fell, broke hip and shoulder

Goodman: Barry Owen-(friend) cancer
Randall Sales-(SRHS coach) cancer
Katherine Saunders- (Hugh's daughter) hospice

Gould: Jay- home, recovering from heart bypass surgery

Harris: Judy- recovering from throat procedure

Heinrich: Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder
Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

Koch: Doris- stroke

Kuhn- Kibbey: Nancy Milton- (friend) cancer, Alzheimer's
Dot- idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, wet macular degeneration
Grandson- alcoholism

Lambert: Dorinda Hopkins, loss of nephew
The Bond family

Ledden: John- heart problems

Mauser: Joyce Reese- (friend) health problems
Steven-(son's boss) going blind
Tom & Betty Clark- downsizing, and Betty has new pacemaker
Norma Jean- (Gayle's sister) broken collar bone
Pat- (Al's sister) diabetes, tested positive for Covid-19

Meyers: Scouts needing new meeting place and Scout Master

Morris: all law enforcement, firefighters and all other first responders
Forensic scientists who deal with crime
Rev. Pam Ledbetter-(friend) home, doing well
Doris Jean Coble- (cousin) in nursing home
Neal & Win Holland- in Australia, whole family has Covid

Salley: David Etheridge- (fellow pastor) terminal cancer
Emily Salley- (sister-in-law) invasive breast cancer, mastectomy

Saunders: (Ronnie) Colin Bridges- (grandson)
Scott- (son-in-law) chemo and radiation

Scheurer: Jim Hedrick-(friend) cancer, partial lung removed
Bob Lindell-(friend) prostate cancer

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems

Toney: Judy- finished radiation
Karen Hyde-(friend) bladder cancer
Mike Gillespie-passed away, prayers for family
Cal Rice- (former pastor) bone cancer, refused treatment

Van Dyke: Thomas Blythe- (friend) surgery next two Thursdays to clean out heart assist pump
Pat Blythe-(Thomas' wife)- agoraphobia

Wilkerson: Ricky Wilkerson-(Dan's cousin) cancer

Prayers for those dealing with loneliness

Prayers for healing the divisive spirit among our leaders/nation

Prayers for an end of the coronavirus and healing for those infected

Prayers for our divided country and the violence occurring

Prayers to speak and listen to those who are different

Re-gathering guidelines

For the foreseeable future, worship services will be designed to limit the spread of this virus. Please note the following guidelines.

1. If you have a pre-existing medical condition, if you feel sick, or if you believe you may have been exposed to the virus, PLEASE STAY HOME for at least 2 weeks while continuing to worship with us through the video broadcast.
2. Unless you need the elevator, please enter the church through the front door.
3. Wear a face mask while entering and leaving the church. Courtesy face masks – disposable and permanent for you to take home – are available at each entrance.
4. Upon entering, place your offering (regular & 5¢ a meal) in the plates or baskets at each entrance. If you want a Daily Bread booklet or if communion is to be served, pick these up as you go to your seat.
5. Let the ushers guide you to socially distanced seating, where bulletins are placed. Take seats closer to the front and let latecomers sit further back.
6. Go directly to your seats to quietly enjoy the prelude music. Save your greetings and conversations with fellow members for AFTER THE SERVICE when you can safely do so OUTSIDE.
7. During the service, please just listen to the music or sing quietly to yourself.
8. Children will stay with their family, there will be no nursery, no gathering for children's sermon, and no children's church.
9. If you must use the restroom, wash your hands thoroughly.
10. After the service, please let Ushers dismiss you from your seats (moving from back to front)
11. After the service, please linger on the lawn, while wearing your face mask, where you can greet and visit with fellow worshippers.
12. Use a non-touch way of greeting fellow worshippers before and after the service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Thank you for continuing to send in your contributions and pledges.
You can mail your pledge or contribution or you can drop by the office,
Mon-Thurs between 8 am -4pm.**

Even though we aren't meeting as normal, **5 ¢ a meal offerings and Heifer** are still welcomed and encouraged. Just mail them in as you do your pledges and contributions, with a note in the memo line.

Something More will resume meeting on August 4th at 4:30 pm, by ZOOM or in person.

Happy Birthday!!

Jay Gould- 31st
Fred Scheurer- 2nd
Pat Clarke- 4th

Happy Anniversary!!

John & Betty Salley- 2nd

August Birthdays

Fred Scheurer - 2
Pat Clarke - 4
Tinkie Avery -10
Dorinda Hopkins-13
Edith Weeks -17
Ann Fowler -27
William Hopkins -29

August Anniversaries

John & Betty Salley -2
Ron & Barbara Saunders - 6
Barry & Tricia Schubert -7
Lester & Helen Heinrich -10

