

# Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2022 (178 Years)



## Week of August 7<sup>th</sup>

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.



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

One: The peace of Christ be with you

All: **And Also with you**

**Prelude**

*“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”*

Brian Buda

### **Welcome and Announcements**

- Prayer time meets in the Anna Latimer room following service.
- For other announcements, be sure to read the emailed version of the weekly bulletin.

### **\*Call to Worship** (Revelation 4:8,11, 5:12-13) (unison)

Let us join along with the angels in praising God and the Lamb:

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come. You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things, and by your will they were created. And worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing! Now to him who sits upon the Throne and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!

### **\*Hymn of Praise**

*“You Servants of God”*

Hymn 112

### **\*Prayer of Confession**

Almighty God, who does freely pardon all who repent and turn to Him, now fulfill in every contrite heart the promise of redeeming grace; forgiving all our sins and cleansing us from an evil conscience; through the perfect sacrifice of our Savior and Lord. Christ Jesus, the Lamb of God. Amen.

### **\*Assurance of Pardon**

One: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Through Jesus Christ we have been born again to new life.**

### **\*Gloria**

*“Glory to the Father”*

Bill Rutledge

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

### **Introduction to Scripture**

#### **Scripture**

Isaiah 53: 1-7, John 1: 19-34

#### **Hymn**

*“Lamb of God”*

Hymn 281

#### **Sermon**

Jesus, the Lamb of God

When John the Baptizer saw Him for a second time down by the Jordan river – after His baptism, after His forty day trial in the wilderness – that was when this name for Jesus, as “**the Lamb of God,**” became embedded in the thoughts and affections of all who have followed Him thereafter.

Just the day before, John had answered a group of priests, Levites, and Pharisees, that while he was neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor Moses, nor God’s promised future prophet, there was such a one, now among them, unknown to them, *a man who ranks ahead of me because He was*

*before me.* Then the next day, seeing Jesus walking towards him once again, John announced to the world, "*Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*" (John 1:29)

Most people have heard this name for Jesus, but that is where their knowledge stops, because very few know or understand the prophetic implications, for anyone wearing the name, "Lamb of God."

So today, let's focus on Jesus as "The Lamb of God," to better appreciate the full significance of His name. First, we will need to understand both the sacrificial system that God set up in the Law and a singular sacrificial event involved in the deliverance of Israel from slavery. Then we'll look at a strangely disturbing story from the life of Abraham along with the prophecies of Isaiah, as to how the sacrifice of a lamb foreshadows the work of the Messiah. Finally we will figure out what all this means to us.

**Let's begin with the Biblical law of sacrifice.**

The Hebrew laws of sacrifice and atonement, mainly laid out in the book of Leviticus, describe how **one who had broken the law could be justified before God through a payment made by an intermediary or substitute; which was mainly done through the sacrificial death of a lamb, goat, or bull.** But these laws actually had their beginning with the original law-breaking of Adam and Eve, and the sacrifice offered in their behalf by God Himself.

When they did not physically die after eating the forbidden fruit, our first parents thought that perhaps they could escape God's judgment. They did not know that in their disobedience they had immediately, spiritually, died – they had been separated from God – and that in breaking God's law, they now owed a life penalty for their sins. Think of the traumatic lesson Adam and Eve learned about the cost of their disobedience while watching God take the lives of a substitute pair of animals instead, and then clothing them in the skin of those who had died in their place.

But why is any payment for any sin necessary? Couldn't God just ignore it and let both them and me go on living as if nothing had happened? No. Because God is a righteous God, to ignore sin without requiring the just penalty would make Him less than righteous; thus, our sin always demands retribution; as our Bible warns us, *the wages of sin is death* (Romans 6:23). But knowing this, in His mercy God created the law that a qualified voluntary substitute could pay that penalty for us.

Wait a minute! Did you just say a "**qualified voluntary substitute**" ??!! All those lambs, goats and bulls sacrificed over the years never volunteered to do so!!

True. While they did not volunteer to do so, these animals would all still eventually die to provide us with food and clothing, so why not let their deaths also teach us a symbolic lesson: that the wages of sin is always death, but also that someday a volunteer might come along who could and would willingly pay that penalty for us. Who could have guessed that, as planned long before the foundation of the world, this qualified voluntary substitute would be God Himself: Jesus, the lamb of God.

So God set up a sacrificial system for the nation of Israel to keep this lesson of substitutionary atonement always before their minds. **Central to all the temple offerings was the daily sacrifice for the sins of the people of two perfect lambs, without any defect – symbolic of their qualification to be our sinless substitute.** Precisely at third hour (9AM) every single morning, before all the other burnt offerings of the day, with the sounding of a horn, the first lamb was sacrificed. Then at the ninth hour (3PM), as the horns again sounded, the day's offerings would end with the death of the last lamb (Exodus 29:38-42)..

Keep the timing of these two sacrifices in mind as we go on to think of another lamb sacrificed for another purpose:

The last plague inflicted upon Egypt was the death of every firstborn in the land; only through this deadly event would they finally be convinced to let God's people go. To protect the enslaved Hebrew people during this horrible plague God gave them the following instructions.

Late in the day, at twilight, the head of every household was to kill a lamb and paint its blood on the doorposts of their home. They were then to go inside to stay for the night, cooking and eating that lamb, prepared to travel, as the death angel passed over their homes. As they sat inside taking its meat into their bodies for nourishment, that lamb's blood, painted on their doorposts, was both protecting them from death and freeing them from slavery. From that day forward, God established the annual reenactment of this event as a perpetual celebration for the nation of Israel to remember the day that the blood of a lamb delivered them from death to a new life. (Exodus 12:13)

Think of both of these sacrificial events as we move on to see the prophetic significance of a strange and terrible test that God had put to Abraham.

Living childless for 75 years, Abraham then waited another 25 years for the fulfillment of God's promise to give him and Sarah a son. After the miraculous birth of Isaac, being their only heir to all of God's other promises, you can imagine Abraham's dismay when God next told him to sacrifice his son. (Genesis 22:1)

How could God ask Abraham for this sacrifice seeing that, with the giving of Law, He would specifically condemn those who followed such practices? (Leviticus 18:21; 20:2-3; Deuteronomy 12:31; 18:10). But God never wanted Isaac's life, rather He only wanted to test Abraham's sometimes faltering faith; whether or not, now, Abraham would completely trust His promises.

The Bible records that Abraham passed this test because he was fully convinced God was able to do everything He had promised: thus, if Isaac died, God would bring him back to life in order to keep those promises God had made for him (Hebrews 11: 17-19). Isaac didn't die; instead God provided a substitute sacrifice in his place.

This is where this strange event becomes prophetic. As Isaac carried the wood for the sacrifice up Mount Moriah, he asked his father, *where is the lamb for the sacrifice?* Abraham replied, *"God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son"* (Genesis 22:8).

More literally this verse reads, *"God will provide Himself a lamb."* You might say that Abraham's unknowing prophecy was that the coming Messiah would not only be the Lamb of God, but would be the Lord God Himself. Which is exactly who Jesus is.

Further connecting this event with the future death of Jesus, Mount Moriah, where Abraham had been told to go for this sacrifice, was the same place where the Hebrew Temple would later be built (2 Chronicles 3:1), and where Jesus, the Lamb of God, would die.

Now we come to Isaiah's prophecies about God's suffering servant; the only one qualified to be our voluntary substitute.

In probably one of the most beautiful and haunting passages in Scriptures, Isaiah describes how "the arm of the Lord," like a sacrificial lamb would willingly pay the price for all our sins.

*He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.*

*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

*He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. (Isaiah 53:3-7)*

Now, traveling ahead in time to the last day in the life of Jesus, let's see how this prophecy was fulfilled by the one whom John the Baptizer named "*the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.*"

On a Thursday evening, starting the day of preparation for Passover, Jesus ate an early Passover meal with His disciples – what we now call the Last Supper (Luke 27:7, John 13:1). Later that night He was arrested, dragged around to various sham trials, to eventually to stand silently, early in the morning, before Pilate, who then surrendered to the mob's wishes and ordered Him crucified.

After being flogged and beaten by soldiers, like Isaac carrying the wood for his own sacrifice, Jesus then carried a cross up to a promontory called Golgotha on the side of the mountain known as Moriah.

According to both Matthew and Mark's Gospel it was 9AM in the morning that Jesus was nailed to that cross and it was 3PM when he died. (Mark 15:25-34).

### **How could they have known what time of day it was?**

Because while the nails were being driven through Jesus' hands, from the Temple you could hear the horns sounding for the first sacrificial lamb of the day. Then as the horns again sounded for the death of the second lamb, Jesus said, *Father into your hands I commend my spirit*, bowed His head and died (Mark 15:34).

For six hours, as personal offerings for sin were being made at the Temple, Jesus hung on the cross asking God's forgiveness for all our sins, and with the final offering, Jesus, our sacrificial lamb, died. Then at twilight, while all the people were killing their paschal lambs in preparation for the celebration, Jesus' body was being removed from the cross and as they went into their houses for the evening to dine, his body was being laid in a tomb.

In 2007, Pope Benedict 15<sup>th</sup> concluded that the evening before, as Jesus shared an early Passover meal with His disciples, no paschal lamb was served, because Jesus himself was the paschal lamb. Now you know what he meant, when Jesus broke the bread and passed around the cup saying, *take and eat, this is my body [soon to be] broken for you... take and drink, this is my blood [soon to be] shed for you*. Like that first Passover lamb of long ago, His shed blood now saves us from both death and frees us from our slavery to sin, to live a new life in the family of God.

So, when John called Jesus, "*the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,*" he was seeing, in the future event of Jesus death, **not one but two lambs:**

- Jesus as our qualified – sinless – voluntary substitute," God's own provided self-sacrifice, Isaiah's silently suffering servant, the **perfect sacrificial lamb** who could finally pay for all the sins of the whole world
- and also Jesus our **Passover Lamb** whose shed blood protects us from death giving both life and freedom for all who take Him, His Holy Spirit – like the bread we eat and the lamb they ate – into our lives.

But to understand the whole story, we need to see one more image of the Lamb of God as recorded in our Bible. In the book of Revelation, the Apostle John looked forward in time to the end of our world and saw the Lamb of God once more.

*Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?' And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.'*

*Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.'* (Revelation 5:1-9)

Since the fall of Adam and Eve, the problem that has always faced humanity is the lethal nature of sin. Everyone has sinned and has fallen short of God's holy and righteous standard for life. And the wages paid for our sin is death, both physical and spiritual (Romans 3:23,6:23).

God's prescription was to freely offer forgiveness to all who would receive it through the substitutionary sacrifice of a lamb, but not just any lamb, the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, who volunteered His own life in payment for our sin.

Jesus came not as some great teacher bringing some new philosophy or religion, nor did He come as some great political leader to set people free from the oppressive rule of human governments and empires.

Instead Jesus came to bring atonement for our sin, to make us right with God, Restoring what we lost back in the Garden of Eden, something the Law could never provide. He came as "*the Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world*" and to deliver all who by faith accept the offering of His own life payment, freeing them from their captivity to sin and death and assuring them of a new home into the Promised Land of heaven.

Let's think and pray about this as we again come to this Christian version of that ancient Passover meal, now remembering not our delivery from slavery in Egypt, but our delivery from slavery to sin and death.

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD**

### ***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

### ***Sharing of Joys and Concerns***

#### ***Prayer of Thanksgiving***

Nothing that we have is ours alone, but only what You have given. Even life itself is a gift. It is through the sacrifice You made on the cross that we can be free to live in the kingdom as You intended. We commit all that we are, all that we have, and all that will be to You. Our heart, soul, and mind are Yours to form and shape according to Your blueprint. Amen.

#### ***Invitation to Communion***

#### ***Hymn of Preparation***

*"Behold the Lamb"*

Getty/ Townend

#### ***Communion***

#### ***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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

#### ***Closing Hymn***

*"There is a Redeemer"*

Hymn 117

## **THE SENDING FORTH**

#### ***Benediction***

May the God of Peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

#### ***Postlude***

*"Since I have Been Redeemed"*

Mark Hayes

**The flowers are given to the Glory of God** and in memory of  
Dot DeShazo, by her daughters, Dianne Fain and Debra DeShazo.

### Joys- August 7<sup>th</sup>

**Joy-** Bill Mitchell's friend, Ruby Kingsberry 100th birthday

**Joy-** Deanna Rutledge- joy of the musical talent we have

**Joy-** Van Dyke- efforts of Venus Gould and cancer support

### Concerns- August 7<sup>th</sup>

**Avery:** Tinkie, hospice care, Frank, cancer returned

**Barnes:** Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Joey Hedrick- (Kim's husband) cancer

**Benton:** Kim- sister's neighbor- thyroid cancer

Faye McDaniel (friend) husband has severe health issues

Tracey Thomas- (daughter's friend) chemo, lupus

**Blair:** Steve Arrington- (friend) pneumonia, possibly covid

Marshall Dunlap- (friend) cancer

**Boone:** Sarah Walker- (daughter) arthritis in neck

Michael Bamber (friend) throat cancer, lymph nodes

**Clarke:** Weebie, hospice care, Harvey, neuropathy

**Compter:** two brothers- unbelievers

Prayers for friends to come to the Lord

Bob- (friend) Parkinson's

Michael Compter- (brother) heart failure

Steve & Mary- (friends) Steve disabilities

**Cram:** Winslow's-(friends of Sally) family & medical problems

Janice Campbell-(friend) under hospice care

Ryan- (grandson) searching for faith

**DeHart:** Dawn's mother radiation treatments

**Diddams:** Dick- back in hospital with sepsis

**Easter:** Ruby Key (friend) cancer

**Foster:** Ron- (brother-in-law) to get out of hospital and into home

Tom- back surgery

Howard & Lynn (brother) difficulty with legs, wife dementia

**Goodman:** Charles- health issues, heart monitor, dialysis

Betty- recovering from shoulder surgery

John Wright (nephew) heart issues

**Grigg:** Danny Miller (co-worker) cancer relapse

**Heinrich:** Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder

Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

**Kuhn- Kibbey:** Dot- idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, wet macular degeneration

Dick- macular degeneration, taking shots

**Mauser:** Joyce Reese- (friend) health problems

Steven-(son's boss) going blind

Barbara-(Al's sister-in-law) intense headaches

Gayle Mauser- health issues, still struggling

**McManis:** Charlotte, stroke, recovering

Janet (sister) nursing home

Melissa (daughter) covid

**Morris:** all law enforcement, firefighters and all other first responders

Forensic scientists who deal with crime

Doris Jean Coble- (cousin) in nursing home

Kyle Coble- (cousin) lymphoma

**Narwid:** Ed- recovering at home, improving

**Neal:** Janet- palliative care

**Nichols:** JC (nephew's son) mitochondrial disease

**Noell:** Becky, recovering from heart procedure, doing well  
**Poindexter:** Heather- rheumatoid arthritis  
**Saunders:** (Ronnie) Colin Bridges- (grandson)  
Scott- (son-in-law) terminal brain cancer  
**Scheurer:** Jim Hedrick- (friend) cancer  
Bob Lindell-(friend) prostate cancer  
Sonny (son) doing well  
**Smith:** Dorothy Smith- (John's mother) pray she comes to the Lord  
Katherine Tabor- (friend) stage 3 cervical cancer  
**Stetson:** Clay Ramsey- thyroid cancer  
Nick & Tiffany, baby doing well, Tiffany improving  
Kaleb, (Nick's son) recovering from wound tear  
**Stevens:** Jackie Landis- heart problems  
Duncan Elliston- (fireman)  
Bill Gray- loss of leg, cancer  
Jessica Canfield- (friend) struggling after surgery  
Smith Farris- (friend) recovering from surgery, pneumonia  
Tom Richardson- (friend) hospital, afib  
Doug Neals- (friend) cancer  
Dwight Atkins- (cousin) hospice care  
**Van Dyke:** Donna Mannel (friend) MS  
Nancy- lymphoma, prayers for remission, treatments  
**Winberry:** Chris- severe heart issues, improving  
Tom & Dee-(brother) COPD, maybe hospice, prayers for family

**Prayers for our nation and our President**

**Prayers for those dealing with loneliness**

**Prayers for healing the divisive spirit among our leaders/nation**

**Russian invasion ends and not resort to nuclear weapons. Nations to stand up for freedom.**

**Prayers for new residents to come to worship with us**

**Prayers for our constant responders**

**Floods in the East, Fires in the West, War in Ukraine**

## AUGUST 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <i>10 am Worship            Communion            Prayer Time</i>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <i>Farmers            Market            Prayer Table</i>
<b>14</b> <i>10 am Worship            5 ¢ a Meal Offering            Prayer Time</i>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <i>10 am Service            Session            Prayer Time</i>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <i>Book Club,            4 pm</i>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <i>Cancer            Group, 6 pm</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <i>10 am Service            Prayer Time</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			

## 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 - 4 pm.

### Activities for week of August 7<sup>th</sup>

Sunday: 10 am Worship  
Communion  
Prayer Time following service  
Saturday: Farmers Market Prayer Table  
Sunday: August 14<sup>th</sup>  
10 am Worship  
5 ¢ a Meal Offering  
Prayer Time following service

### August Birthdays

Tinkie Avery -10  
Edith Weeks-17  
Ann Fowler-27  
William Hopkins-29

### August Anniversaries

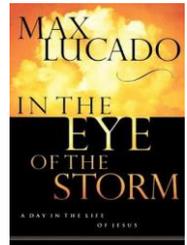
Barry & Tricia Schubert -7  
Lester & Helen Heinrich -10

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### **Something More SUMMER BOOK CLUB Returns!!**

Hot lazy summer days are good times to exercise your mind with the reading and sharing of some good books. For this reason the SMSBC is returning on Tuesday, **August 23<sup>rd</sup>**, at **4 pm**. Along with stimulating discussion – led by Ellen Foster and her faithful assistant John Salley – we will also share a **potluck picnic supper** of whatever you bring. We have chosen a Max Lucado book: *In The Eye Of The Storm*.

Since this is an older publication, it is available in multiple formats and on the used market from \$0-\$10



**Washington Street Baptist Church** will be having their second annual Gospel Fest on **Saturday August 13<sup>th</sup>**, at 309 Franklin Street from 3pm until 7pm. There will be singing and praise dancing, food and a bouncy house for the kids. So bring your lawn chairs and sit back in fellowship and have a good time praising God. If you would like to participate on the Gospel Fest please call (540)586-9376 or email [WSBCclerk@gmail.com](mailto:WSBCclerk@gmail.com) and leave a message or just show up. Looking forward to seeing you there.