

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2023 (179 Years)



Week of July 23rd

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.

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.



A Biblically & Prayerfully Guided
Christian Family of Disciples
Loving God & Serving Others

Bedford Presbyterian is a Biblically and

Prayerfully Guided Christian Family of

Disciples, Loving God and Serving Others

THE APPROACH TO GOD

One: The peace of Christ be with you

All: And Also with you

Prelude

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

arr: Teresa Wilhelmi

Words of Welcome

***Call to Worship**

One: Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors that the King of glory may come in.

All: Who is this King of glory?

One: The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

All: Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

One: Who is He, this King of glory?

All: The Lord Almighty—He is the King of glory.

***Hymn**

"Come, Thou Almighty King"

Hymn 148

*** Prayer of Confession**

Jesus, You are King over all creation and yet we have acted like the kings and queens of our own lives. We have not regarded Your reign nearly as much as we ought. In fact, we have tried to keep Your sovereign rule as far away from our lives as possible. We ask that You renew our hearts to love and cherish Your authority and power. We want to obey You, we want to serve You and we want to follow You. You are the King over all creation; we are Your humble servants. Help us love and worship only You. 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

Children's Time

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

Introduction to Scripture

Scripture

Isaiah 6: 1-8

Worship Song

"I See the Lord"

Chris Falson

Sermon

We're Going to See the King

Suppose for just a moment you received an invitation to meet the king of England. What would that be like? Would you be excited or somewhat anxious? Would you be concerned about saying or doing the wrong thing? Well just in case you're wondering or in case you're hoping to receive such an invitation, here are some protocols that you might want to keep in mind for meeting British royalty. A slight bow or curtsy is always appropriate. Remember, the king always speaks first and is always addressed as "Your Majesty." The king always leads the way. If he stands, then you stand. If he sits, then you sit. When taking a walk, he always goes first. And if you're having dinner, he takes the first bite and when he's finished and arises, then so does everybody else. Never, never arrive late and never touch the king without his consent, including most assuredly any great big hugs. Finally, gifts are always appropriate, but be careful what you give because you don't want to give something that's inappropriate. After all, he is the king and he has access to and can probably afford anything that you might wish to give to him. And in case you feel a bit overwhelmed, don't forget the requirements for what you should wear to such an occasion. Wow! That's a lot to remember.

Now let me ask you another question. Suppose you were invited to meet the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. In other words, you were invited to meet the King, not the king of England or of some other earthly monarch, but the King of all Creation. How would you prepare for that occasion? Are there any protocols, any guidelines that would be helpful if you were summoned into His presence? In fact, there are, as exemplified in the passage of Scripture that was read a few moments ago. When the prophet Isaiah met the Lord, he provided us with a clear cut way in which to respond to such a momentous occasion. Let's take a look at what happened and specifically what Isaiah both experienced and said when he stepped into the presence of the Lord God Almighty.

First of all, it may have been an unexpected encounter. The Scriptures declare, "In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord." Who was this man who met the Lord, where was he when this encounter took place, and what was going on in his nation at that time? We know him, of course, as Isaiah, frequently described by Biblical historians as the "Prince of the Prophets." Beyond that, however, we know very little about him. Here's a brief summary. He was born around 770 BC probably in Jerusalem. He may have come from a family with royal connections and perhaps was not only a prophet, but a priest serving in the Temple. He was married and had two children. He served as a prophet and probably as a spiritual adviser to four of Judea's kings for approximately 40 years. He may have also founded a school for prophets as was often the case during those days. However, when Manasseh, a particularly vile and evil individual, became the king in 687 BC, Isaiah may have met his end, martyred for the sake of his faith. Indeed, his name means "The Lord is salvation."

With all of that in mind, let's take a look at what happened in the sixth chapter of Isaiah. This passage of Scripture is often referred to as his calling into prophetic ministry. As such it was, just as we are facing as a congregation, a time of transition. The godly and aged king, Uzziah, had just died. He had ruled for a long time and Judea had prospered under his leadership. Now he was gone and the people were wondering if his son, Jotham, would also be a gifted and strong ruler. It was a time of uncertainty and perhaps Isaiah was having some of those same feelings as he entered the Temple. Then something unbelievable took place. Isaiah was transported in the spirit to the throne room of the Almighty. This is what he saw—the Lord sitting upon a majestic throne surrounded by seraphim, fiery angelic beings with six wings, declaring God's holiness, their voices so intense that the foundations holding up the building

were shaking, while the throne room itself was filled with smoke. It was an unearthly scene that probably scared Isaiah out of his wits. Even Moses, the revered patriarch of the Jewish people, had never been allowed to look upon the Lord face to face and here he was standing before the Lord God Almighty.

Immediately Isaiah became aware of his sinfulness, not only that God was utterly different from human beings, but also that He was pure, perfect, unblemished. In a cry of despair he cried out, "Woe is me! I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." Just like the villains in the movie "Raiders of the Lost Ark," Isaiah knew he was going to be vaporized in a heartbeat. But strangely, that didn't happen. Instead one of the seraphim came to him with a hot coal from the heavenly altar and touched his lips with that coal. Then the seraphim said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin forgiven." Almost immediately, Isaiah heard the voice of the Lord calling out to him, "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?" Without hesitation Isaiah replied, "Here am I! Send me."

Can you even begin to imagine what that encounter was like? At the very least it was a transformational experience. The Lord God Almighty had commissioned Isaiah to be His prophet, His spokesman for the people of Israel. Unfortunately, the message was not one that they would welcome. The people had turned away from the Lord, worshipped other gods and were now facing divine judgement at the hands of their enemies. If Isaiah arose from the grave, he would probably address us in the same way that he did ancient Israelites, but that's a message for another day. Instead let's search for the kind of clues within this passage of Scripture as well as within our current order of worship that will help us to sense God's presence when we gather together for worship on Sundays. These occasions may not be as dramatic as what Isaiah experienced, but hopefully they can become transformational experiences for you and me as we live out our lives day by day. So let's take a look at the outline you found in this morning's bulletin.

- When we gather together on Sunday mornings for worship—which by the way means "to declare that our God is worthy of our praise and admiration"—our service must begin with a Holy Hush. I know that we want to greet one another as we enter the sanctuary, and that's good. We are the family of God. Each Sunday is a like a family reunion. But when the music of the prelude begins, it's time to refocus our attention. We're here to honor the Lord. Let's open our minds and hearts and invite Him to commune with us. I can't imagine for even a moment that Isaiah went waltzing into the Temple without first realizing that he was entering into the House of the LORD. We need to do the same.

- Second, our worship must continue with a time of **JOYOUS PRAISE**. When we open our hearts and our mouths in adoration of God, we are joining with the seraphim who sang, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory" (Isaiah 6:3). When was the last time you became so excited praising God that you were almost beside yourself with joy? At the church where I served as an interim pastor years ago, that congregation would sometimes just break forth in joyous praise, the entire church family singing, swaying, clapping and so help me I thought that on more than one occasion they might even start flying around like the seraphim.

• Third, our worship must possess an **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUILT**. That's what happens when we recite the "Prayer of Confession." Like Isaiah we are declaring that we are a people of not only unclean lips, but also of unclean actions and attitudes. Now I know that for some people this can become just a meaningless part of the liturgy. They say the words, but they really don't mean them. However, I don't believe that in the presence of a holy God, Isaiah was just mouthing a few words. He realized that compared to the awesomeness and magnificence of God, he was nothing, in fact worse than nothing. When we're honest with ourselves, so are we. Like filthy rags our sins cling to us. We have no right to stand in God's presence. Fortunately, however, like hot coals placed upon our lips, the assurance of pardon is a reminder that God forgives us when we acknowledge our waywardness and ask for His forgiveness.

• Fourth, our worship must include a **MESSAGE FROM ON HIGH**. What exactly does that mean. For starters it means that the message or sermon should be Biblical, an exposition of the Scriptures. As Paul stated so long ago, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16). Therefore, a sermon should be based upon God's Word. But there is something else to be considered. It should reflect what the Lord is saying to the one who is proclaiming the message. He too must be inspired, directed by the Holy Spirit to deliver what he feels the Lord has laid upon his heart. That's precisely what transpired when the Lord spoke to Isaiah. The Almighty said, "I have a message for you to deliver to my people."

• Fifth, our worship must become an **AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH**. That was not necessary for Isaiah, because his faith in the Lord was firmly established. However, throughout Israel's history, God's people were summoned on numerous occasions to reaffirm their allegiance unto the Lord. Remember what Joshua said to the Israelites near the end of his life, "Who are you going to serve, the gods of your ancestors or the God who brought you out of Egypt? But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:14-15). When we affirm our faith by reciting the Apostles Creed or some other declaration of our allegiance, we are reaffirming our faith, our desire and indeed, our determination to be the people of God.

• Sixth, our worship must provide us with an opportunity for **PRAYER AND PERSONAL COMMITMENT**. For many people prayer means "talking to God." We share with Him our thoughts, feelings and needs and there's nothing wrong with that. However, prayer is a dialogue. It's a time for a us to talk with the Lord and also a time for us to listen to the Lord. Years ago, a devout Christian built a little shed behind his home. People asked him why he had built it. He said it was his "listening room." It was the place he went to when he wanted to spend time with the Lord, seeking His leadership and guidance. The same thing happened to Isaiah when he entered the Temple. He spoke to the Lord, but more importantly he listened to what the Lord had to say to him. When we as a congregation pray and then sing that concluding praise song, it's more than just a conclusion to the worship service. It's our opportunity to reflect upon what we feel the Lord is saying to us and to then join with Isaiah in declaring, "Here am I! Send me."

• Finally, our worship must conclude with a **BLESSED DEPARTURE**. In the bulletin it's called a "benediction." Basically it means "an utterance of good wishes." In other words, "Go in peace." And that's a good way to end a worship service, asking the Lord to bless and watch over us until we meet again.

So there you have it, Isaiah's encounter with God in the Temple at Jerusalem and a description of our order of worship at Bedford Presbyterian Church. But most importantly it's an invitation for you and me to seek the Lord's presence when we gather together for worship on Sunday mornings, because as Andrae Crouch has so wonderfully declared, "We're going to see the King!!!"

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn

"Soon and Very Soon"

Hymn 523

Affirmation of Faith (Psalm 95:1-7)

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods. In His hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are His also. The sea is His, for He made it and the dry land, which His hands have formed. O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For He is our God and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.

Doxology

"Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow"

Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty. All that is in the heavens and in the earth is Yours, and You rule over all. Therefore, Lord, receive these offerings, our tangible expressions of love and gratitude. Transform them into a source of life for many, so that Your kingdom may grow in the hearts of all. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

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.

***Hymn**

"Rejoice, the Lord is King"

Hymn 342

THE SENDING FORTH

***Benediction**

Postlude

"Come, Thou Almighty King"

arr: Joey Hoelscher

The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of my beautiful mother,
Jean Wingold Farrar, birthday on August 29th,
by Dot Kuhn-Kibbey.

WE'RE GOING TO SEE THE KING

Isaiah 6:1-8

Imagine for just a moment that you and I received an invitation to meet with the King of Kings and the Lord of Lord's. How would we prepare for such an awesome occasion? What would that experience look like as we prepared for and then actually experienced a personal audience with "His Majesty?" Believe it or not that's what took place when Isaiah was summoned to meet with the Lord a long, long time ago. And potentially it's what we too can experience when we gather together for worship on Sunday mornings. Like Isaiah, we too might find ourselves being ushered into the Lord's presence. So let's take a look at what happens right here at Bedford Presbyterian every Sunday during our worship services. Hopefully it will help us to joyfully declare as we gather together, "This morning, we're going to see the King!"

Our worship must begin with a **HOLY HUSH.**

Our worship must continue with a time for **JOYOUS PRAISE.**

Our worship must possess an **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUILT.**

Our worship must include a **MESSAGE FROM ON HIGH.**

Our worship must become an **AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH.**

Our worship must provide us with an opportunity for **PRAYER and PERSONAL COMMITMENT.**

Our worship must conclude with a **BLESSED DEPARTURE.**

SOMETHING MORE

We do not usually meet on Wednesdays for Something More during the summertime. This coming Wednesday, however, will be an exception. Come and discover how Isaiah's encounter with God can help us experience the Lord's presence when we gather together for worship on Sunday mornings. See you at 3pm in the fellowship hall.

TUBING TRIP

Our Multi-Church Youth Ministry is planning a tubing trip on the James River on August 12. This trip is for middle and high schoolers. The cost is \$20.00 per person. If you know of someone who would like to go, contact Judy Blair or Philip Parker. You can also contact the church office for additional information.

NUGGETS OF JOY

Beginning next Sunday and continuing in the weeks to come, Revered Parker will be bringing a series of sermons from the book of Philippians in the New Testament. Often referred to as, "The Epistle of Joy," Paul uses the word, "joy," or a similar expression 16 times in this brief letter of just four chapters. Like the gold miners of long ago, we'll be panning for JOY as we seek to discover the many ways in which God desires to gladden our hearts.

Joys- July 23rd

Joy- Dot Kuhn-to see entire Poindexter family in service

Joy- What a joy to have Rev. Morrison deliver the message

Concerns- July 23rd

Avery: Tinkie, hospice care

Barnes: Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Ruth (sister) broke back, surgery

Benton: Tracey Thomas- (daughter's friend) having problems with transplant

High school friend- prayers

Sister-in-law, breast cancer

Tom Wilson- (friend) melanoma

Blair: Larry (John's brother) heart attack, 2 stents, home

Marshall Dunlap- (friend) cancer

Ecumenical youth group

Boone: Linda Cole- heart transplant

Don Bartz (brother-in-law_ enlarged hand

Callahan: Mary Jane (friend) cancer

Steve Chaffin- (friend) blood clots

Clarke: Weebie- hospice care

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

Zoey Foster- (child) injury to abdomen, doing well

Vicky- (friend) recurring lymphoma

May- (friend) breast cancer

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

Janice Campbell-(friend) under hospice care

Ryan- (grandson) searching for faith

Lory Graham (friend) health issues, Carolyn, wife caretaker

DeHart: Dawn's mother radiation treatments

Michael Rutter- septic shock

DeWitt: Gerald's father in rehab, then assisted living

Easter: Ruby Key (friend) cancer

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

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

Tom- breathing problems

Prayers for everyone on dialysis

Goode: prayers for Eunice, sciatic pain

Rodney & Connie Groggins(husband's cousins) Connie Alzheimer's, Rodney caregiver, health issues

Grigg: Beth Falwell- starting cancer treatments

Grubb: John- heart issues, not feeling well

Harris: Judy- niece needs help after death in family

Heinrich: Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder

Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

Mauser: Joyce Reese- (friend) health problems
Steven-(son's boss) going blind
Barbara-(Al's sister-in-law) intense headaches
Gayle-doing better

Morris: all law enforcement, firefighters and all other first responders
Families of those who serve
Kyle Coble- (cousin) leukemia
Rev. Pam Ledbetter, auto-immune, diabetes
For our church as we go through transition
James Morgan (cousins husband) spot on lung
John Hargett (friend) woke up paralyzed
Travel mercies

Narwid: Ed- not doing well

Nichols: for family who doesn't know the Lord

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

Schubert: Gerda- multiple strokes

Smith: Dorothy Smith- (John's mother) not feeling well

Stetson: Clay Ramsey- thyroid cancer
Nick, Tiffany & Savannah

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems
Sharon Johnson (daughters co-worker) loss of husband
Two firefighters who suffered falls
Garland Robertson- neighbor terminal lung cancer

Van Dyke: Donna Mannel (friend) MS
Rick Anderson (niece's husband) home recovering

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
Prayers for Ukraine
Pray for World Peace
Tornado destruction across country

July 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 <i>10 am Worship Rev. Philip Parker Communion Prayer Time Property Committee</i>	3	4 <i>Happy Fourth of July! Office closed</i>	5 <i>Transition Committee, 4 pm</i>	6	7	8 <i>Ecumenical Youth 4pm</i>
9 <i>10 am Worship Youth Service Session 5¢ a Meal Prayer Time</i>	10	11 <i>Youth Council, 5:30 pm</i>	12	13 <i>Deacon's 3:30 pm</i>	14	15
16 <i>10 am Service with Rev. Shawn Morrison Prayer time</i>	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 <i>10 am Service with Rev. Philip Parker Ice Cream Social</i>	24	25	26 <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	27 <i>Cancer Support CANCELLED</i>	28	29 <i>Bedford Hiking Club 10am</i>
30 <i>10 am Worship with Rev. Philip Parker</i>	31					

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Activities for week of July 23rd

Sunday: 10 am Worship with Rev. Philip Parker
Ice Cream Social following service

Wednesday: Something More, 3pm

Thursday: Cancer Group cancelled this month

Saturday: Bedford Hiking Club, meet at Peaks of Otter lodge at 10am

Sunday: July 30th
10 am Worship with Rev. Philip Parker

July Birthdays

Jay Gould – 31

August Birthdays

Fred Scheurer- 2
Tinkie Avery -10
Edith Weeks-17
Michelle Goode- 18
Ann Fowler-27
William Hopkins-29

August Anniversaries

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

Saturday, July 29th – Bedford Hiking Club visits Johnson's Farm

The Johnson Farm is a historic 1850's farm located on a 2 mile loop trail leaving from the Peaks of Otter Lodge parking lot. While uphill/downhill it is still an easy walk – and dog walking – trail. **On July 29th meet me at the POO Lodge parking lot at 10 am.** (Cancelled in case of rain, otherwise, I'll see you there – John)



Clerk's Corner



- We are working with the Presbytery to provide training for our Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC). With summer, it is tough finding a time when everyone is available. Keep our PNC in prayer: Judy Blair, Nick DeWitt, James Fleming, Deanna Rutledge, Dave Stetson, Paul Van Dyke (Chair) and Shawn Webb.
- The Presbytery appointed Rev Dees, Pastor at Quaker Memorial Presbyterian, as a moderator for our Session. We had our first Session meeting with her on July 9th.
- Thank you all who helped send our Youth to Montreat. As a result of donations and money raised by the youth, all costs were covered. What a blessing it was to hear from each of them on how that camp touched them!
- Please spread the word on our Cancer Support Group that meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. See Venus Gould for additional information.
- Are you a friendly person who likes making others feel welcomed? Please see Scarlett and Russell Stevens about being a greeter on Sunday mornings.
- Monthly giving for June was slightly under projection. This is the first time this year we have fallen behind in giving.
- Total Missions, including pass through, for the first 6 months of 2023 was \$10,043.
- Are you interested in our Church starting a Grief Group? Please let Becky Noell know.
- A walk though has been done in church to identify repairs needed. First priority is repairing roof/ceilings leaks. But we have also become aware of need for handicap accessible restrooms. That has been added to the list.
- Four replacement windows have arrived. John Blair will be organizing work party to get those installed.
- Our beautiful organ is still not working. We are waiting on our local provider to complete programming the new parts.
- With Rev. Salley's retirement, three couples have stepped up to be on call: Rev. and Sherry Parker, Dave and Lori Stetson and John and Judy Blair.
- **Important Dates:** Sunday, August 13th - Session Meeting