

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2023 (179 Years)

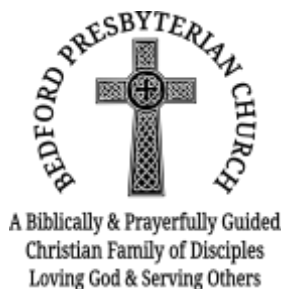


Week of October 15th

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.



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

“Brethren We Have Met to Worship”

Words of Welcome

Minute for Missions

Covered

Michael Smith

***Call to Worship**

One: As we gather today, we call You Heavenly Father

All: Our Father, who art in Heaven.

One: As we gather today we bow in worship to honor Your name.

All: Hallowed be Thy name.

One: As we gather today, we seek Your will and not our own.

All: Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done.

One: As we gather today may the Lord be enthroned on the praises of His people.

All: Lord, we worship and praise You with all our hearts. Your kingdom come, Your will be done in our lives today.

***Hymn**

“Come People of the Risen King”

Getty/Townsend

*** Prayer of Confession**

Lord, You have called us to be a people of prayer. And yet we so often lack the faith to pray for things that we believe are impossible. Forgive us, Lord, for not prioritizing prayer and for our lack of faith. Remind us that Scripture is full of examples of supernatural intervention in our lives and in the lives of those we pray for. We have not because we ask not. Allow us to trust You more completely. May we pray daily in confidence and expect miracles from You in return. We ask this in Jesus’ name. 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

Matthew 6:10, 26:36-39

Worship Song

“We Are an Offering”

Liles

Sermon

THY KINGDOM COME

After years of Biblical research, especially the prophetic books of Daniel, Ezekiel and Revelation, William Miller came to a startlingly important conclusion. The world would come to an end on October 22, 1844. Christ would return to the earth, take His followers to heaven and purify the rest of the world with an all-consuming fire. Miller even went so far as to publish a book describing his findings. At first no one paid a lot of attention to what he was saying, but gradually he gathered around himself a following of between 50 and 100,000 people, especially after the appearance of a comet that blazed across the noontime sky in the spring of 1844. All across central and eastern Massachusetts, people began to prepare for the coming of Christ. They gave away their belongings, sometimes even their homes and their farms and said goodbye to their unbelieving friends. Then on the evening of October 22, they prepared themselves for Christ's return. Donning long white robes, multitudes climbed Mount Wachusett so that they would be the first to greet the Lord. Others who couldn't make it to the mountain did the next best thing. They climbed up into the branches of the apple trees growing in their orchards.

Of course, as we all know, Christ did not return on October 22, 1844 and neither has He returned on any of the other days that have been suggested since then. Nevertheless, there has always been and continues to be a great deal of interest as to when Christ will return and establish His kingdom upon the face of the earth. Even His disciples were consumed by the desire to know when He would return. One day during that last week in Jesus' life on earth, He told His disciples that one day the beautiful temple in Jerusalem was going to be completely destroyed. They could hardly wait to ask Him, "Tell us when this will happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age." (Matthew 24:3)

The same curiosity, I am sure, awakens within our own minds and hearts from time to time when we pray, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, even as it is in heaven." Just take a look at the world around us today. It is becoming a much less pleasant and even dangerous place in which to live. There's the war in Ukraine, which could easily escalate into a much more serious conflict, the growing conflict in Israel and then there's the rising power and influence of communist China. When was the last time you bought an appliance for your home without finding these words printed on the packing box, "made in China"? And how about the rising violence in our cities and the fact that many of them are becoming filthy and even uninhabitable places in which to live. I don't know about you, but sometimes, down deep in my heart, I just want to cry out, "O Lord, please come and take charge of this world in which we live. We human beings have made a mess out of everything. We have destroyed your beautiful creation and we are continuing to harm and hurt one another." Don't you wish sometimes that this verse of Scripture could and indeed would become a reality, "The kingdom of this

world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever” (Revelation 11:15).

Well, that day most surely will come to pass and perhaps sooner than we think. But in the meantime, what does this part of the Lord’s Prayer mean right here and now when we pray, “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth even as it is in heaven.” I wrestled with that very question for several days until I sensed the Lord telling me to share three things with you. First of all, when we pray this part of the Lord’s prayer, we’re asking God to continue doing what He did when He sent His Son into our world. In the gospel of Mark we are told that after John the Baptist was thrown into prison, Jesus began preaching in Galilee. What was His message, “The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe the good news.” (Mark 1:15) Jesus said that the kingdom of God was at hand, nearby, close to them. He said that for one very simple reason. The bringer of that kingdom was standing before them. He was the one who would establish the rule and the reign of God upon the face of the earth. He was the one who would bring peace among men and peace between men and their God. His words and His deeds would have a transforming impact upon the history of humanity, beginning even with His birth.

The year was 1914 and all along the western front British and French forces were facing the onslaught of Germany. World War 1 had quickly turned into trench warfare, each side burrowing into the ground to escape the continuous gunfire that raged above them. Between the enemy lines there was a “no man’s land” that no one dared to enter. Then on Christmas Eve something marvelous, even miraculous took place. The Germans began singing Christmas carols and the British and French joined in with their own favorites. Unannounced and officially forbidden, men from both sides climbed out of their trenches and met in the scarred landscape of “no man’s land.” They shared holiday greetings with one another, exchanged small gifts and presents and enjoyed each other’s company. For one whole evening and most of the next day, Christmas Day, there was no warfare across vast stretches of the Western Front. There was peace among the combatants. For a brief moment in time, the soldiers on those battlefields stepped into the Kingdom of God at the behest of a heavenly child born in Bethlehem.

There’s a second thing that we are requesting when we pray this part of the Lord’s Prayer. We’re asking God to continue doing what He has been doing not only through His Son but also through you and me. Yes, that’s right. Throughout Jesus’ life and ministry, He was constantly being questioned by those who opposed Him. Listen to what Jesus said when a Pharisee asked Him about when the Kingdom of God would come. Jesus replied, “The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, ‘Here it is’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is within you.” (Luke 17:20-21) In other words, it’s not out there, it’s in here. It’s in your heart. It’s in that place within your life that compels you to live and act like Jesus. It’s His Spirit at

work in your life, the Spirit that He promised He would send to us. Jesus said, “And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you.” (John 14:16-17)

Now how does that work? Let me share with you a story, believe it or not, that I read in a literature textbook when I was in high school. It was a story about Albert Schweitzer. Albert Schweitzer was a gifted musician who was born in the late 1800’s. He not only played some of the finest pipe organs in Europe, but he also repaired them when they were broken. He was also a respected theologian and the principal of a theological college in Switzerland. However, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit he gave all of that up. He went back to school, became a doctor-of-medicine and went to serve as a medical missionary in Africa. I count it a real privilege to have seen him on TV when he was interviewed by Jack Parr on the Tonight Show. He was still practicing medicine well up into his 80’s, even though he was living in rather primitive conditions in the African jungle. He and so many others like him have discovered that the kingdom of God resides within us.

Lastly, there’s that third thing that we are requesting when we pray this part of the Lord’s Prayer. We’re asking God to make us willing to do what He wants us to do instead of what we want to do. I remember a story about an old woman who came to a crossroads. She didn’t know which way to go, down the road to the right or down the one to the left. Being rather superstitious, she picked up a stick and decided that it would tell her which way to go. On whichever road it landed would be the direction in which she would continue her journey. She closed her eyes, threw the stick and then opened her eyes to see where it had landed. It had fallen on the road to the right. She picked up the stick and threw it again. The same thing happened. It fell on the road to the right. Over and over again she threw the stick until finally it landed on the left. With a sigh of relief she picked up the bundle of clothing she had been carrying and headed off down the left hand roadway.

Ever thrown sticks until you got them to land where you wanted them to? Of course, you have. We all have. The same is true with regards to doing the will of God. We seek His counsel and if we don’t get the answer we want, we do what we wanted to do anyway. That’s especially true with the big, tough, difficult decisions in life. Like the decision that Jesus faced in the Garden of Gethsemane. He knew what He was facing on the morrow. He’d seen crucifixions. He knew what to expect. So that night in the Garden of Gethsemane He prayed, “O my Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt.” (Matthew 26:39) He was looking for and even anxious to take that left hand fork in the road of life. But He knew that the other way, the right way was God’s way, even though it would cost Him His life.

Yes, there are times when God asks us to do a hard thing like climbing out of a trench on a battlefield or heading off to do missionary work in a jungle. Or closer to home staying up all night with a dying friend, serving as a host at a homeless shelter, driving hundreds of miles to take a patient to the hospital, visiting that grumpy neighbor across the street, or taking out your wallet and paying for a mother's groceries because the Lord is whispering in your ear, "She doesn't have enough money to pay for all of them." All of these acts of random kindness, including your prayers for the lost and your words of comfort for the grieving, are expressions of a willingness to do the will of God and to usher His kingdom into our world, even when it costs us, even when at times it costs us a great deal.

The same is true for you and me. Years ago there was a discipleship program known as Master Life. It was structured in such a way as to help Christians become more spiritually mature in their walk with the Lord. One of the illustrations in the workbook featured a circle with a chair on the inside of it. The circle represented a person's life and the chair was a throne, the place where decisions were made. The question at the bottom of the illustration was this, "Who sits on the throne of your life?" There were and there always are only two choices. We can sit on the throne of our lives and call all the shots, or we can step aside from that throne and let Jesus take our place. It's all about listening to the voice of His Spirit within us and following the example of the life that He lived before us.

So when we pray, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done," what are we asking God to do? For sure we're asking Him to change our world so that it will more nearly resemble His kingdom in heaven. But perhaps there's something else that we are also requesting. We're saying, "O Lord, let me be a part of Your kingdom's work here on earth, even if it's only a little part of what You are doing." And then there's one more additional request, "Give me, O Lord, a willing heart to do what You've asked me to do, even when I don't want to do it." This is the kind of prayer that God desires for us to pray when we say, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done one earth, even as it is in heaven."

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Worship Song

"Here I Am Lord"

Schutte

Affirmation of Faith

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 shall 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.

Doxology

"Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow"

Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

Blessed Giver of All: what is love but giving? What is love, but offering back to You what we have already received from Your overflowing grace and mercy? Bless our gifts, we pray, that they may be used in acts of love. Bless our lives with peace and justice and mercy, so that we may pass those gifts on to others as we work for the coming of Your kingdom and reign upon the earth. This we ask in the name of Your Son, who saw us and reached out to help us find our way home to You.

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

"Shout to the Lord"

Zschech

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Postlude

The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of our loved ones,
Sally Cram and Janis Easter.



Joys- October 15th

Joy- The DeWitts thank everyone for their support on his father's passing

Joy- Ron thanks everyone for prayers and especially for Margaret

Joy- Larry Compter thanked God for safe travels and that Zoey is better

Joy- Deanna praised God for singing school

Concerns- October 15th

Avery: Tinkie, hospice care

Barnes: Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Ruth (sister) broke back, surgery

Teresa Stanley's friend Bobby, major surgery

Eunice- upcoming dr's appt

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

Tom Wilson- (friend) melanoma

Linda- hurt back

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) reversal colostomy surgery

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

Nancy Schaeffer- (friend) brain surgery

DeHart: Dawn's mother radiation treatments

Michael Rutter- septic shock

Easter: Ruby Key (friend) cancer

Dallas (friend) going into the hospital with heart issues

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

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

Tom- home still has difficulty breathing

Prayers for everyone on dialysis

Goode: prayers for Eunice, health issues

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

Heinrich: Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder

Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

Kuhn-Kibbey: Phyllis Smith (friend) - heart attack

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) slow recovery may never walk

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

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

Stetson: Clay Ramsey- thyroid cancer

Nick, Tiffany & Savannah –Savannah back in hospital

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems

Sharon Johnson (daughters co-worker) loss of husband

Two firefighters who suffered falls

Berry family- memory issues

Van Dyke: Rick Anderson (niece's husband) home recovering

Granddaughter- adjusting to daycare

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

Prayers for Israel

October 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 <i>10 am Worship Rev. Philip Parker Communion</i>	2	3	4 <i>Something More, 3pm</i>	5	6	7
8 <i>10 am Worship Rev. Philip Parker Congregational Session 5¢ a Meal BCM</i>	9	10	11 <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	12 <i>Deacons 3:30 pm</i>	13	14
15 <i>10 am Worship Rev. Philip Parker</i>	16	17	18 <i>Something More, 3pm</i>	19	20	21 <i>Ecumenical Youth 6 pm @Blair's Evening in Wildwood</i>
22 <i>10 am Worship Rev. Shawn Morrison Potluck</i>	23	24	25	26 <i>Cancer Support</i>	27	28 <i>Centerfest</i>
29 <i>10 am Service with Rev. Philip Parker</i>	30	31				

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Activities for week of October 15th

Sunday: 10 am Worship with Rev. Philip Parker

Wednesday: Something More, 3 pm

Sunday: October 22nd

10 am Worship with Rev. Shawn Morrison

Potluck

October Birthdays

Libby Monk - 21

Jim Barefoot - 28

Ann Marie Fleming - 28

Linda Benton - 30

October Anniversaries

James & Ann Marie Fleming - 28

Paul & Nancy Van Dyke – 30

Roanoke POPS



We are taking reservations for this year's Christmas Roanoke POPS Concert. It will be on Friday, December 1st at 7:30 pm at the Salem Civic Center.

Each ticket will be \$52.

The money needs to be in by the end of October, checks made out to BPC with POPS in memo line.

Call Judy Blair to reserve your seat 540-587-9416.

About Covered (Minute for Missions)

"Covered" is a law enforcement chaplaincy based in Bedford, Virginia. It serves the men and women of the Town of Bedford Police Department and the Bedford County Sheriff's Office. The name is based on Psalm 91:4 which reads:

"He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart."



BEDFORD
CENTERFEST
THINK LOCAL · BUY LOCAL

October 28th



There will be a Baked Potato Potluck following the service **next Sunday, the 22nd**. Baked potatoes and toppings will be furnished, so please bring your favorite dish to share and join us for great food and fellowship