

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2023 (179 Years)

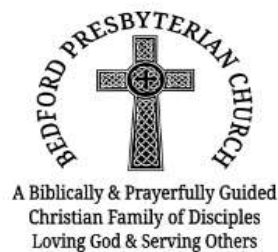


Week of November 19th

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 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

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

arr: Bill Wolaver

Call to Worship

One: Praise the Lord!

All: Praise Him in His sanctuary and in His mighty heavens.

One: Praise Him for his acts of power and for His surpassing greatness.

All: Praise Him with musical instruments and with dance.

One: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

All: Praise the Lord!

Hymn of Praise

"Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above"

Hymn 46

Prayer of Confession

God our Creator, we confess that we are people of ashes and dust. You have claimed us in Your covenant, yet we forget Your steadfast love. You seek us out in the wilderness, yet we continue to wander in our sin. Wash us clean, once again, so that we may return to You and follow Your holy ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 Be to the Father"

Proclaiming the Word of God

Introduction to Scripture

Scripture

Matthew 6:13, 1 Chronicles 29: 10-13

Praise Song

"Hallowed Be Thy Name"

Women's Trio

Sermon

For Thine is the Kingdom

Years ago there was a preacher who had a unique way of selecting the passage of Scripture upon which he was going to preach his sermon. Not only that, he would select the passage of Scripture right in front of the congregation, just before he was going to deliver the message. He would flip open his Bible without looking where he had turned and then put his finger on the verse or verses that had been selected. This would become the text upon which he would base his sermon. This methodology worked for a while. In fact, the congregation was so intrigued that some of the members began trying to guess which passage of Scripture the preacher would select and what he would say about it. Then one Sunday tragedy struck. The preacher opened his Bible, closed his eyes and put his finger on this verse of Scripture, 1 Chronicles, chapter 6, verse 8, “And Ahitub begat Zadok and Zadok begat Ahimaaz.” The preacher had landed in the “begats.” It was a short sermon.

Examining this last portion of the Lord’s Prayer and researching what others have said about it, I came to a similar conclusion. I had landed in the “begats.” This was going to be a short sermon. Here’s why I came to this conclusion. The words, “for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen,” are not found in Luke’s rendition of the Lord’s Prayer. It ends with “and lead us not into temptation.” Furthermore, in most modern translations of the Bible, it is also deleted from the Lord’s Prayer in the gospel of Matthew. At best it’s included as a footnote stating that this ending for the Lord’s Prayer is found in some, but not all of the ancient manuscripts of the New Testament. Furthermore, when I began researching what a number of Biblical scholars had to say about this part of the Lord’s Prayer, they didn’t have much to say. In fact, one of them didn’t say anything at all. They skipped right over it. Yes, I felt like I had landed smack dab in the middle of the “begats.” It was going to be a short sermon. Then I did some more digging and came up with a number of things that were quite interesting. Perhaps there was more to this last portion of the Lord’s Prayer than I had realized. So let’s see what they are.

This part of the Lord’s Prayer—*for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever*—is not found in any of the earliest Greek manuscripts of the New Testament. Neither is it found in the writings of some of the church’s earliest theologians who wrote about it in their commentaries. However, it does show up in a little book that dates all the way back to the first century. It’s called the *Didache*, a book of instructions for new Christians. This book, a catechism, taught new believers what they should believe and how they should worship. Guess what? Included in the *Didache* is the Lord’s Prayer, all of it even the last portion which we are examining this morning. It appears that this ending, very similar to the one we use today, was added to help new Christians memorize the Lord’s Prayer and recite it when they gathered together for worship. And to be perfectly honest that makes a lot of sense. Ending the Lord’s Prayer with “lead us not into temptation is rather abrupt.” It feels like something needs to be added, something to sum up and celebrate what has already been stated. Gradually, I suspect this addition, wherever

it came from, was accepted as a part of the original and then added to later editions of the New Testament manuscripts.

So, should we accept this ending to the Lord's Prayer and continue to use it, or should we cast it aside? And if we decide to keep it, are there some things in this portion of the Lord's Prayer which are true to the Scriptures and which can even inspire us when we address our heavenly Father? I think there are and I would like to share them with you. First of all, after the preposition "for," the word "thine" is used. Most of the time it is not capitalized, but perhaps it should be because this antiquated word is actually referring to God. The Lord's Prayer begins by addressing the Lord and it ends the same way. Not only that, this ending further amplifies that part of the Lord's Prayer where Jesus tells us to pray, "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name." In other words we are to honor and reverence the Lord when we speak to Him. This is precisely what is taking place when we pray this last portion of the Lord's Prayer. We are honoring Him in three distinctly different ways.

First, *"for thine is the kingdom."* Remember during that second sermon on the Lord's Prayer when we were encouraged to pray, "Thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth even as it is in heaven?" When we say, "for thine is the kingdom," we're actually praying that same prayer and moreover we're acknowledging that God is indeed the ruler of His kingdom, both in heaven and on earth. In the ancient world, gods tended to rule over smaller domains. They were regional deities. They might be in charge of a country like Babylon or Egypt, but not over all the earth. They had boundaries and they were supposed to live within them. The Jewish people were among the first to discover that the Lord governs the entire universe. Psalm 24:1 declares, "The earth is the LORD'S and fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."

Second, *"for thine is the kingdom and the power."* When I was in seminary they taught us three great big theological words, "omnipresent, omniscient and omnipotent." Each of them referred to God. He was "omnipresent," always in touch with His creation. He was "omniscient," knowing everything that was going on. He was "omnipotent," He was all powerful. We serve a God who possesses an unlimited ability to do whatever He wishes. After all, He created the universe and that was no small undertaking. As Psalm 19:1 reminds us, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handwork." This concluding part of the Lord's Prayer reminds us of God's strength and power.

Third, *"for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory."* Yes, God is glorious. Literally the word "glory" means "weight." In the ancient world it referred to the idea that a king's esteem and prestige could be determined by how much treasure he possessed. If he possessed tons and tons of gold, for example, he was considered to be very glorious. Solomon was that kind of a king. He even sat on an ivory throne overlaid with gold. Because gold reflects light, it probably had a certain glow about it. Both the throne and the

king were glorious, but even more so is our Lord, our heavenly Father. He too sits on a throne, a heavenly throne and both He and it are far more glorious than anything we might imagine. If you don't believe me, read chapter 4 in the book of Revelation. It depicts a glorious heavenly Father ruling and reigning over His kingdom with power and with glory, just as we are instructed to pray in this final portion of the Lord's Prayer.

There are also those two last words, "forever" and "amen." Our God is eternal. In the book of Revelation He is described as the alpha and the omega. He has no beginning and no end. We don't have to worry about a God whose kingdom, power and glory are limited. We can depend upon Him and because of that we can say "Amen," let it be so. That's what the word "amen" means, "Let it be so because we are in total agreement with what has just said."

Well, it looks like we have escaped the "begats." There's a lot more in this final sentence of the Lord's Prayer than most of us would probably ever imagine. It is truly a fitting conclusion to the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray. But is there anything else, some Biblical source from which this final declaration of praise could have been derived? There is! It's the same passage of Scripture that was read earlier in the service. It is a prayer that King David prayed, a prayer of thanksgiving. The people of Israel had been generous. They had given all of the building materials that would be needed for the construction of the temple in Jerusalem, the temple that Solomon, David's son, would build. David was in a celebrative mood and it's reflected in his prayer. In verse 13 he said, "Now our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name." He also said something else in verse 11 about God that may sound somewhat familiar, "Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is Yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; You are exalted as head over all."

I can't help but wonder if those who inserted these final words in the Lord's Prayer were not inspired by this passage of Scripture in the Old Testament as well as perhaps a gentle nudge from the Holy Spirit. For you see, God has inspired the Bible, filling it with His presence, perhaps including every now and then a word or phrase that needed to be added. In any case, how could we ever repeat the Lord's Prayer without saying, "For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen."

Looking for an illustration that would properly sum up this series of sermons on the Lord's Prayer, I began taking a second look through all of my books on prayer. Finally I came across Elmer Towns' book, *Praying the Lord's Prayer for Spiritual Breakthrough*. Opening it up, I read about a meeting that took place in Seoul, South Korea. Dr. Towns was having breakfast with Dr. Yonggi Cho, pastor of the world's largest Christian congregation. During that meeting, Dr. Towns asked, "How would you advise me to be more effective in prayer?" This is what Dr. Cho said, "Each day I pray the rounds. Like a runner who jogs around and around a race track to get physically fit, I pray the rounds several times each day." Now you may not know the spiritual significance of what it means to "pray the rounds," but Dr.

Towns did. Pastor Cho was talking about praying the Lord's Prayer each morning and more than once, several times over in fact, so that different parts of the prayer could be emphasized each time. Then Dr. Cho added, "I believe when a person sincerely prays the Lord's Prayer each day, that person has covered the basic ways to worship God, and the basic ways to grow and protect his or her spiritual life." He went on to say that the Lord's Prayer covers every kind of petition that we should offer unto the Lord. He added that it also serves as the beginning point for our own personal prayer lives, a prayer life that for Dr. Cho, that was two hours in length each day. Personally, I think that's pretty good advice for each and every one of us.

For six weeks we have been examining the Lord's Prayer, the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray, the prayer that was to serve as a model for our own prayers, the prayer that has been prayed by God's people for nearly two thousand years. Hopefully each of us has gained a greater understanding and a greater appreciation for the way in which Jesus taught us to pray. Hopefully our lives have also been enriched and strengthened spiritually as we incorporate this prayer into our own personal prayer lives. May it become the kind of prayer that ushers us into the presence of the Lord as we joyously declare, "For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen." With all of that in mind, I think the time has come for us to stand and pray this prayer together.

Response to the Word of God

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.

Worship Song

"God Our Father"

Sam Hargreaves

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. Amen.

Doxology

"Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow"

Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty and most merciful God, from You comes every good and perfect gift. We give You praise and thanks for all Your mercies. Your goodness has created us, Your bounty has sustained us, Your discipline has chastened us, Your patience has borne with us, Your love has redeemed us. We thank You for the promise of Your kingdom and pray for the day when Christ will return. We long to see Your Son, our King. Hasten the day when the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Hymn

"O God of Every Nation"
The Sending Forth

Hymn 626

Benediction

Postlude

"An Air for the Trumpet"

Telemann

The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of my parents,
Fred & Gloria Wiepert, by Lynne Palmer

November 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 <i>Something More, 3pm</i>	2	3	4 <i>Daylight Savings time ends Turn Clocks back one hour</i>
5 <i>10 am Worship Rev. Philip Parker Communion</i>	6	7	8 <i>Something More, 3 pm Office closed</i>	9	10	11 <i>Veterans Day</i>
12 <i>10 am Worship Rev. Philip Parker 5¢ a Meal BCM collection</i>	13	14	15 <i>Something More, 3pm</i>	16	17	18
19 <i>10 am Worship Rev. Philip Parker Harvest Home Potluck</i>	20	21	22 <i>Something More, 3pm</i>	23 <i>Thanksgiving Day Office closed</i>	24	25
26 <i>10 am Worship Rev. Philip Parker</i>	27	28	29 <i>Something More, 3pm</i>	30		

Joys- November 19th

Joy- to see Margaret and Ron Morris in church today, thanking the church for all the support and prayers.

Joy- Sally Cram said her friend Nancy Schaefer (on prayer list) is doing better.

Joy-Linda Benton thanked the congregation for their generosity. \$600 is headed to the Murphrees.

Joy-Jim Barefoot said it was a joy seeing and hearing the choir this morning. He was also thankful for the message.

Joy-Bob Seiger is recovering from surgery and thanks Teresa Stanley for getting him to church today.

Joy-Judy Blair praised God for the one-year anniversary of the Ecumenical Youth group and that her granddaughter's cross-country team won State Championship.

Concerns- November 19th

Avery: Tinkie, hospice care

Barnes: Kim Hedrick- (friend) colon cancer

Mark- (nephew) open heart surgery, caregiver of special needs adult

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

Tom Wilson- (friend) melanoma

Fed Beeson- (brother-in-law) upcoming surgery

Blair: 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

Compter: two brothers- unbelievers

Prayers for friends to come to the Lord

Michael Compter- (brother) heart failure

Steve & Mary- (friends) Steve disabilities

Zoey Fisher-(child) reversal colostomy surgery

Vicky-(friend) recurring lymphoma

May- (friend) breast cancer

Larry- back out

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

Janice Campbell-(friend) under hospice care

Ryan- (grandson) searching for faith

Ben Thomas (son) severe vertigo

Lory Graham- (friend) health issues, wife caretaker

Nancy Schaeffer-(friend) brain surgery

Friend in Colorado not doing well

Brenda Wilkerson- UVA- seizures

DeHart: Dawn's mother gall bladder surgery

Michael Rutter- septic shock, amputation

Easter: Ruby Key (friend) cancer

Dallas (friend) heart issues

Foster: Ron (brother-in-law) out of hospital into home
 Howard & Lynn (brother) difficulty with legs, wife dementia
 Tom- home , kidney infection
 Prayers for everyone on dialysis

Goode: prayers for Eunice, health issues
 Rodney & Connie Groggins (husband's cousins) Connie
 Alzheimer's, Rodney caregiver, health issues
 Cynthia- (friend) physical therapy

Grigg: Beth Falwell- staring cancer treatments

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

Kuhn- Kibbey: Phyllis Smith (friend) heart attack

Lambert: Margaret caring for brother, strokes

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

Morris: all law enforcement, firefighters and all other first responders
 Forensic scientists who deal with crime
 Kyle Coble- (cousin) leukemia
 Rev. Pam Ledbetter, recovering from stroke
 James Morgan (cousins husband) spot on lung
 John Hargett (friend) slow recovery may never walk
 Ron- heart issues, home
 Margaret- gastric issues

Narwid: Ed- not doing well

Nichols: for family who doesn't know the Lord

Saunders: (Ronnie) Colin Bridges- (grandson)
 Scott- (son-in-law) doing well

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 ICU

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems
 Two firefighters who suffered falls
 Carrie Stevens- (daughter) cancer tests

Van Dyke: Rich Anderson (nieces' husband) recovering

Prayers for our nation and our President

Prayers for healing the divisive spirit among our leaders/nation

Russian invasion ends and not resort to nuclear weapons.

Prayers for new residents to come to worship with us

Prayers for Ukraine

Pray for World Peace

Prayers for Israel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Activities for week of November 19th

Sunday: 10 am Worship

Harvest Home

Potluck Luncheon

Wednesday: 3 pm Something More

Thursday: Happy Thanksgiving! Office closed

Sunday: November 26th

10 am Worship

November Birthdays

Bill Rutledge- 23

Dianne Fain- 29

Barry Schubert- 30

November Anniversaries

Dick & Lois Diddiams- 26



Help Needed

By Jim Barefoot (with permission)



Everywhere we see Now Hiring, or Help Wanted signs. My simple mind started wondering what kind of jobs these signs would be advertising for in

Heaven. With all the Covid deaths there must be some need in Heaven these new arrivals can help with.

Here goes my foolishness.

1. Repair angel wings and replace batteries in dim halos.
2. Teach new angels how to fly.
3. Paint sunsets.
4. Design and inflate billowing clouds.
5. Work at the switchboard routing incoming prayers to the proper office.
6. Prepare soul food in the fellowship hall.
7. Lead revival mission trips to hell.
8. Stand at the Pearly Gates to make sure passports of new arrivals have the first three letters HEA and not HEL
9. Give Covid shots to angels before they leave on their trips to earth.
10. Sign up new arrivals to sing in the heavenly choir.

Clerk's Corner



- Rev. Parker is officially our Interim Pastor! Contract finalized and approved by the Presbytery.
- Our Congregational Meeting on October 8th, approved the proposed slate of nominations: Michelle Goode as Missions leader, class of 2026; Becky Noell for a second term as Discipleship leader, class of 2026; Ann Marie Fleming for one additional year as Finance leader class of 2024; Venus Gould as Deacon, class of 2026; Christy Boone for a second term as Deacon, class of 2026; Bill Hopkins as a Trustee, class of 2026.
- Thank you Barbara Nichols, Judy Blair, Dave Stetson and Nancy Van Dyke for your work on the 2023 Nominating Committee.
- Bill Yodis will serve as Chair of the 2024 Nominating Committee. The Congregation approved Becky Noell and Tricia Schubert as lay leaders. However, after the meeting Session became aware that the nominations were not in keeping with established BPC policy. Becky Noell is serving an additional term on Session and is not a Lay member. Policy requires 3 lay members. This will be discussed at next Session meeting and addressed at future Congregational meeting.
- Our Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) completed their second round of training and is now reviewing potential matches. Keep them in prayer: Judy Blair, Nick DeWitt, James Fleming, Deanna Rutledge, Dave Stetson, Paul Van Dyke (Chair) and Shawn Webb.
- Thank you everyone who supported filling the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.
- The Fellowship Hall was opened as a Cooling shelter once in September with 6 people using it.
- The leak in the sanctuary was determined to be a metal fatigued drip pan that bent and prevented the secondary cut off from working.
- Plan on attending Abendmusik, December 10th. In addition to an adult choir, we will have 30 voices in the children's choir. Accompaniment will be provided by a string quartet, piano, electric keyboard and fiddle. Riddle on the Harp will be providing a mini-concert before the program begins.



Thanksgiving Service

There will be a **Community Thanksgiving Service this Sunday afternoon, November 19th, 3:00 pm, at Word of Life Evangelical Church.** The church is located on Route 122, south of town near Liberty Lake Park. Those who would like to sing in a community choir should plan to arrive at 2:00 pm.

Irregardlessly Thankful

Next Sunday we will continue our celebration of the Thanksgiving Holiday as we discover what it means to be irregardlessly thankful. The message will be based on Paul's letter to the Thessalonians where he wrote, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).



Christmas Shoe Boxes- Thank You!!

The members of our church packed 38 Christmas Shoe Boxes. In the days to come these boxes of gifts will be winging their way all around the world. Millions of children will have an opportunity to experience the joy of Christmas and to hear about the birth of God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Thanks so much for being a part of this worldwide ministry of Samaritan's Purse.

Trees for First Responders and Health Care Workers

It's that time of year when we spread a little Christmas joy to those who must work over the holiday weekend. They give of themselves all year long and we want to give back and let them know in a small way, that we do appreciate their service. On Saturday, December 16th, the Ecumenical Youth Group will be "decorating" small Christmas trees with snacks that can be wrapped with string and hung on the trees. If you have a small 3-foot tree that you can donate, please drop it off at the church before the 16th. We also ask that you donate the snacks that we will need to hang on the trees before then also. After these trees have been "decorated," we will ask for folks to deliver them to various locations around the town and county. If you have any questions you can get in touch with Judy Blair. Thank you for joining us in this important ministry of service.