

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2024 (180 Years)

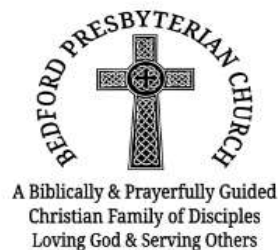


Week of March 24th

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

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

Schwoebel

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

One: We raise our voices and wave with joyful hope the palms of deliverance of God's people.

All: Hosanna! Hosanna to the Son of David!

One: Our hearts are filled with expectation as we welcome the coming king.

All: Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

One: We receive into the crowded streets of our lives the one who is Savior, not only of us, but of all the earth.

All: Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Hymn

"All Glory, Laud and Honor"

Hymn 265

***Prayer of Confession:**

With eager hearts and open hands, Holy One, we welcome Jesus, until He refuses the power we offer Him, choosing to become our servant. We pick up the faith we had laid on the ground before Him and put it back on the shelf where it belongs. Our pride keeps us from being able to follow Him all the way to Calvary. Hosanna, Steadfast God, save us! Help us to let our fears, our doubts, our faithlessness slip from our lives to fall at Your feet, so we may stand with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who comes in Your name, in Your glory, in Your grace to save us.

***Assurance of Pardon (responsive)**

Tell the daughters of despair, proclaim it to the sons of sadness: Christ has come to save us!

Hosanna! We will give our thanks to God, who comes to bring us grace, hope, and life.

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"

Rutledge

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

Introduction to Scripture

Scripture

Luke 19:28-44

Anthem

"Hosanna, Hosanna!"

Martin

Sermon

The Palm Sunday Parade

Everyone loves a parade. At least I hope so. One of my parade memories goes all the way back to my childhood. On Memorial Day we would drive in to Portsmouth to view one of the oldest celebrations of this holiday. It began in 1884 and has been continuous ever since. Honoring the service and sacrifice of the men and women of our Armed Forces, thousands of people would gather in downtown Portsmouth. As a child I remember seeing the marching bands, the various floats and lots of dignitaries riding in fancy limousines. What I remember most of all, however, was the columns of soldiers and sailors marching in step down the middle of High Street, followed by military vehicles. On one occasion there was even a tank on a flat-bed truck. For a youngster it was quite a scene, one that I still vividly remember to this day.

For those who were a part of the Palm Sunday parade, it too was a memorable occasion. Starting on the slopes of the Mount of Olives, it wound its way down from that hillside into the Kidron Valley and then up into the city of Jerusalem. It concluded at the Temple, the holiest locale in all of Judea. It was a processional pathway that had been used for centuries by those who were on their way to be crowned as kings. Furthermore, its final destination at the Temple gave such processions not only an opportunity to ignite patriotic fervor, but to also create an expectation of divine favor. Now that Jerusalem and all of Judea was governed by the Romans, any such demonstrations were a source of great concern, especially during the days leading up to the celebration of the Passover. Like their ancestors enslaved in Egypt, many Jews longed for the day when their nation would be free from foreign occupation. For that reason Pontius Pilate, the Roman Procurator, was always concerned that these kinds of events could turn into a riot or worse. They could escalate into a full scale revolt. Extra guards were stationed along the route just in case things got out of hand.

So this morning, I invite you to become a part of this processional parade. I want you to become one of those who were in the throng of people who greeted Jesus as He entered the city of Jerusalem. I want you to observe what happened on that day and to imagine whom you would have most likely been identified with as you waited for Jesus' arrival. In fact, even now as the crowds are beginning to gather, look around and see who is standing nearby.

First of all, there are a lot of Roman soldiers. They are dressed in full battle gear with swords and shields, carrying long spears to maintain crowd control. They have been told by their commanding officer, "All right men, you know what we're facing. Thousands of pilgrims are coming into the city to celebrate the Passover. It's a Jewish holiday, celebrating their deliverance from slavery in Egypt. It took place a long time ago, but they have not forgotten how their God delivered them from their oppressors. Neither have they forgotten that they consider us to be their oppressors. So be on your guard. Anything can happen, especially this year. The Galilean called Jesus is coming into the city along with His followers. Some are saying that He is their messiah, anointed by their God to lead the nation. There could be trouble so be prepared."

One of the biggest groups in the Palm Sunday parade are the disciples of Jesus. Their number includes the twelve apostles. The crowd also includes a wide assortment of individuals who had been a part of His movement from the beginning as well as those who had recently joined, attracted by the miracles they had witnessed. Seeing Jesus riding on a donkey and remembering that the inauguration of their ancient kings had followed a similar practice, they are truly excited. Some, in fact, remember what the prophet Zechariah once said, "Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey" (Zechariah 9:9). Wow, they are thinking. This is it. God has sent the Savior of our people. Waving palm branches, a symbolic gesture of enthusiastic zeal, they begin shouting, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest" (Luke 19:38).

Another group in the crowd are the religious leaders of Judea. They are composed of two groups. The first are the Sadducees. They are the priests who run the Temple. Collecting offerings for the various sacrifices that are offered on the high altar is a profitable business that has insured a luxurious life style for themselves and their families. They operate the Temple under the guidance and protection of the Roman authorities. They do not want anything to happen which might endanger that relationship. They see this demonstration as a clear threat to their way of life. The other group are the Pharisees. They are teachers who instruct the people about the laws of God. Here in Jerusalem as well as in the towns and villages throughout Judea and Galilee they are in charge of the synagogues, places of worship and religious instruction, much like our local churches. They too are worried. They are equally opposed to anything which causes unrest. They know what the Romans can do when revolution breaks out. They preach the importance of keeping the Law of Moses and living a quiet and respectful way of life. They believe that if the Jewish people could keep the Law, even for just a few days, the Lord would send His anointed Messiah, probably a respected Rabbi, like themselves. They don't like this Jesus from Nazareth. He's criticized them and called them out for their hypocrisy. Furthermore, He doesn't have the right credentials and His followers are nothing more than a band of vagabonds. As far as they are concerned, this demonstration is not only illegal, but also a real threat to what they have been trying to achieve. Rarely do the Pharisees and the Sadducees get along with one another. But on this occasion, they are united in their vocal opposition to Jesus and the crowds following after Him. In fact, some of them are shouting at Jesus as He passes by. They demand, "Tell your disciples to stop all this racket. They will incite a riot." Jesus in response tells them, "If they remain silent, the very stones of this city will cry out."

Finally, in the middle of all this enthusiastic chaos, there is Jesus. One would have thought that He would be smiling, rejoicing with those who were celebrating His arrival. But instead He was weeping. Why? Because He can see into the future. He knows that in a few short days these hosannas of praise will become shouts of anger and rejection. Not the people in this Palm Sunday parade, but others will accuse Him of being an imposter, someone pretending to be God's Son. They will turn Him over to the Romans for crucifixion. Not only that, looking even further into the future, He realizes that His own people, the Jewish nation will turn away from Him even after His resurrection. They will turn away from God's salvation and the opportunity to be the agents of a spiritual revival that could embrace all of humanity. Instead, they will cling to their nationalist aspirations, revolt against Rome and experience the complete devastation of everything that they hold near and dear. Jerusalem will be destroyed and the Jewish people will be dispersed like wind-blown chaff. Looking into the future as He gazes upon the city, He says, "They will dash you to the ground, you and children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you" (Luke 19:44).

So I ask you again, where would you have stood, what would you have done, how would you have been a part of this Palm Sunday parade? I suspect, knowing you as I do, that you would have been in the procession making its way into Jerusalem. You are Jesus's disciples and you have honored Him and served Him for many years. However, what if the time frame from two thousand years ago was moved to today, what would it be like if Jesus made His way into our lives in the twenty-first century? Yes, there would be thousands upon millions welcoming His arrival right here in America. But not everyone. There would be some, like the Roman soldiers, who would do their best to make sure that this event did not have front page coverage. They would block it from our various social media platforms and do their best to down play its importance. After all, we now live in a secular society when such ancient superstitions can get out of hand. They must be repressed.

There would be another group whose objections would be even more pointed. They would declare and indeed they have declared that such religious exuberance is dangerous. They would classify those who are deeply devoted to Christ as domestic terrorists. They would express the need to control this population

within our nation and to take steps to arrest and even incarcerate them if necessary. Like many other totalitarian states they would begin to take steps to restrict religious freedom, especially if it differed from their stated goals of creating a godless society.

All of which brings me to this somber realization. If Jesus once again entered into our world, especially our small portion of it here in America, I am certain that He would once again be weeping. He would see how so many had turned away from Him. He would see the consequences of that decision and how it is destroying the very fabric of our lives as a people. He would see the hurt and pain that we are heaping upon ourselves by lifestyles filled with self-indulgence and our disregard for time honored moral standards. He would see the eventual decline and fall of a once great people and it would break His heart. The nation that was once described as “city on a hill,” a beacon of hope shining brightly for all the world to see, would now be reduced to a darkened relic of the past. Unless we are a people truly repentant and willing to find our way back to God, unless we are willing to join with crowds welcoming Jesus into their lives, the words which Jesus spoke over Jerusalem will become the words which He speaks once again over us, “Not one stone will be left upon another because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Worship Song

“He Will Come and Save You”

Bob Fitts

Affirmation of Faith

WE BELIEVE that our lives are held within the encircling love of God who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.

WE BELIEVE that Christ is the divine Child of the living God, and that His grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.

WE BELIEVE in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.

WE BELIEVE that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures, and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.

WE BELIEVE that our journey has a purpose and a destination, and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.

WE BELIEVE that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road, and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.

This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ our Lord. AMEN

Doxology

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The crowds offered You their coats on which to walk, they waved palm branches, honoring Your presence. Today we honor You, Lord, with our faithful tithes and offerings. We lay these gifts before You, humble tokens of our love, a public display of affection for You, our King of kings. 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

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

Hymn 267

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Postlude

"Christus, der uns selig macht"
(Christ Who Makes Us Blessed)

Pachelbel

The flowers are dedicated to the **Glory of God** by Becky Noell and are in memory of her son Chad on his birthday.

Bedford Hiking Club walk scheduled for March 30th has been cancelled.

ON THE AIR AND IN PRINT

There are many ways to be a part of the life of our church. Bulletins and sermon manuscripts are mailed by USPS upon request and are emailed to the church family and friends each week. Our worship services are live streamed each Sunday at 10 am and available later in the day on the church's website. "Something More," our discipleship ministry which meets on Wednesdays at 3 pm, is now available on Zoom. You can tune in and join in the discussion. Additionally, discussion questions for each session are now available on our church's website, bedfordpresbyva.org under the discipleship tab. Don't miss out on these opportunities to deepen your relationship with the Lord and His people week by week.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The men of our church are invited to a breakfast fellowship on Saturday morning, April 6th at 9:00 am. Tim Black, mayor of the town of Bedford, will be our guest speaker. We hope the men of our church will attend and bring their friends. So that we will know how many to expect, speak to James Fleming or John Blair on Sunday or send them a text/email with your name and the number attending.

Thank you for your continued support

BPC Financial Snapshot						
General Operations Contribution Income				General Operations Expense		
	Forecast	Actual	YTD Ahead/(Behind)	Monthly Expense Forecast	Actual Expenses	YTD (Over)/Under Spent
Jan 2024	\$ 15,960.00	\$ 15,563.64	\$ (396.36)	\$ 17,034.05	\$ 13,260.87	\$ 3,773.18
Feb 2024	\$ 16,220.00	\$ 15,424.36	\$ (1,192.00)	\$ 17,034.05	\$ 12,770.60	\$ 8,036.63

March 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 <i>10 am Worship Communion</i>	4	5	6 <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	7	8	9
10 <i>10 am Worship 5¢ a Meal BCM collection Session Daylight Savings Time begins</i>	11	12	13 <i>Something More, 3pm</i>	14	15	16
17 <i>10 am Worship</i>	18	19 <i>First day of spring</i>	20 <i>Something More, 3pm</i>	21	22	23
24 <i>10 am Worship Palm Sunday</i>	25	26	27 <i>Something More, 3pm</i>	28 <i>Maundy Thursday 7 pm</i>	29 <i>Good Friday</i>	30
31 <i>10 am Worship Easter He Is Risen!!</i>						

Joys- March 24th

Joy- Ellen Foster thanks everyone who cleaned their yard

Concerns-March 24th

Avery: Tinkie, hospice care

Barnes: Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Benton: Tracey Thomas (daughter's friend) more surgery

Blair: Ecumenical youth group

Boone: Christy, thyroid surgery in May

Callahan: Mary Jane (friend) cancer

Steve Chaffin (friend) blood clots

Donnie (husband) home

Compter: two brothers- unbelievers

Prayers for friends to come to the Lord

Michael Compter- (brother) heart failure

Steve & Mary- (friends) Steve disabilities

Vicky-(friend) recurring lymphoma

May- (friend) breast cancer

David- came through surgery

Joe- (friend) successful surgery, long recovery

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

Garrett Winslow – struggling, autism

Janice Campbell-(friend) under hospice care

Ryan- (grandson) searching for faith

Lory Graham- (friend) health issues, wife caretaker

Brenda Wilkerson- UVA- seizures

Ben Thomas (son) surgery, having cochlear implant

friend in CO, second surgery

DeHart: Dawn's mother gall bladder surgery

Michael Rutter- septic shock, amputation

Easter: Ruby Key (friend) cancer

Fain: Dianne, possible covid

Fleming: Dominick (Ann Marie's brother) heart surgery successful

Foster: Ron (brother-in-law) in home

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

Tom- home, referred to specialist

Prayers for everyone on dialysis

Ellen possible kidney transplant

Goode: prayers for Eunice, health issues

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

Cynthia- (friend) physical therapy

Those held hostage in Gaza

Larry (brother-in-law) heart attack

Goodman: Albert (Betty's son-in-law) passing of his mother

Grigg: Beth Falwell- starting cancer treatments
Chris Mays- diabetic complications

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

Kuhn- Kibbey: Dot- fell broken ribs, vertebrae, long recovery

Lambert: brother doing better

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
James Morgan (cousins husband) spot on lung
John Hargett (friend) slow recovery may never walk
Ann Ortega- tumor near pancreas

Monk: Libby's mother, stroke, Oakwood

Narwid: Ed- not doing well

Neal: Prayers for family on passing of son

Riley: Christine, stroke, Oakwood

Rutledge: broke 2 ribs

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) that she comes to the Lord

Stetson: Nick, Tiffany, Savannah- Savannah, back home

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems
Two firefighters who suffered falls
Russell- surgery delayed AFib

Van Dyke: continued prayers for Dot and Dick Kibbey

Webb: Shawn caretaker to aunt and grandma

Weeks: Edith- congestive heart

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 March 24th

Sunday: 10 am Worship

Palm Sunday

Wednesday: 3 pm Something More

Thursday: Choir Practice 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday Service, 7 pm

Sunday: March 31st

10 am Worship

Easter Sunday

He Is Risen!

March Birthdays

Ronnie Saunders – 24

April Birthdays

Margaret Lambert - 4

James Fleming- 11

Sherry Parker - 18

Tricia Schubert - 23

Al Mauser - 24

Richard Tate - 29

April Anniversaries

Dave and Lori Stetson - 1

Ron and Margaret Morris - 8

Russell & Scarlett Stevens- 8

Fred and Sandy Scheurer - 22

John and Sonya Smith – 30

Flower Calendar

The 2024 Flower Calendar is posted and ready for volunteers to sign up for two consecutive Sundays (an arrangement will last for two Sundays). Individuals can sign up or two individuals can share. The Calendar is located on the wall in the hallway on the right hand side of our Sanctuary.

Forty Days of Love

Join us on Wednesdays at 12pm at

Main Street United Methodist Church for Lenten Lunches.

Lunch is provided by area churches for a \$5 donation with a time of music, prayer and a message from a local pastor. On March 29th there will be a Tenebrae Cantata service in the Sanctuary at 7 pm.

EASTER AT BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Our celebration of Easter this year will be a little different from the past. We're going to highlight three pivotal events that took place during the last week of Jesus' life:

- The first will be **Palm Sunday**. Decorating the church with palm branches and using video images on the monitors, we will invite the congregation to imagine that they were a part of the multitudes who greeted the Savior on that occasion. They will have an opportunity to decide with whom they would most likely identify themselves—the Roman soldiers, the Pharisees, or the Disciples. We will also examine why Jesus shed tears as He entered the city of Jerusalem as recorded in Luke 19:37-44.
- The second will be the **Tenebrae** service on Thursday, March 28, at 7 pm. Under the direction of Bill Rutledge, the choir, guest musicians and a number of speakers will present an emotionally powerful portrait of the darkness that sought to triumph over the love of God in Christ Jesus. During the service, which will include the Lord's Supper, the lights in the sanctuary will gradually be dimmed until there is only silence and darkness.
- The third will be **Resurrection Sunday**. It will be a day of victorious celebration. The church family will be invited to bring flowers to place on a cross in the front yard. The sermon will remind the congregation that for the disciples and followers of Jesus the resurrection was a unique experience. It was unexpected, then unbelievable and finally an undeniable reality.

