

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2024 (180 Years)

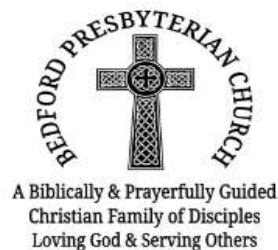


Week of August 11th

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

“O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”

Mark Hayes

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Come, Love Divine, and dwell in our hearts.

All: Breathe, O breathe Your loving Spirit in us.

One: Come, Almighty One, and deliver us.

All: Breathe, O breathe Your loving Spirit in us.

One: Come, Joy of Heaven, and finish Your new creation in us.

Hymn

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Hymn 358

***Prayer of Confession:**

God, You loved this world so much that You sent Your own son, Jesus Christ to live and die among us, in order that we might have life. Forgive us for keeping that abundant life to ourselves, for jealously hoarding Your generous gifts, for choosing self-interest over compassion and justice. Teach us what it means to live as children of the light, generously sharing Your abundant grace and mercy with those who desperately need it. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon** *(responsive)*

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 15: 1-7

Men’s Trio

“He Will Carry You”

Scott Wesley Brown

Sermon

Loved and Lost

Driving to work one day, Hal David thought of some words for a new song. Arriving in downtown New York City, he shared the words of his new song with Burt Bacharach, his partner. They were a team. Burt wrote the music and Hal created the lyrics. This is what Hal had written, "What the world needs now is love sweet love. It's the only thing that there's just too little of." Sharing the words of this song with Burt, they both realized that it was a great chorus for a new song. But what about the verses, the message of the song? Nothing came to mind for over two years, and then one day once again driving in to work, Hal realized that his song was really a prayer, a prayer to God, asking the Lord for something that even surpassed all of the natural wonders of the world in which we live. Very quickly the words and the melody came together and the song was released for the very first time in 1965. Since then it has become a classic within the realm of modern day pop music. Listen once again to this memorable song. SING THE SONG.

Yes, what the world needs now is love sweet love. With growing conflict and violence all around the world, love is in desperately short supply. Now more than ever we need love. We need to love one another and we need to be loved, but most importantly we need a love that comes from on high. We need God's love. Nowhere in the Bible is that expressed more clearly and more beautifully than in John 3:16. Repeat it with me. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not die but have everlasting life." It's just one short verse, but in that one verse there is so much that we need to hear, to understand and to share with others. Let's take a closer look at it this morning.

It begins with this marvelous declaration, "God so loved the world." The word God, of course, refers to the Creator of the universe and to the One who has revealed Himself throughout the pages of the Bible. The word "love" can have a variety of meanings from romance to brotherly affection. Here, however, it has an entirely different meaning. It refers to the kind of love that is intentional, the kind of love that loves the unlovable. It's the kind of love that says, "I care about you and will do whatever it takes to show you that my love for you is real and genuine. The next word is "world." It doesn't refer to the realm of nature. It refers to the realm of humanity, people like you and me.

That brings us to the declaration of what God has done to show us His love. The verse continues, "For God so loved the world of people that He sent His only begotten Son." That phrase "only begotten" can best be described as "the one and only, the special one, unlike any other." In other words, Jesus was unique. He carried within Himself the DNA of His heavenly Father. In the Gospel of John chapter 14, verse 9, Jesus says, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." Just imagine for a moment a human father sending his one and only son, a perfect reflection of who he is, into a world like ours, a world filled with so much hatred and violence. The Bible clearly teaches us that is exactly what God did, knowing full well the consequences of such a bold step. God the Father was willing to send His Son into our world and subject Him to the horror and shame of death on a cross. Why? Because He loves us.

Isn't that wonderful? God so loves the world of people, people like you and me, that He sent His only begotten Son, that whosoever places their trust in Him, whoever places their life into His care, will not perish but have everlasting life.

There's just one problem. We are lost and separated from God because of our sins. Paul expressed it this way, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). What did he mean when he wrote this verse of Scripture? He meant that sin is something that builds a wall of separation between us and God and eventually between us and one another. Adam and Eve, the first human beings, were forced to leave the Garden of Eden because of their sin and that sinful nature was passed along to their children. Cain took the life of his brother Abel. It's been a part of the human experience ever since, a willful determination to rebel against God and His standards, regardless of how that affects our relationship with

Him and with one another. Additionally, notice that Paul uses the word “all” when referring to sin. It’s a part of all of our lives, no matter how hard we try to avoid it. For example, is there anyone who can truthfully say that they have never violated a traffic law, like speeding or running a stop light. We’re all guilty and the same is true with regards to our relationship with God. Psalm 51, verses three and four declare, “For I know my transgressions and my sin is always before me. Against You, only You have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are proved right when You speak and justified when You judge.” If we’re honest with ourselves, we know that we’re all sinners and our sins are a good deal more serious than traffic violations. We have all said and done things that hurt others and deeply disturb our heavenly Father.

Here’s something else that we need to know about this verse in the book of Romans. When we sin, we fall short of the glory of God. We do not measure up to His standards. Consequently, He has the right to hold us accountable, like a judge in a courtroom. That’s what the writer of Psalm 51 was getting at when he said that God’s judgements against us are justified. But why you might ask should God hold us accountable when we sin, when we don’t quite measure up to the way He wants us to live? What does it matter if we fall a little short of God’s glory? Well, the word “glory” describes a level of expertise without flaw or fault. In other words, “perfection.” Speaking to the multitudes during the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, “Be ye perfect, even as Your Father in heaven is perfect” (Matthew 5:48). But why is perfection so important? Aren’t a few little missteps okay? No, they are not and here’s why. Our lives, our relationship with God and our relationships with one another are like the launch of a space craft into outer space. Would the director of Mission Control at NASA be willing to hire an engineer who makes frequent mistakes in his space flight astronomical calculations? Would he employ someone who doesn’t care what happens as a deep space mission blasts off? Of course not. The same is true of the Director of Mission Control for the entire universe. Like the NASA engineers and technicians who rescued Apollo 13, He requires a team that will not fail Him as He strives to save not just three astronauts, but all of humanity from an otherwise sure destruction.

If you will remember, the title of this sermon is “Loved and Lost.” It embraces both God’s love and our lostness. Nowhere in the Bible is this more beautifully portrayed than in the passage of Scripture that was read this morning, Luke 15:1-7. You know the story well. The shepherd walks out to the sheep pen early in the morning and counts his sheep. After counting to ninety and nine, he realizes that one is missing. What is he to do? Be thankful that he still has nearly a hundred, or spend the time and effort and even face the danger of going after that one lost lamb that has wandered off. He decides to leave the ninety and nine in the safety of the pen and go looking for that lost sheep which has wandered away. Like the lost sheep in this parable, it’s all too easy for us as human beings to become lost. We wander away from God. We stop listening to His voice or following His instructions. We become lost in our sinful actions and attitudes. Our self-gratification becomes like that lamb’s pursuit of greener pastures until we cross over the next hillside and find ourselves both lost and alone, cut off from not only our shepherd, but from the rest of the flock as well. But thank goodness, there is a shepherd who came looking for us, sent by God, a shepherd who truly loves us and who is willing and able to save us from our sins. That shepherd has a name and his name is Jesus. Yes, what the world needs now is love sweet love and fortunately that love has been graciously bestowed upon us, even when we were lost.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Worship Song

“O We Love You”

Shayne Bernard

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God, our Father who loves us with an everlasting love, who shares all our joys and sustains us in all our sufferings. We are never separated from God's love. We trust in Him completely.

We follow Jesus Christ, the Son of God, whose death is our victory, whose resurrection is our hope; in Him the Word became flesh; in Him we are offered forgiveness from sin, renewal from failure, healing from brokenness and release from despair.

We are guided by the Holy Spirit, God's presence in us and in the world. By the Spirit we are called to be Christ's Church, to celebrate His love, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen and to share His love with a lost and broken world.

Because we are His disciples, we joyfully covenant to walk together in love, to pray for one another, to care for one another and to live in fellowship with one another until Christ calls us home.

God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Doxology

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord Jesus, before we loved You, You chose to love us. You loved us so much that You died in our place. Your love cannot be explained, but it overflows in our hearts and from this overflow we can now love others. May this offering be an expression of that love and may it also be a demonstration of Your love to the world. 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***

"Pass It On"

Hymn 557

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Postlude

"Tell Out, My Soul"

J. Wayne Kerr

The flowers are given to the Glory of God and my grandparents,
Elise and Ernie, by Lynne Palmer.

August 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
4 <i>10 am Worship Communion Session</i>	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 <i>10 am Worship 5¢ a Meal BCM collection</i>	12	13	14 <i>Deacon's Meeting 1pm</i>	15	16	17
18 <i>10 am Worship</i>	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 <i>10 am Worship Aloha Sunday Potluck</i>	26	27	28	29	30	31

Joys- August 11th

Joy- Barbara Nichols son-in-law may not have to have voice box removed due to throat cancer

Joy- Gerald DeWitt thankful for the rain

Concerns- August 11th

Avery: Tinkie, hospice care

Barnes: Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Jerry Dillion-(nephew) health issues

Jay – recovering from fall

Jody Lineberry – leukemia

Family of T.J. Camper on his passing

Benton: Judy (friend) son in critical condition

Connie Thomas (friend) broke hip and arm in fall

Jill (friend) fell, broke her arm

Boone: Roslyn Reynolds, (friend) upcoming surgery

Callahan: Mary Jane (friend) in remission

Steve Chaffin (friend) blood clots

Compter: Jennie & Seth (both friends) have health issues

Scott and Robin Umphlet, Scott is ill after a trip abroad.

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

DeHart: Lucile Kesterson (Dawn's mother) aging memory issues

Julian Kesterson (Dawn's stepdad) nursing home, multiple falls

DeWitt: assistants husband broke leg using roto tiller

Easter: Ruby Key (friend) cancer

Jim (bother) cancer

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

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

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

Tom

Prayers for everyone on dialysis

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

Jay Barnes- fell recovering at home

Shawn Webb- find caretaker for aunt

Lloyd (husband) back problems

Jackie Meador- shoulder replacement

Goodman: John Ramsey (nephew) open heart surgery

Grigg: Beth Falwell- starting cancer treatments

Chris Mays- diabetic complications

Hann: Alice's brother, congestive heart failure, cancer

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) intense headaches

Gayle- home, no visits at the time please

McManis: Charlotte doing better

Monk: Libby's mother, Mary Duncan, Bedford Nursing Home Oak

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

Forensic scientists who deal with crime

Rev. Pam Ledbetter

James Morgan (cousins husband) spot on lung

Narwid: Ed- not doing well

Riley: Christine stroke, Elks home

Rutledge: friend in Hawaii with health issues

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 in hospital

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems

Deputy Chief Matt Scott, surgery went well tests negative

Earl Carter- health issues

All those impacted by wild fires in the West

Van Dyke: prayers for Jeff, son, looking for new job

Prayers to solve evil in country

Webb: looking for caretaker for aunt

Weeks: Edith, home, waiting for test results

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 August 11^h

Sunday: 10 am Worship
5¢ a Meal Offering
BCM donations/collections

Wednesday: Deacons 1 pm

Sunday: August 18th
10 am Worship

August Birthdays

Edith Weeks-17
Michelle Goode- 18
Ann Fowler-27
William Hopkins-29
Donna Henderson- 31

August Anniversaries

David & Donna Henderson- 17

The Men's Breakfast will resume on September 7th at 9am.

So gentlemen mark your calendar and come enjoy great fellowship and food!

Aloha Sunday!! August 25th!!!!

Join us as we celebrate the Rutledge's 10th anniversary at BPC.

We will be having a potluck luncheon following the service. Please bring your favorite Hawaiian dish and if you don't have one, bring a dish to share and join us.

hau'oli lā ho'omana'o!!!

We are so blessed with their Music Ministry!!

God's Plan of Salvation

This morning we will be examining the first two parts of God's Plan of Salvation. God loves us but sin has separated us from Him. The entire presentation of this divine plan for our redemption can be found on the church's website under the Discipleship heading. Next

Sunday we'll be taking a look at what separates Christianity from all of the other world religions. You'll discover that it's not what we can do for God, but what He has done for us.

Upcoming Sermon Series and Seminar

Get ready for something special in the life of our church. Beginning on September 15th, we'll be going on a six week prayer journey. The theme for this journey is "Walking Hand in Hand with God through Prayer." Along with the Sunday morning messages, a special video series will be presented during our "Something More" sessions on Wednesday afternoons. A light dinner will be served after each session. The time has come for us to draw near to God through prayer. Plan now to be a part of this upcoming emphasis in the life of our church and invite your friends.