

# Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2025 (181 Years)



## Week of March 9, 2025

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**

*"Holy Ground"*

Jim Hammerly

**Words of Welcome**

**Minute for Missions**

*Kids Food Network*

Linda Imrie

**Call to Worship**

One: As God called to Moses from the mountain,

**All: we are called to be God's people.**

One: As Jesus called the disciples to climb with Him to the peak of another mountain,

**All: we are called to follow wherever He leads.**

One: As the disciples stood in awe at the sound of God's voice,

**All: we are called to worship in wonder and praise.**

**Hymn**

*"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"*

Hymn 48

**Prayer of Confession:** *(in unison)*

We want to celebrate. We don't want to listen. We want to stay on the mountaintop with Jesus and set up a festival where everyone can come and play and have a good time. We want our faith to be one of entertainment. But You have called us to "Listen to Him!" You have asked us to be ready for the journey. We cannot stay where we are, comfortable and snuggled down in the familiar. There is much to be done. Forgive us, Lord, when we are stubborn and willful. Remind us that You are with us, wherever we are. You call us from the mountaintop to go to the valley where there is struggle and strife; where healing is needed. Prepare us, Lord, for the journey. Help us to listen to You. Heal us, Lord. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. 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 Patri**

*"Glory to the Father"*

Bill Rutledge

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

**Scripture Reading**

Matthew 17: 1-13

**Worship Song**

*"Open the Eyes of My Heart"*

**Sermon**

A Mountain Top Experience

In one of the churches I have pastored there was an older woman who loved to go to a Christian camp and conference center in the Great Smokey Mountains near Asheville, North Carolina. Each summer she would return from her week at camp and declare to everyone, "I've been to the mountain." For her that meant that she had not only had a great time, but that she had also sensed the presence of the Lord in the hollows and the hills of that mountainous retreat.

Mountains have a way of drawing us closer to God as evidenced in the pages of the Bible. It was on a mountain named Sinai that the Lord gave the Ten Commandments to Moses. It was on a mountain named

Carmel that Elijah, the prophet, called down fire from heaven. And it was on a mountain that three of Jesus' disciples stepped into the presence of the Almighty. For them, you might say, it was an unforgettable mountain top experience. So let's take a look at that account in the Gospel of Matthew this morning and I think the best way to do that is by asking some questions.

- Here's the first one. **Where did this event take place?** In verse one we are simply told that Jesus took the disciples up to a high mountain. It is not named. However, previously they had been in Caesarea Philippi, a region far to the north of the Sea of Galilee. The tallest and most majestic mountain in that area is Mount Hermon. It's over 9,000 feet tall and its summit is snow covered in the winter. Most biblical scholars believe that this is the mountain to which Jesus took His disciples.
- **Who climbed the mountain?** Jesus did not invite all of His disciples. He chose the inner circle, those who were closest to Him. Just a few days earlier, Peter had boldly declared that Jesus was the Messiah, the anointed One of God. James and John were the two brothers, both fishermen, whom Jesus had invited to become His disciples at the beginning of His ministry. Jesus chose these three because they, more so than any of the other disciples, would understand the importance of what was about to take place.
- **What happened on that mountain?** The events that took place on this mountain are usually described as the Transfiguration. The word means "to change or transform one's appearance" and that's precisely what happened. At some point as they climbed the mountain, perhaps nearing the summit, Matthew tells us in verse two, "His face (referring to Jesus) shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as light." Something of a similar nature had taken place centuries earlier. When Moses came down the mountain with the Ten Commandments, "his face was radiant because He had spoken with the LORD" (Exodus 34:29). Like Moses, Jesus was aglow with the glory of God. Not only that, the disciples also realized that Jesus was not alone. He was speaking with two heavenly beings, Moses the great law giver and Elijah, God's most revered prophet. Then something even more amazing took place. A bright cloud enveloped Jesus and His disciples, the same kind of cloud that had announced God's presence throughout the pages of the Old Testament. They were now dwelling in the presence of the Almighty and He was speaking to them. The LORD said, "This is My Son, whom I love; with whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him." Just as all of these events unfolded, the place where they were standing was now shrouded in darkness and Jesus was alone. To say the least it was quite an experience for Peter, James and John.
- **So how did the disciples react to what had taken place on that Mountain?** When they saw Jesus aglow with the light of God's presence speaking to Moses and Elijah, they wanted to memorialize the event. They were so overwhelmed with having been invited to be a part of this experience that they wanted to do something to commemorate this event. In verse three Peter speaks up and says, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah." Peter and his two companions were not unlike the response of most people when something of great importance takes place. They want to build a memorial to enshrine these kinds of events. However, before the disciples could even secure Jesus' permission to begin such a project, God's voice from heaven intervened. They fell to the ground stricken with fear, just as any of us would be.
- **Once everything was over, what did Jesus say to His disciples?** First, He calmed their fears. He reached down and touched them, perhaps helping them to their feet and told them not to be afraid. No harm would come to them. They needed that word of gentle reassurance. Had we been there, we would have needed it too. Then he told them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of man has been raised from the dead" (verse 9). Jesus knew that sharing this kind of information could create the kind of unwelcomed notoriety, both positive and negative, that would get in the way of what He needed to do in the coming days. After His resurrection the world would know beyond a shadow of a doubt who He was and why He had come. Now was not the right time to tell them.

- Finally, there is one last question, a question that the disciples themselves asked Jesus. **What about Elijah? Isn't he supposed to come before the arrival of the Messiah?** They were thinking that Elijah would burst forth from the clouds like a majestic, angelic herald, proclaiming that Jesus was the Savior. Jesus knew that had already happened, but not in the way they had expected. So he told the disciples, "To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things. But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did to him everything they wished" (Matthew 17:11-12). Hearing Jesus' response to their question, the disciples realized that Jesus was speaking about John the Baptist, the one who had baptized Jesus and who said of Him, "Behold the Lamb of God" (John 1:36).

Having taken a look at the scriptural account of the transfiguration, which was for the disciples and should be for all of us "a mountain top experience," what conclusions can we draw from what took place? There are three things that I would like to call to your attention.

**First, the transfiguration authenticated the Sonship of Jesus.** It's one thing for someone to claim something about themselves to be true. That, however, does not mean that what they are claiming reflects reality. For example, when the time comes that our Pastor Nominating Committee finds someone that they wish to present to our church, one of the things they will do is to check that person's references. They will contact those who know this candidate and ask a lot of questions about that person's character, background, and abilities. They will want to know if that person is who he or she says they are. The same kind of verification should be required even with regards to the divinity of Christ. If Jesus was the Messiah, the chosen one of God, someone needs to verify that claim. That someone was none other than Jesus' heavenly Father. He had said it for the first time at Jesus' baptism, "This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). Now the heavenly Father had said it again during this mountain top experience.

**Second, the transfiguration delineated the future of Jesus.** I have often thought that Jesus' meeting with Moses and Elijah was like a summit conference. During WWII, the Allies gathered together to discuss the future of the ongoing conflict in which they were involved. Like those allied leaders, Moses and Elijah had come to confer with Jesus. What did they tell Him? We will never know. Perhaps they came to lay out the strategy for those concluding days of Jesus' life and ministry. Perhaps they came to strengthen His resolve, knowing that Jesus would not only face a torturous death, but the rejection of those whom He had come to save. They too had faced hardships and even the threat of death by their fellow countrymen. Perhaps they came to remind Him that God's loving presence would see Him through this coming ordeal. Whatever they said or imparted unto Jesus, the sum total of it meant a journey to Jerusalem and a cross that awaited Him on the slopes of Mount Calvary.

**Finally, the transfiguration fulfilled Malachi's prophecy about Jesus.** The prophet Malachi had said centuries earlier, "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, or else I will come and strike the land with a curse" (Malachi 4:5-6). Those were the last words of the prophet in the last book of the Old Testament. They were now about to be fulfilled. Elijah had come. In the spirit and zeal of Elijah, John the Baptist had boldly proclaimed, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near" (Matthew 3:2). Now the doors to that kingdom were about to be opened wide as Jesus began His journey to Jerusalem.

What about the doors to your heart? Will they be opened to God as we begin our journey to Jerusalem in the weeks to come? When Malachi spoke about the turning of fathers' hearts to their children, he was speaking of reconciliation, restored relationships, not only among men, but even more importantly between men and their God. The time has come for us to be reconciled to God through His Son, Jesus Christ. That's why Jesus began His journey to Jerusalem, a journey that began with a mountain top experience.

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD**

### **Worship Song**

*"Awesome in This Place"*

Dave Billington

### **Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in God whose grandeur and glory are beyond all knowing: the creator of all life's richness, bounty and variety.

We believe in Jesus, the Image of the invisible God: He shows us the glory of the Father, and the love with which everything is made: He is the light of the world, always shining in the darkness.

We believe in the Holy Spirit of God, the breath of life who renews and transforms; who startles us with glimpses of glory; who inspires our seeking and searching.

We believe in the God of glory. Amen

### **Doxology**

*"Praise God From Whom all Blessings Flow"*

Hymn 34

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

O Spirit of Life, shine on us again and again that we may become the blessing You created us to be.

Keep awakening us to Your holy mystery and Your sacred call. Bless these gifts we bring that Your love may be shared and others may experience the transforming light of Your presence. By Your Spirit within us continue to transfigure us and the world around us. 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**

*"Behold, Our Lord Transfigured"*

Fr: Christopher Phillips

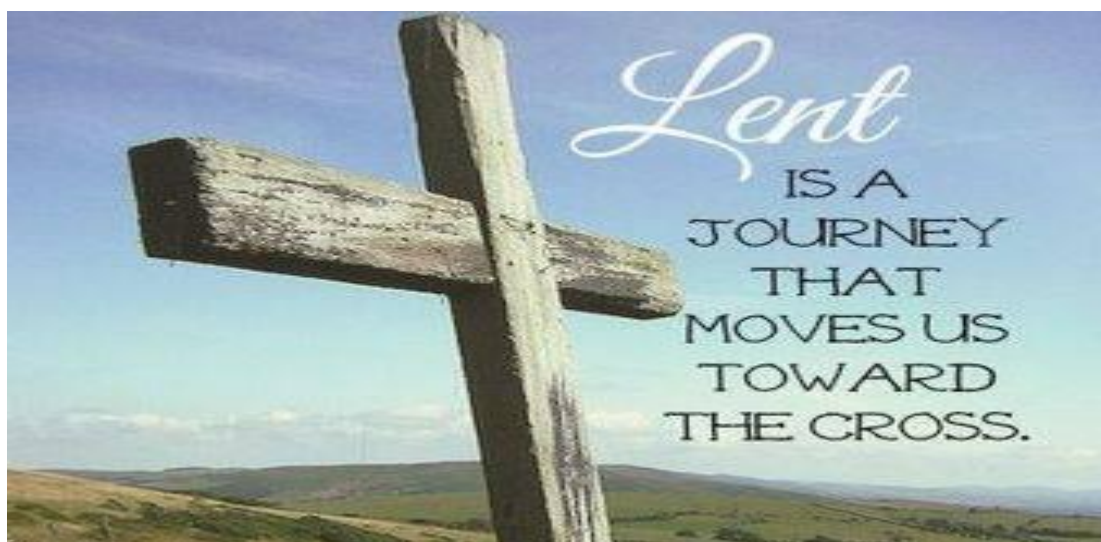
### **THE SENDING FORTH**

#### **Benediction**

#### **Postlude**

*"Postlude on Aurelia"*

Mark Rippe



# March 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						<b>1</b> <i>Men's Breakfast 9 am</i>
<b>2</b> <i>10 am Worship Communion</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <i>Lenten Lunch, 12 pm</i>  <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <i>Spring Ahead one hour</i>
<b>9</b> <i>10 am Worship 5¢ a Meal BCM collection</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <i>Lenten Lunch, 12 pm</i>  <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> <i>10 am Worship</i>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <i>Lenten Lunch, 12 pm</i>  <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <i>Winter Fun &amp; Games, 1 pm</i>
<b>23</b> <i>10 am Worship</i>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <i>Lenten Lunch, 12 pm</i>  <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	

### Joys- March 9<sup>th</sup>

**Joy-** to see Jim Barefoot and daughter in service today

**Joy-** Eunice Barners shared friend, Jody Linebury received stem cell therapy and is doing well

**Joy-** Lori Stetson shared Ryan Johnon accepted into Air Force and starts training May 1<sup>st</sup>

**Joy-** Christy Boone had a wonderful time in Utah seeing daughter

### Concerns- March 9<sup>th</sup>

**Avery:** Tinkie, hospice care

**Barefoot:** Jim, home, continues to improve

**Barnes:** Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Jerry Dillon (nephew) health issues

Jody Lineberry- leukemia treatment unsuccessful

**Benton:** Nicole- (stepdaughter) in Asheville helping Helene victims

**Boone:** niece undergoing radiation treatments

Friend's son in rehab

**Brunot:** Jim's brother Bill, completed chemo

**Callahan:** Mary Jane (friend) in remission

Steve Chaffin (friend) blood clots

**Compter:** Jeannie, Seth (both friend) health issues

Bob (friend) doing better

Laurie: mother has cancer

Michael (brother) congestive heart failure, lump on lung

**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

Frank Sicillano (brother-in-law) cancer in pain

Granddaughter, doing better

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

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

**Easter:** Jim (brother) cancer

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

Previous Pastor heart surgery went well

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

Prayers for everyone on dialysis and those in paths of storms where centers are gone.

Bob- (Ellen's brother) heart surgery went well, home

**Goode:** (friend) Tommy Atkinson stroke

BJ Parker's niece hospital, complication from flu

**Goodman:** Friend Betty is near death

**Grigg:** Chris Mays- diabetic complications

**Grubb:** John cancer, doing well

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

**Harris:** Jim, back pain

Judy- shoulder replaced

**Heinrich:** Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder

Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

**Kuhn-Kibbey:** Dot reinjured her back  
Sarah McCabe Oakes,(friend) amputation leg, pelvis

**Lambert:** Margaret sciatica pain, arthritis

**Linton:** Candy (Parker's friend) health issues from car accident

**Mauser:** Joyce Reese- (friend) health problems  
Steven-(son's boss) going blind  
Barbara (Al's sister) intense headaches  
Gayle- home

**McManis;** Charlotte, doing better

**Monk:** Libby's mother, Mary Duncan, Bedford Nursing Home  
Granddaughter had a seizure

**Morris:** all law enforcement, firefighters and all other first responders  
Forensic scientists who deal with crime  
Rev. Pam Ledbetter  
Elisa- (daughter-in-law) family needs  
Margaret having health issues

**Rutledge:** friend in Hawaii health issues

**Saunders:** Ron, home recovering from double pneumonia  
Son-in-law, cancer not spreading

**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,  
Morgan (nephew) life decisions  
Cook at Shepherd's Table, baby in NICU

**Stevens:** Jackie Landis- heart problems  
Matt- lung cancer, still suffering  
All Virginia towns impacted by hurricane  
Chief 'Hops' cancer that is spreading, UVA

**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 9<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday: 10 am Worship

5¢ a Meal Offering

BCM donations/collections

Wednesday: Something More 3 pm

Sunday: March 16<sup>th</sup>

10 am Worship

### **March Birthdays**

Eunice Barnes - 12

Maggie DeWitt - 17

Nick DeWitt - 18

Ronnie Saunders – 24

### **Lenten Lunches**

This year Lenten Lunches will be served each Wednesday at noon, beginning on March 5th, at the Main Street United Methodist Church. Lenten Lunches are an opportunity to enjoy a delicious lunch along with inspiring music and a devotional on the life and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. Our church will be in charge of the lunch on March 12. We will need eight to ten volunteers to assist David Grigg in preparing and serving the meal. Sign-up sheets will be placed in the sanctuary for those who wish to volunteer or you can call the church office

### **A Journey to Jerusalem**

During the Lenten season leading up to Easter, we will be going on a “A Journey to Jerusalem.” We will be meeting some of the people and places that Jesus visited during those last days of His earthly ministry. Today’s message is “A Mountain Top Experience.” It is based on what is known as the Transfiguration in Matthew 17:1-13.

### **Smith Mountain Lake Gives**

SML is an annual online fundraiser held in March for charitable organizations in Bedford and Franklin counties. Bedford Christian Ministries is participating this year. BCM helps families with food, clothing, household goods, and utility/rental assistance. It is one of the outreach ministries of our church. This year our church family can assist in two additional ways. We can make a donation to SML Gives and we can tell our friends and neighbors about this special opportunity to support BCM. Go to the BCM Facebook page and search for SML Gives for additional information. Donations can be made at [www.smlgives.org](http://www.smlgives.org) from March 17-19.

### **Spring Fun and Games**

The next Spring Fun and Games will be held at the Bedford Presbyterian Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 22nd from 1 to 4 pm. Please bring your favorite board game and some snacks to share. Any questions or comments, please contact Deanna.