



Bedford Presbyterian Church
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 2020 at 10 AM

Worship-at-a-Distance Format

GATHERING TOGETHER

Chimes

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Elder Alicia Wooldridge

PREPARING FOR THE WORD

Call to Worship (Responsive from Psalm 105)

Elder Alicia Wooldridge

O give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name, make known God's deeds among the peoples.

Sing to the Lord! Sing praises and tell of all God's wonderful works.

Glory in God's holy name! Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

Seek the Lord – the strength and presence God provides.

Remember the wonderful works that God has done – God's miracles and judgments. Come, let us worship the Lord.

Let us worship God, together.

Hymn # 14 (see below)

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

DIX

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, we try to fix and fasten you, but you will not be stayed. You are love in motion: always breathing us into being, calling us to serve, sustaining us in the wilderness, and fitting us for your kingdom. Come to us as the morning breaks. Soften what has grown dry and brittle in our hearts until we worship you with our whole selves. This we pray in the name of the Son you sent and through the Spirit that gives us life. Amen.

Sung Response

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me;
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me;
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, Amen.
World without end, without end, Amen. (Repeat 2x)
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, Amen.*

ENCOUNTERING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Elder Alicia Wooldridge

First Scripture Reading

Romans 8:26-39

Listen now for the Word of God.

Our ears are open. . .

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

. . . The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Small and Unnoticed”

The Reverend Jason Wells

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Hymn # 771 (see below)

“What is the World Like”

NEW WORLD

Affirmation of Faith – The Apostle’s Creed

Deacon Charlene Isham

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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Call for the Offering

Offertory

Special Music

Sara Eno

At this time, you are invited to offer your tithes and offerings, by writing a check and putting it in an envelope to the church, or through our church’s online giving website (<https://bedfordpresbyterian.org/giving/one-time-gifts-pledges/>), or by scanning this QR code and making a donation.



*Your giving has a direct impact on the ministry and mission of Bedford Presbyterian Church!
Thank you!*

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

OR

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.*

***Prayer of Dedication (Unison)**

Holy One, receive these offerings as you receive our lives. Gather our false starts and uncertain efforts, our generosity and our reluctance. Enliven us with your breath and make your purposes known, that our lives might show forth your glory, for we pray in the name of Jesus and by the power of your Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer (“debts/debtors”)

The Reverend Jason Wells

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.

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn # 378 (see below)

“We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom”

MERLE'S TUNE

Charge and Benediction and Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And with you.

Closing Song

NORTHUMBRIA MORNING BLESSING

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever he may send you.

May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.

May he bring you home, rejoicing, at the wonders he has shown you.

May he bring you home, rejoicing, once again into our doors.

Postlude

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

Forrest



Liturgists and Leaders in today's worship service –

The Reverend Jason Wells, Guest Preacher

Mrs. Barbara Flocco, Music Director

Elder Alicia Wooldridge, Liturgist

Deacon Charlene Isham, Liturgist

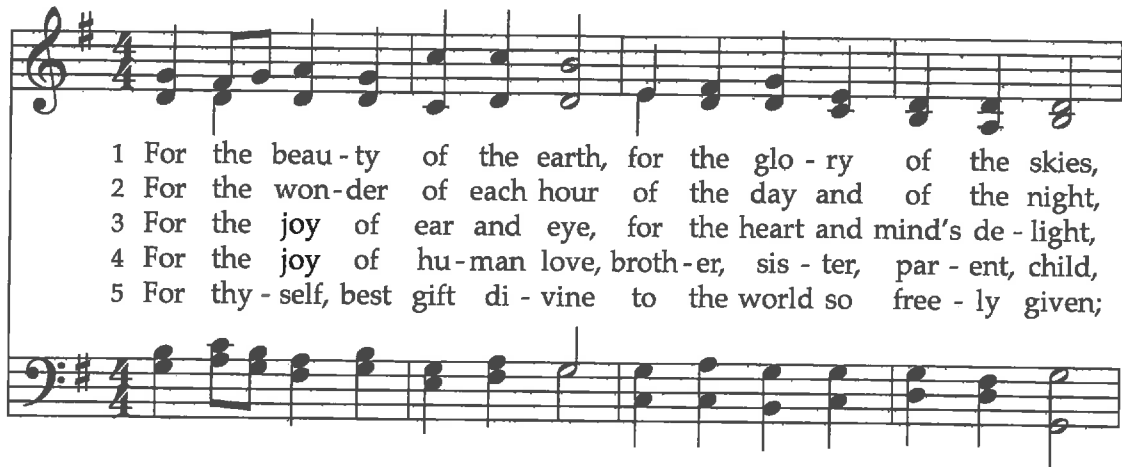
Sara Eno, Soloist

Mr. Marc Murai and Elder Michael Chen, Sound and Video Technicians

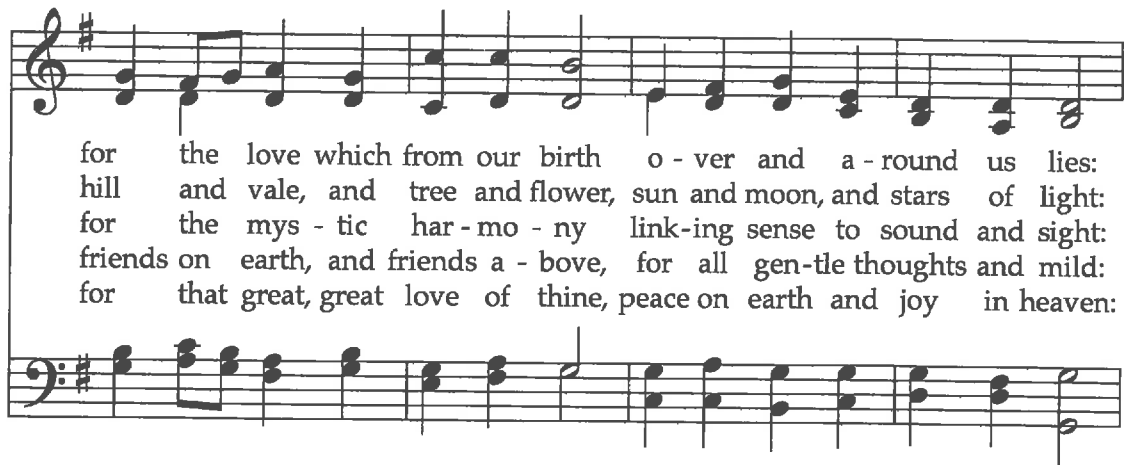
Information on ways to access audio and video versions of today's service can be found at www.bedfordpresbyterian.org.

Today's Guest Preacher, Jason Wells, is an ordained Episcopal priest who serves as the Executive Director of the New Hampshire Council of Churches. The NH Council of Churches with faith-filled witness and action, mutual respect, and understanding unites for Prayer, Learning, Justice, Peace, and Stewardship of God's Creation. The Council is made up of 9 diverse denominations. Nearly 400 congregations affiliated with these denominations are found throughout the state. The Council is very active – at the state-level – in addiction and recovery work, Interfaith Power and Light, prison chaplaincy, emergency preparedness, interfaith work, death penalty repeal work, and support for immigrants and refugees.

For the Beauty of the Earth 14

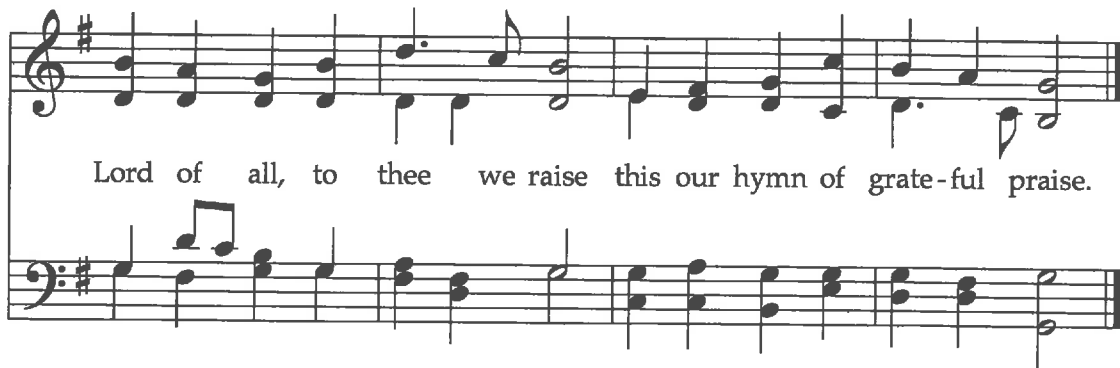


1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly given;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

Refrain



Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of this text has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.

What Is the World Like 771

Capo 1: (G) A^b (Em7) Fm7 (C) D^b (D) E^b

1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,

(Em) Fm (C) D^b (Am) B^bm (B7) C7

Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive:
 Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;
 No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;
 Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,
 filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.

(Em) Fm (Am) B^bm (D) E^b (G) A^b

roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
 watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.
 peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.
 tend - ing our lamps till the new day's be - gun.
 Born through our voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,

(C) D^b (Em7) Fm7 (Am7) B^bm7 (D) E^b (G) A^b

This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text and tune were written to conclude a hymn festival at the 2009 Annual Conference of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. Four parables framed both the festival and the hymn: the Mustard Seed, the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan, and the Ten Bridesmaids.

We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom 378



1 We wait the peace-ful king-dom, when wolf and lamb shall lie
 2 Where is the peace-ful king-dom? When will this new day start?
 3 When wars of des-o-la-tion and hate come to an end,
 4 That lit-tle child shall lead us to walk the cho-sen way,



in gen-tle-ness and friend-ship with-out a fear or sigh,
 We long for peace and com-fort to reign with-in each heart,
 when na-tion meets with na-tion and calls the oth-er "friend,"
 to share the peace-ful king-dom, to greet God's new-born day.



when li-on shall be graz-ing, when snake shall nev-er strike;
 Yet not in our lives on-ly, nor sim-ply in our home:
 still peace in all its full-ness will on-ly have be-gun:
 The child born in a sta-ble is sent to break our chains,



a lit-tle child shall lead us both strong and weak a-like.
 we pray that all cre-a-tion will one day find sha-lom.
sha-lom for all cre-a-tion be-gins with jus-tice done.
 to bring through word and ta-ble the day when jus-tice reigns.

This text paraphrases Isaiah 11:6-9 in the first stanza, then reflects on that passage in widening frames of reference from self to all creation and identifies its "little child" with one born at Bethlehem. The tune is named for the composer's sister, his first piano teacher.

TEXT: Kathleen R. Moore, 2010
 MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1983
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 Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company

MERLE'S TUNE
 7.6.7.6.D