



**Bedford Presbyterian Church**  
**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
 September 13, 2020 at 10 AM

**Worship-at-a-Distance Format**

**GATHERING TOGETHER**

Chimes

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor John Sawyer

**PREPARING FOR THE WORD**

Call to Worship (Responsive from Exodus 15)

Elder Kathy Loveless

We will sing to the Lord, for God has triumphed gloriously!

**God is our strength and our might and has become our salvation.**

Who is like you, O God?

**Who is like you in majesty and holiness, in awesome splendor and doing wonders?**

In your steadfast love, you lead the people and guide them by your strength.

**The Lord will reign forever and ever.**

Come, let us worship the Lord.

**Let us worship God, together.**

Hymn # 234 (see below) “Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”

ST KEVIN

Prayer of the Day

**O God who is our strength, you have protected us from those who would seek to oppress us. You have shielded us from those who would seek to destroy the good gifts you have put in us. Your love and power never fail. Thanks and praise to you, our safety and stronghold. We exalt you, O God, majestic in holiness, for there is none like you. 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**

Children’s Sermon

Pastor John Sawyer

Prayer for Illumination

Elder Kathy Loveless

First Scripture Reading

Exodus 14:19-31

Listen now for the Word of God.

**Our ears are open. . .**

Second Scripture Reading

Exodus 15:1-11, 20-21

Pastor John Sawyer

. . . The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“When You Pass Through the Waters”  
 (Into the Unknown – Part 2)

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Hymn # 476 (see below)

“Crashing Waters at Creation”

SERVANT SONG

Affirmation of Faith – A Brief Statement of Faith (11.4)

Deacon Sarah Costello

We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.

Call for the Offering

Offertory

Special Music

Christina DeMaio

*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)

O God, we thank you for these gifts. Multiply them, and enable the work of love and the righteousness of your kingdom in the world. We thank and praise you. Amen.

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

Dr. Reynolds

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 # 543 (see below)

“God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me”

GREEN TYLER

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**



**Liturgists and Leaders in today's worship service –**

The Reverend John Sawyer, Pastor  
Mrs. Barbara Flocco, Music Director  
Elder Kathy Loveless, Liturgist  
Deacon Sarah Costello, Liturgist  
Ms. Christina DeMaio, 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](http://www.bedfordpresbyterian.org).

# Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain 234

1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!  
 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on,  
 3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,  
 4 Nei - ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,

God has brought forth Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,  
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en.  
 with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;  
 nor the watch - ers, nor the seal hold you as a mor - tal:

loosed from Pha - raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;  
 All the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing  
 comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion  
 but to - day, a - mong your own, you ap - pear, be - stow - ing

led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.  
 from the Light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.  
 wel - comes in un - wea - ried strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!  
 your deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.

One of the many ancient hymns translated into English in the 19th century, this 8th-century Eastertide hymn was originally part of a longer Greek liturgical text. This tune was created for this text by a church organist who later rose to fame as a composer of operettas.

BAPTISM

# 476 Crashing Waters at Creation

Capo 1: (Em) Fm (F#dim7) Gdim7 (Em) Fm

1 Crash - ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion, or - dered  
 2 Part - ing wa - ter stood and trem - bled as the  
 3 Cleans - ing wa - ter once at Jor - dan closed a -  
 4 Liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er end - ing, quench the

(D#dim7) Edim7 (Em) Fm

by the Spir - it's breath, first to wit - ness  
 cap - tives passed on through, wash - ing off the  
 round the One fore - told, o - pened to re -  
 thirst and flood the soul. Well - spring, Source of

(F#dim7) Gdim7 (Em) Fm (Am) (B) (Em) Bbm C Fm

day's be - gin - ning from the bright - ness of night's death.  
 chains of bond - age: chan - nel to a life made new.  
 veal the glo - ry ev - er new and ev - er old.  
 life e - ter - nal, drench our dry - ness; make us whole.

Like the Thanksgiving Over the Water in the rite of Baptism, this text by a United Church of Canada minister recalls significant events in salvation history involving water. The final stanza is a prayer to Christ, the Living Water (John 4:10, 14), to quench our spiritual thirst.

# God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

O Christ, Surround Me



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to  
 2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness-  
 3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,  
 4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to  
 5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:  
 es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:  
 strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:  
 light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:  
 hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

This hymn is a 21st-century adaptation of the traditional Celtic prayer style known as a *lorica* (Latin for "armor" or "breastplate"). Many such petitions for God's presence and protection were never written down, but this one is based on an example attributed to St. Patrick.