



Bedford Presbyterian Church

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

August 2, 2020 at 10 AM

Worship-at-a-Distance Format

GATHERING TOGETHER

Chimes

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Elder Andy Wickwire

PREPARING FOR THE WORD

Call to Worship (Responsive from Psalm 145)

Elder Andy Wickwire

All who hunger—gather gladly.

We come to feast on the life-giving Word.

Here, love abounds and grace overflows.

Here, blessings multiply as gifts are shared.

Come—let us pour ourselves out in prayer
and praise,

and open ourselves to renewal and rest.

Come, let us worship the Lord.

Let us worship God, together.

Hymn # 846 (see below)

“Fight the Good Fight”

DUKE STREET

Prayer of the Day

Life-changing God, you have touched us and transformed us to reach out to all who hunger for what only you can give. Keep our feet in your paths and bless us to multiply blessings to others, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer and Lord. 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 Andy Wickwire

Scripture Reading

Genesis 32:22-31

Listen now for the Word of God.

Our ears are open. . .

. . . The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Don’t Let Go!”
(Wrestling with God)

Pastor John Sawyer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Hymn # 698 (see below)

“Take, O Take Me as I Am”

TAKE ME AS I AM

Affirmation of Faith – from the Confession of 1967 (9.21-22)

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ. The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give our thanks and praise.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

At this time in the service, you are invited to use any bread that you have along with any beverage (preferably grape-based) to participate in the Lord's Supper. As Presbyterians, we believe that the Holy Spirit connects us to one another and to the Table at God's heavenly feast no matter where we are.

Prayers After Communion and The 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.

Call for the Offering

Offertory

Sarah Murai, soloist

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

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

OLD HUNDREDTH

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Compassionate God, we ask that you bless and multiply these gifts, that they may be used to proclaim the glory of your kingdom and make known to all people the power of your saving acts. Amen.

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn # 833 (see below) "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

ST. MARGARET

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 Andy Wickwire, Liturgist

Deacon Deb Sferrazza, Liturgist

Dr. Sarah Murai, Soloist

Mr. Marc Murai and Elder Mike Chen, Technical Assistance

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

Fight the Good Fight

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1 Fight the good fight with all thy might.
 2 Run the straight race through God's good grace;
 3 Cast care a - side; lean on thy guide.
 4 Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near.

Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.
 lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face.
 God's bound-less mer - cy will pro - vide.
 God chang - eth not, and thou art dear.

Lay hold on life, and it shall be
 Life with its way be - fore us lies;
 Trust, and thy trust - ing soul shall prove
 On - ly be - lieve, and thou shalt see

thy joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.
 Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.
 Christ is its life, and Christ its love.
 that Christ is all in all to thee.

The opening phrase here (based on 1 Timothy 6:12) is not a military image but an athletic one, from a Greek verb meaning "struggle" or "grapple" or "wrestle." The sports context continues in later stanzas reflecting the experience of a runner (recalling Hebrews 12:1-2).

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

698 Take, O Take Me as I Am

Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains a vocal line with lyrics: "Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall". The bass staff contains a piano accompaniment. The key signature has four flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat, D-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a focus on the words.

be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

The second system of musical notation continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me." The musical notation is consistent with the first system, maintaining the same key signature and time signature.

The brevity of this text and tune invite repeated singing, either as a sustained chain of sound or as a sung response in a series of prayers. It offers a more reflective approach to the same theme of self-dedication evident in older hymns such as "Just as I Am" (see no. 442).

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go 833

1 O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my
 2 O Light that fol-lowest all my way, I yield my
 3 O Joy that seek - est me through pain, I can - not
 4 O Cross that lift - est up my head, I dare not

wea - ry soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that
 flick - ering torch to thee; my heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray, that
 close my heart to thee; I trace the rain - bow through the rain, and
 ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead, and

in thine o - cean depths its flow may rich - er, full - er be.
 in thy sun - shine's blaze its day may bright - er, fair - er be.
 feel the prom - ise is not vain that morn shall tear - less be.
 from the ground there blos - soms red life that shall end - less be.

This intense hymn of commitment to God (addressed as Love, Light, and Joy) closes with an invocation of the ultimate testimony to those attributes (the Cross). The composer, a Scotsman, named this specially-composed tune for the 11th-century patroness of Scotland.