



# Bedford Presbyterian Church

Resurrection of the Lord / Easter Sunday

SUNRISE SERVICE

April 4, 2021 at 7 AM

## GATHERING TOGETHER

### Flowering Cross

*Good morning and welcome to worship!*

*As people gather, you are invited to bring flowers and place them on the Flowering Cross.*

*Please keep your mask over your nose and mouth*  
*and be mindful of physical distancing and stay six feet away*  
*from people who do not live in your household.*

### Scripture Reading

Mark 16:2-6

Pastor John Sawyer

## PREPARING FOR THE WORD

### Call to Worship

Pastor John Sawyer and Elder Alicia Wooldridge

Who will roll away the stone for us?

**We are looking for Jesus of Nazareth.**

The stone is heavy and the tomb is dark.

**We are looking for Jesus – our Light and our Hope.**

The stone is heavy and our hearts are troubled.

**We are looking for Jesus – the Prince of Peace.**

We are looking for Jesus. . .

Do not be afraid! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised! He is not here!

**Christ is risen! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### Introit (Hymn # 588)

“Alleluia!”

CELTIC ALLELUIA

***Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

### Prayer of the Day

**Holy One, you come to us with power beyond all knowing. You lift all things out of the dust, you breathe love into every cell, you call us into communion with you, and you claim victory over death. Blessed be your holy name now and forever. Amen.**

### Hymn # 232

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

EASTER HYMN

***Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!***

***Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!***

***Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!***

***Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!***

***Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!***

***Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!***

***Who endures the cross and grave, Alleluia!***

***Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!***

*Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
Praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!  
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!*

**ENCOUNTERING THE WORD**

**Prayer for Illumination**

Elder Alicia Wooldridge

**First Scripture Reading**

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Listen now for the Word of God.

**Our ears are open. . .**

. . . The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

"At the Last, a Victory"  
(Next Year in Jerusalem)

Pastor John Sawyer

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**Hymn # 250**

"In the Bulb There is a Flower"

PROMISE

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

**Statement of Faith – from A Sanctified Art<sup>1</sup>**

Elder Alicia Wooldridge

**We know the fear of the upper room. We know the feeling of hard days and long nights. We know the grief of the tomb, and the particular ache of saying goodbye. We know the pain of Good Friday, and we know the darkness before dawn. And still, *and still*, we believe.**

**We believe that again and again, the sun will rise. Again and again, God will draw near. Again and again, we will march toward justice. Again and again, the tomb will be empty. Again and again, Love will win. Again and again, God will lead the church. Again and again, and again and again, we will be loved.**

**The journey will not be perfect. We will need to rise before dawn. We will need angels along the way. But again and again, the sun *will* rise. We believe. Amen.**

---

<sup>1</sup> Some of the prayers and readings in today's service are by The Reverend Sarah Are and adapted and used with permission from A Sanctified Art, LLC.

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer** ("debts/debtors") Pastor John Sawyer  
**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**

**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.***

**Flowering Cross**

*As people depart, you are invited to bring flowers and place them on the Flowering Cross, being mindful of physical distancing and wearing a mask over your nose and mouth.*



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

The Reverend John Sawyer, Pastor

Elder Alicia Wooldridge, Liturgist

Barb Flocco, Director of Music



*As part of today's service, you are invited to offer your tithes and offerings, by writing a check and putting it in one of the baskets in the front, 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!*