



Bedford Presbyterian Church
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 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 Psalm 124)

Elder Beth Evarts

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, they would have swallowed us up alive.

We would have been swept away like an overwhelming flood.

Blessed be the Lord who has not given up on us.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Come, let us worship the Lord.

Let us worship God, together.

Hymn # 612 (see below)

“We Praise You, O God”

KREMSER

Prayer of the Day

Ever-present God, who is at the side of every creature in creation, renew our lives so that we may discern and do your will. Help us to do what is good and acceptable and perfect, even when it is difficult, trusting in your power to help and save us. In Jesus’ name we pray. 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 Beth Evarts

First Scripture Reading

Psalm 124

Listen now for the Word of God.

Our ears are open. . .

Second Scripture Reading

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Pastor John Sawyer

. . . The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Call the Midwives”
(The Courage to Say ‘No’)

Pastor John Sawyer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Hymn # 44 (see below)

“Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us”

AUSTIN

Affirmation of Faith – Confession of Belhar (10.7, 9)

Deacon Rheya King

We believe that God has revealed God’s self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people; that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged. . . that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly. . . that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others. We believe that, in obedience to Jesus Christ, its only head, the church is called to confess and to do all these things, even though the authorities and human laws might forbid them and punishment and suffering be the consequence. Jesus is Lord. To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

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)**

Almighty God, you took a baby from the Nile River and used him to lead your people to the promised land. You also take the gifts that you have given us and use them, through us, for good. Take our offerings and use them for your people in this land and throughout the world. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

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

Hymn # 100 (see below)

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

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 Beth Evarts, Liturgist
Deacon Rheya King, Liturgist
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.

We Praise You, O God 612

1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
 2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and moth - ers;
 3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer

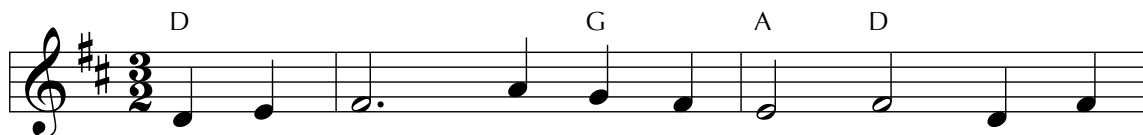
in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
 through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.
 and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.

We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
 When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,
 With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.

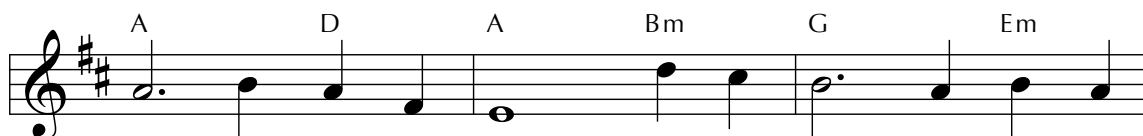
we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.
 and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
 To you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

The author wrote this text when only nineteen years old in response to a request from the organist of the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City, who wanted another Thanksgiving text to sing to this Dutch tune. He regarded the usual text (see no. 336) as too full of conflict.

44 Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us



1 Like a moth - er who has borne us, held us
 2 Like a fa - ther who has taught us, grasped our
 3 Though as chil - dren we have wan - dered, placed our
 4 When we of - fer food and com - fort, grasp our



close in her de - light, fed us free - ly from her
 hand and been our guide, lift - ed us and healed our
 trust in power and might, left be - hind our broth - ers,
 neigh - bor's hand in love, tread the path of peace and



bod - y, God has called us in - to life.
 sor - rows, God has walked with us in life.
 sis - ters, God still calls us in - to life.
 jus - tice, God still walks with us in life.

This text was inspired by how the prophet Hosea describes the parental nature of God's relationship with Israel (Hosea 11:1-19). The last stanza echoes Christ's teachings about love of neighbor (Matthew 22:37-40/ Mark 12:29-31) and care for "the least of these" (Matthew 25:31-46).

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

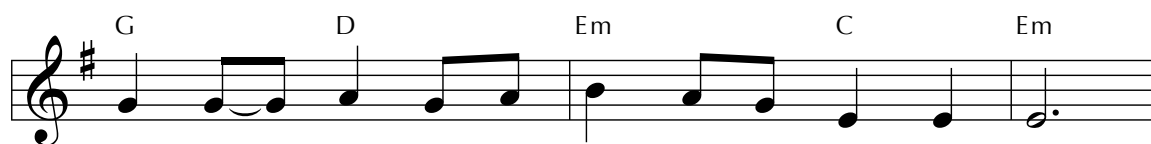
Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46–55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

G D Em C Em

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain G D

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the

Em C D Em

fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the

C D Em C Em

dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.