



# WELCOME to Bedford Presbyterian Church! Summer 2021

## August 29 – 10 AM

**We are glad that you are here!**

**If you're here for the first time, you are most welcome.**

**If you're here for the first time in a long time, you are most welcome.**

**If you're here because this place is your church home, you are most welcome.**

### **What we hope for you. . .**

That you will be blessed as you worship God with our church family.

That you will participate, fully, in the worship service – songs, readings, and prayers – standing and sitting.

That you will feel safe in our well-ventilated Sanctuary. That you will feel welcome here.

### **What we need from you. . .**

In the interest of public health and safety, and in keeping with our church's Covid-19 guidelines. . .

1. Please wear a *mask over your nose and mouth*\* while you are inside the building.
2. Please try to maintain 6 feet of physical distance from one another while you are inside the building. We know. . . It's hard, especially if you haven't seen a good friend for a while.
3. Please stay in your pew for the entire service. We'll be Passing the Peace at a distance.
4. If you need to use the restroom, you are welcome to do so at any time.
5. If you choose to make an offering, please place it in the offering plates that are located near the doors to the sanctuary. Thank you!

\*Note: As we are filled with gratitude and relief for the progress that Covid-19 vaccinations have made in making our normal activities safer, the Session and Covid-19 Task Force of Bedford Presbyterian Church continue a steady and planned approach to safety protocols. We are guided by science and theological and pastoral consideration for *all* who participate in the life of the church. Recognizing the broad intergenerational nature of our congregation and current limitations of vaccine access – especially for children under 12 – we continue to follow the health and safety “best practice” guidelines set forth by our state *and recent guidance from the CDC regarding the Delta Variant* and ***WILL continue to mask for all our indoor gatherings***. Your health and safety are our top priority.

Thank you for your understanding, your flexibility, and your love for God and neighbor!



# Bedford Presbyterian Church

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 29, 2021 at 10 AM

## GATHERING TOGETHER

Chimes

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Elder Alicia Wooldridge

## PREPARING FOR THE WORD

Call to Worship (Responsive – from Psalm 95)

Elder Alicia Wooldridge

Come, let us sing to the Lord.

**Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.**

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving.

**Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise.**

For the Lord is a great God – a great King above all gods.

**In God's hand are the depths of the earth and the heights of the mountains.**

Come, let us worship the Lord, for we are God's people.

**Let us worship God, together.**

\*Hymn # 744

"Arise, Your Light is Come!"

FESTAL SONG

\*Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon (Standing-Unison) Elder Alicia Wooldridge

**Lord Jesus, Judge of the nations: We confess that we have not seen your face among our neighbors in need. We have not shared our food with the hungry; we have not offered clothes to the destitute or shelter to the homeless. We have not welcomed the stranger, nor have we visited prisoners. We have not paid attention to our neighbors and in our neglect, we have failed to serve you. Lord, forgive us. Open our eyes to recognize your beloved family and give us the blessing of sincere repentance that we may know the joy of eternal life with you and all the saints in this world and the world to come. Amen.**

Siblings in Christ, God seeks the lost sheep and feeds them with justice. Forgiven and freed, let us turn, then, and live in Christ our Lord. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. . .

. . . and freed to try again. Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.

\*Sung Response (Hymn # 582)

GLORY TO GOD (Vasile)

*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)*

*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** 1 John 3:17-24

Listen now for the Word of God.

**Our ears are open. . .**

**Second Scripture Reading** Matthew 25:31-40 The Reverend Dr. Blair Moffett

. . . The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** "More Than Words" The Reverend Dr. Blair Moffett

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**\*Hymn # 767**

"Together We Serve"

SAN ANSELMO

**Statement of Faith – from The Belhar Confession (10.3)** Deacon Charlene Isham

**We believe that [the] unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways; in that we love one another; that we experience, practice, and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind; have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause, and share one hope; together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ; together are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity.**

**Call for the Offering** Deacon Charlene Isham

**Offertory** Jill Pennington, solo

*At this time, you are invited to offer your tithes and offerings.  
Offering plates are placed at every exit in the sanctuary  
and you may leave your offering there on the way out, today,  
or you may also make an offering 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!*

**\*Song of Response (Hymn # 609)**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.***

***Praise God, all creatures high and low.***

***Alleluia, Alleluia!***

***Praise God, in Jesus fully known:***

***Creator, Word, and Spirit one.***

***Alleluia, Alleluia!***

***Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!***

**\*Prayer of Dedication** (Unison)

Deacon Charlene Isham

**Almighty God, we give you thanks and praise for your love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Accept our offering in union with Christ's offering for us. Confirm in us the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, that we may testify to his great and powerful love. Through Christ, with the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer** ("debts/debtors") The Rev. Dr. Blair Moffett

**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 # 757**

"Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples"

KINGSFOLD

**\*Charge and Benediction and Peace**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And with you.**

**Postlude**

*\*(stand in body, or in spirit)*



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

The Reverend Dr. Blair Moffett, Guest Preacher

Mrs. Barbara Flocco, Director of Music

Elder Alicia Wooldridge, Liturgist

Deacon Charlene Isham, Liturgist

Elder Jill Pennington, Special Music

Marc Murai and Elder Michael Chen, Sound and Video Technicians

Members of our IT and Communications Committee and Covid-19 Task Force

Bulletin Materials adapted by The Reverend John Sawyer from *Feasting on the Word*.

Information on ways to access audio and video versions of today's service can be found at [www.bedfordpresbyterian.org](http://www.bedfordpresbyterian.org).

## 744 Arise, Your Light Is Come!

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,  
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God, which shines on you to - day.  
 pro - claim the cap - tives' lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.  
 bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

Echoing imagery from Isaiah 61:1–2 and other passages, this text was created as an inclusive-language alternative to an older hymn using this late 19th-century tune. Because it is a song of encouragement rather than a song of praise, it is not directed to God but to people.

# Together We Serve

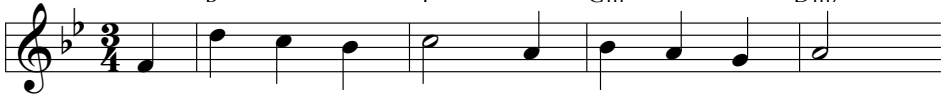
767

Capo 3: (G)  
B $\flat$

(D)  
F

(Em)  
Gm

(Bm7)  
Dm7



1 To - geth - er we serve, u - nit - ed by love,  
2 We seek to be - come a bea - con of hope,  
3 We wel - come the scarred, the wealth - y, the poor,  
4 To - geth - er, by grace, we wit - ness and work,

(C)  
E $\flat$

(G)  
B $\flat$

(Am7)  
Cm7

(Dsus) (D)  
Fsus F



in - vit - ing God's world to the glo - ri - ous feast.  
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.  
the bus - y, the lone - ly, and all who need care.  
re - mem - ber - ing Je - sus, in whom we grow strong.

(G)  
B $\flat$

(D)  
F

(C)  
E $\flat$

(Bm)  
Dm



We work and we pray through sor - row and joy,  
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through  
We of - fer a home to those who will come,  
To - geth - er we serve in Spir - it and truth,

(G) (C)  
B $\flat$  E $\flat$

(G)  
B $\flat$

(Am)  
Cm

(D7)  
F7

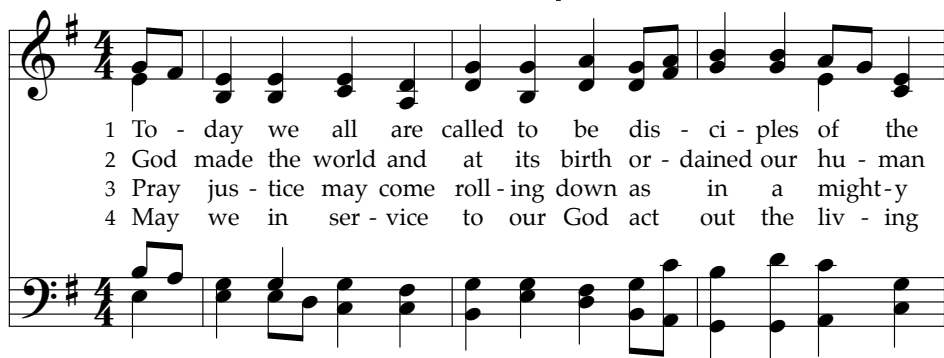
(G)  
B $\flat$



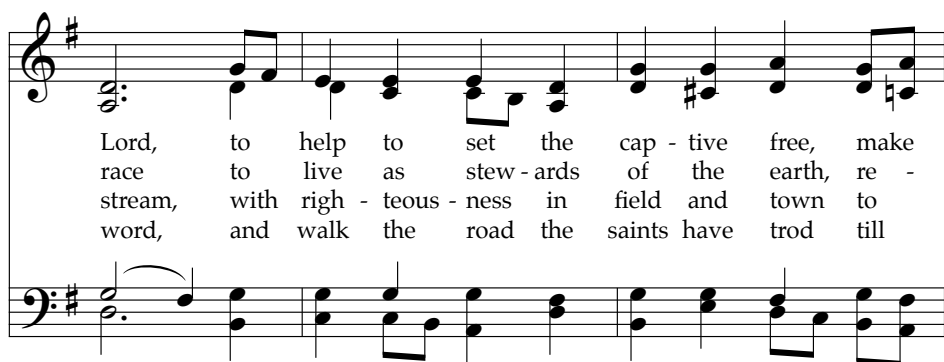
ex - tend - ing God's love to the last and the least.  
un - til we see Christ in each per - son we meet.  
our hands quick to help, our hearts read - y to dare.  
re - mem - ber - ing love is the strength of our song.

The first three words of this text appear in the website address for First Presbyterian Church of San Anselmo, California, for whose centennial the hymn was commissioned. The text draws on Ephesians 4:11-16, a passage describing the many gifts and ministries within the body of Christ.

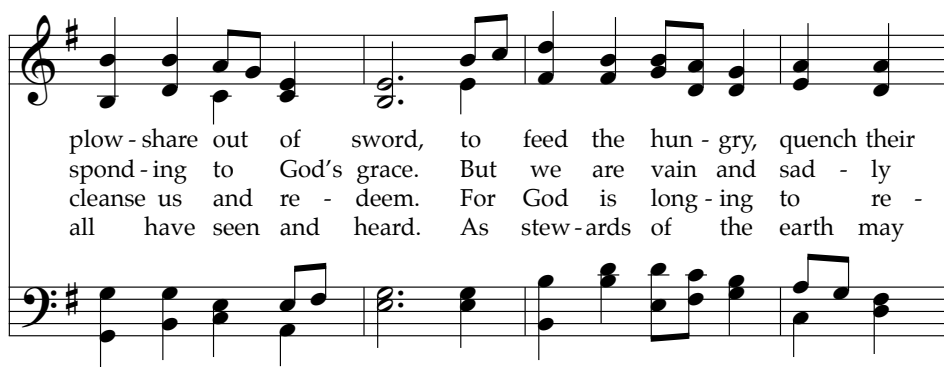
# 757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples



1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the  
 2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man  
 3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y  
 4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing



Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make  
 race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -  
 stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to  
 word, and walk the road the saints have trod till



plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their  
 spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly  
 cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -  
 all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may

This text placing stewardship in the context of faithful witness was written by a retired Presbyterian minister to be part of the 1986 stewardship campaign titled "Called to Be Disciples." The tune name recalls the Sussex village where the arranger first heard the melody.

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the  
 proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our dis - cord  
 store an earth where con - flicts cease, a world that  
 we give thanks in one ac - cord to God who

poor and home - less first, our ease and com - fort last.  
 spreads a dead - ly cloud that threat - ens all of life.  
 was cre - at - ed for a har - mo - ny of peace.  
 calls us all to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord.