



# WELCOME to Bedford Presbyterian Church! Fall 2021

## October 3 – 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

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost –

*“fALL Welcome Sunday”*

October 3, 2021 at 10 AM

## GATHERING TOGETHER

Chimes

Gathering Music

There is a Redeemer

arr. Sanborn

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor John Sawyer

Call to Worship (Responsive – from Psalm 8)

Elder Bethany Avery

God, brilliant Lord, yours is a household name.

**Nursing infants gurgle choruses about you; toddlers shout the songs that drown out enemy talk.**

I look at the skies, dark and enormous, your handmade sky-jewelry, moon and stars mounted in their settings. Then I look at myself and wonder, why do you bother with us? Why take a second look our way?

**You put us in charge of your handcrafted world, made us lords of sheep and cattle, even animals out in the wild.**

God, brilliant Lord, your name echoes around the world. This is the Lord’s Day.

**Let us worship God, together.**

\*Hymn # 12

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

ST. DENIO

Eric Berry, trumpet and Bedford Belles, Handbell quartet  
*Congregation remain seated until Handbells start to play.*

\*Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon (Standing)

Elder Bethany Avery

**Loving God, you created us to live in relationship with you, to love and serve one another, and to care for all your creatures. Yet, in the hardness of our hearts, we dismiss your commandments and seek to go our separate ways. Lord, have mercy on us. Redeem, restore, and re-create us, for the sake of Christ our Savior.  
Amen.**

What are we that God is mindful of us? Who are we that God should care for us? Yet God now calls us beloved children. Jesus now claims us as beloved siblings. This is the good news of Gods’ grace: 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

Children’s Sermon

Pastor John Sawyer

Prayer for Illumination

Elder Bethany Avery

**Scripture Reading** Mark 10:13-16 Pastor John Sawyer  
Listen now for the Word of God. **Our ears are open. . .**  
. . . The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** "Not Just for Grownups"  
(Receiving the Kingdom) Pastor John Sawyer

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**\*Hymn # 853** "We Are Marching in the Light of God" SIYAHAMBA  
Jack Daly, djembe / John Sawyer, guitar

**Affirmation of Faith – from A Brief Statement of Faith (11.2)** Deacon Kevin Avery  
**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

**Call for the Offering** Deacon Kevin Avery

**Offertory Anthem** "There is a Redeemer" Green  
Text can be found in Hymn # 443

*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 Kevin Avery  
**Lord God, you have entrusted us with the works of your own hands. Now we return these gifts to you with thanksgiving and praise. Use them all for your glory and for the good of your world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**Sacrament of the Lord's Supper  
Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Pastor John Sawyer

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**

*If you are in the sanctuary: you are invited  
to take a cup of bread and a cup of juice from the tray as it is passed to you.*

*We will all wait to eat and drink, together.*

*If you are joining the service remotely: you are invited  
to use bread 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**

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 # 65**

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"  
v. 2, Choir

CWM RHONDDA

**\*Charge and Benediction and Peace**

Pastor John Sawyer

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** (Seated)

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

arr. Hayes



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

The Reverend John Sawyer, Pastor

Barbara Flocco, Music Director

Elder Bethany Avery, Liturgist

Deacon Kevin Avery, Liturgist

Eric Berry, Trumpet

Bedford Belles and Senior Choir

Marc Murai and Elder Mike Chen, Technical and Livestream Assistance

Liturgy adapted by The Reverend John Sawyer from *Feasting on the Word* and *The Wee Worship Book*.

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

## Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 12

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small.  
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might:  
 In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.  
 Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;  
 We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.  
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

## 853 We Are Marching in the Light of God

*Siyahamba*

We are march-ing in the light of God; we are march-ing in the  
Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -

light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God;  
nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',

we are march-ing in the light of God.  
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.  
we are march-ing in the light of, the light of God.  
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-, kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.  
we are march-ing in the light of God.  
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

This lively Zulu/Xhosa freedom song originated in a Methodist young men's group in South Africa and has gone on to become popular in many other languages around the globe. Some additional stanzas are suggested, but others may be improvised as appropriate to the occasion.

We are march - ing  
Si - ya - ham - ba

oo  
oo

We are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing, march - ing,  
Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba,

we are march - ing in the light of God.  
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march - ing in the light of, the light of God.  
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen -, kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march - ing in the light of God.  
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

We are march - ing  
Si - ya - ham - ba

oo  
oo

We are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing, march - ing,  
Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba,

we are march - ing in the light of God.  
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

*Additional stanzas ad lib.:*

We are dancing...

We are praying...

We are singing...

## Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this  
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing  
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me  
 stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,  
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.  
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.  
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.