



Bedford Presbyterian Church
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 16, 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)

Elder Kathy Loveless

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred dwell together in unity.

A family formed by faith, we gather to worship the Living Lord.

Lifelong followers seeking sustenance, new disciples searching for grace.

A family fashioned by faith, we gather to receive God's mercy and grace.

The Lord gathers us together – wherever we may be – and makes us one.

A family filled by faith, we gather together because we trust that we belong to God!

Come, let us worship the Lord.

Let us worship God, together.

Hymn # 385 (see below) “All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

OLD HUNDRETH

Prayer of the Day

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, your blessings know no boundaries that faith cannot cross. Strengthen us to trust in your mercy, reach out for your healing, and receive your reconciliation. 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

Sacrament of Baptism

Carter Matthew Proulx

Pastor John Sawyer

Sung Response

Traditional

*If anybody asks you who you are,
Who you are, who you are –
If anybody asks you who you are,
Tell them you're a child of God.*

Prayer for Illumination

Elder Kathy Loveless

First Scripture Reading

Psalm 133

Listen now for the Word of God.

Our ears are open. . .

Second Scripture Reading

Genesis 45:1-15

Pastor John Sawyer

. . . The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Things Happen”
(We Should Have Done This Sooner)

Pastor John Sawyer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Hymn # 475 (see below) “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

NETTLETON

Affirmation of Faith – Confession of 1967 (9.07)

Deacon Belinda King

In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself. Jesus Christ is God with humankind. He is the eternal Son of the Father, who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. This work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is the foundation of all confessional statements about God, humanity, and the world. Therefore, the church calls all people to be reconciled to God and to one another.

Call for the Offering

Offertory

Special Music

Jennifer Chew

*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)

Gracious Lord, you have given us more mercy than we could imagine and more blessings than we deserve. Receive now these gifts as tokens of our gratitude to you, that your mercy may be multiplied and your blessings abound to embrace all those in need. 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 # 761 (see below) “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

BEECHER

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 Kathy Loveless, Liturgist
Deacon Belinda King, Liturgist
Mrs. Jennifer Chew, 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.



Presented for Baptism in today’s service is Carter Matthew Proulx,
son of Matthew and Cathleen Proulx.

The Proulx family was welcomed into church membership
by the Session of Bedford Presbyterian Church at their August meeting.
Welcome to the Proulx family!

And welcome to Carter as he joins the family of faith. . . the Body of Christ.

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Presbyterian Church (USA) is leaning on the promise of the Holy Spirit’s presence with us in the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, trusting the Spirit to work in ways that are very real and lasting in the lives of all who receive these sacraments.

All People That on Earth Do Dwell 385

(Psalm 100)

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the
 2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our
 3 O en - ter then his gates with praise; ap - proach with
 4 For why? The Lord our God is good; his mer - cy

Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with mirth, his
 aid he did us make; we are his folk; he
 joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his
 is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times

praise forth tell. Come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
 doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
 name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
 firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

In a pairing that began in 1561, this paraphrase of Psalm 100 by a Scot is set to a tune that a French composer originally created for Psalm 134 in the Genevan Psalter of 1551. They have appeared together in nearly every comprehensive English-language hymnal since then.

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475

1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
 here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.

Called as Partners in Christ's Service 761

1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or - der hu - man life

we re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
 help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 that sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-que-ers strife.

May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-enge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,

e - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
 blend-ing hu-man skills to-gether gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
 bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.

This hymn is a celebration of mutuality and diversity as well as a challenge to the Christian community to live out a ministry of reconciliation and inclusion. This 20th-century text is set to a 19th-century tune named for the noted pastor and preacher Henry Ward Beecher.