



# Bedford Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021 at 10 AM

Worship-at-a-Distance Format

## GATHERING TOGETHER

Chimes

Gathering Music

“When Spring Returns”

Sarah Murai, soloist

Welcome and Announcements

Elder Kathy Loveless

## PREPARING FOR THE WORD

Call to Worship

Elder Kathy Loveless

The bread of life opens our eyes.

**The word of life opens our ears.**

The Risen One shows us God’s own brokenness,

**And by those wounds, we are healed.**

Come, let us worship the One who surprises us with grace.

**Let us worship God, together.**

Hymn # 254 (see below) “That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon (Responsive)

Elder Kathy Loveless

**Almighty God, your power makes the lame walk and the dead rise to new life.**

**We give you thanks for the love poured into our world through Christ Jesus, who opened our minds to understand what you have made, whose appearance among his followers brings peace, and who creates faith through touch and taste.**

**Forgive us of our failure to give as you have given to us. We beg your mercy and seek your Word, that we may live with the faith of Jesus. Show us Jesus in this life and always. We ask this as your own children, who long to see you and experience your forgiving presence. Amen.**

In the name of Jesus Christ, your prayers have been heard. God’s promises are sure: your sins are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.**

Sung Response

CARRIBBEAN FOLKSONG

***Halle-halle-halle-lu-jah! Halle-halle-halle-lu-jah!***

***Halle-halle-halle-lu-jah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!***

## ENCOUNTERING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Elder Kathy Loveless

First Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 15:51-58

Listen now for the Word of God.

**Our ears are open. . .**

**Second Scripture Reading** Luke 24:13-35 The Reverend Dr. Blair Moffett  
... The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** "Round Trip" The Reverend Dr. Blair Moffett

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**Hymn # 252** (see below) "Day of Arising" RAABE

**Statement of Faith – from The Confession of 1967 (9.09-9.10)** Deacon Matt Studham  
**God's reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery which the Scriptures describe in various ways. . . These are expressions of a truth which remains beyond the reach of all theory in the depths of God's love for all people. They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement of God's reconciling work.**

**The risen Christ is the Savior for all people. Those joined to him by faith are set right with God and commissioned to serve as God's reconciling community. Christ is the head of this community, the church, which began with the apostles and continues through all generations.**

**Call for the Offering** Deacon Matt Studham

**Offertory** "Sing Ye a Joyful Song"  
Sarah Murai, soloist

*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!*

**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 Matt Studham  
**Lord God, we offer to you only a portion of what you have given us. All that we have comes from your creative hand. All that we can give away we do through Jesus' love. All our renewal comes from the Holy Spirit's wisdom. Deal graciously with these gifts so that others may have joy. In Jesus' name we pray. 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 # 450** (see below) "Be Thou My Vision" SLANE

**Charge and Benediction and Peace**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And with you.**

**Closing Song** "The Lord Bless You and Keep You"  
Sarah Murai, soloist

**Postlude** "Sortie" Caesar Franck  
Abigail Parker, guest organist



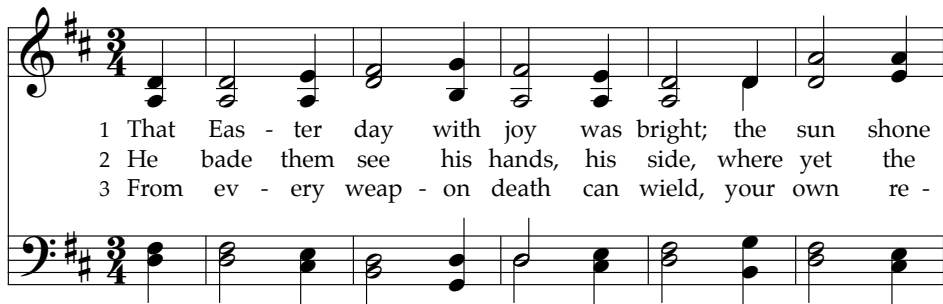
**Liturgists and Leaders in today's worship service –**

The Reverend Dr. Blair Moffett, Guest Preacher  
Mrs. Barbara Flocco, Director of Music  
Elder Kathy Loveless, Liturgist  
Deacon Matt Studham, Liturgist  
Sarah Murai, Special Music  
Abigail Parker, Guest Organist  
Marc Murai, Elder Michael Chen, and Kirk Wilson, Sound and Video Technicians  
Members of our IT and Communications Committee and Covid-19 Task Force

The Reverend John Sawyer, Bulletin and Liturgy

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

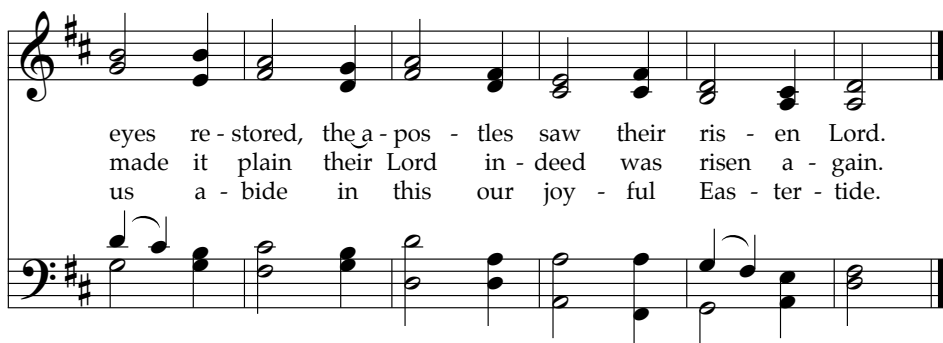
## 254 That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright



1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the sun shone  
2 He bade them see his hands, his side, where yet the  
3 From ev - ery weap - on death can wield, your own re -



out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing  
glo - rious wounds a - bide, the to - kens true which  
deemed for - ev - er shield; O Lord of all, with



eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord.  
made it plain their Lord in - deed was risen a - gain.  
us a - bide in this our joy - ful Eas - ter - tide.

These Eastertide stanzas are derived from a longer Latin text that was one of the earliest hymns written especially for a season of the church year. They are set here to a tune with Christmas associations, a means of linking the two great festivals of the Christian year.

# 252

## Day of Arising

Capo 1: (Esus)

(E)

(B)

(E)

Fsus

F

C

F



1 Day of a - ris - ing, Christ on the road - way, un - known com -  
 2 When we are walk - ing, doubt - ful and dread - ing, blind - ed by  
 3 Lo, I am with you, Je - sus has spo - ken. This is Christ's  
 4 Christ, our com - pan - ion, hope for the jour - ney, bread of com -

(Amaj7)

(F#m7)

(B7)

(Esus)

(E)

B<sup>b</sup>maj7

Gm7

C7

Fsus

F



pan - ion walks with his own. When they in - vite him,  
 sad - ness, slow - ness of heart, yet Christ walks with us,  
 prom - ise, this is Christ's sign: when the church gath - ers,  
 pas - sion, o - pen our eyes. Grant us your vi - sion,

(B)

(E)

(Amaj7)

(B7)

(E)

C

F

B<sup>b</sup>maj7

C7

F



as fades the first day, and bread is bro - ken, Christ is made known.  
 ev - er a - wait - ing our in - vi - ta - tion: Stay, do not part.  
 when bread is bro - ken, there Christ is with us, in bread and wine.  
 set all hearts burn - ing that all cre - a - tion with you may rise.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

Based on Luke 24:13–35, this text tells how Christ walked with two dejected believers on the way to Emmaus. This journey reminds us of our own spiritual wanderings, and the revelation of the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread gives us hope for such an encounter in worship.

## 450

## Be Thou My Vision

Capo 1: (D) (G) (D/F#) (A7) (D)  
 Eb Ab Eb/G Bb7 Eb

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;  
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;  
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

(A) (D) (G) (A)  
 Bb Eb Ab Bb

naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G) (D) (F#m7) (G) (A)  
 Ab Eb Gm7 Ab Bb

thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;  
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

(Bm) (D/F#) (G) (D)  
 Cm Eb/G Ab Eb

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.  
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.