



WELCOME to Bedford Presbyterian Church! Fall 2021

October 10 – 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

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 10, 2021 at 10 AM

GATHERING TOGETHER

Chimes

Gathering Music

“All the Ends of the Earth”

Dufford

Welcome and Announcements

Elder Marcia Morgan

PREPARING FOR THE WORD

Call to Worship (Responsive – from Psalm 139)

Elder Marcia Morgan

O Lord, you have searched and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you know my thoughts from far away.

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

If I go up to heaven or down to the dead, you are there. If I go as far away as I think I can go, you are there, too.

It was you who formed my inward being, knitting me together in my mother’s womb.

I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Come, let us worship the Lord, for we are made and loved by God.

Let us worship God, together.

*Hymn # 28

“You Are Before Me, Lord”

SURSUM CORDA (SMITH)

*Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon (Standing-Unison) Elder Marcia Morgan

Faithful God, you know each one of us. You see us. You listen to us. And yet, we still run. Where can we go from your Spirit? Or where can we flee from your presence? Holy One, we know the answer, and yet, we keep running. So, forgive us for doubting your faithfulness. Forgive us for doubting the gifts you have bestowed upon us. Forgive us and help us to forgive ourselves and each other. Amen.

Beloved children of God, remember that you are fearfully and wonderfully made by the Creator of the Universe. God knows you and loves you. Live your life remembering that you are forgiven and loved. . .

. . . 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.***

*Following this song, children (3 years old – 5th grade)
are invited to go to Sunday School by meeting their teachers at the closest exit.
At the end of the worship service, parents may pick children up in the Mission Outpost Chapel.*

ENCOUNTERING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Elder Marcia Morgan

First Scripture Reading

Ephesians 3:14-21

Listen now for the Word of God.

Our ears are open. . .

Second Scripture Reading

Ephesians 4:11-16, 25-32 The Reverend Dr. Blair Moffett

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Do-it-Yourself Religion” The Reverend Dr. Blair Moffett

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Hymn # 691**

“Lord, When I Came into This Life”

LAND OF REST

Statement of Faith – from The Confession of 1967 (9.32)

Deacon Sarah Costello

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church’s mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God’s judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church’s own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God’s renewal of human life in society and of God’s victory over all wrong.

Call for the Offering

Deacon Sarah Costello

Offertory

“Be Still, for the Presence of the Lord”

Evans, arr. Shepherd

*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 Sarah Costello
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 # 726** "Will You Come and Follow Me?" KELVIN GROVE

***Charge and Benediction and Peace**
May the peace of Christ be with you.
And with you.

Postlude "Lord, When I Came Into this Life" arr. Shearing

**(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 Marcia Morgan, Liturgist
Deacon Sarah Costello, Liturgist
BPC Senior Choir

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 various sources.

Information on ways to access audio and video versions of today's service can be found at www.bedfordpresbyterian.org.

28 You Are Before Me, Lord

(Psalm 139)



1 You are be - fore me, Lord, you are be - hind,
 2 Then from your Spir - it where, Lord, shall I go;
 3 If I should take my flight in - to the dawn,
 4 If I should say, "Let dark - ness cov - er me,
 5 Search me, O God; search me and know my heart;



and o - ver me you have spread out your hand;
 and from your pres - ence where, Lord, shall I fly?
 if I should dwell on o - cean's far - thest shore,
 and I shall hide with - in the veil of night,"
 try me, O God; my mind and spir - it try;



such knowl - edge is too won - der - ful for me,
 If I as - cend to heav - en you are there,
 your might - y hand will rest up - on me still,
 sure - ly the dark - ness is not dark to you:
 keep me from an - y path that gives you pain,



too high to grasp, too great to un - der - stand.
 and still are with me if in hell I lie.
 and your right hand will guard me ev - er - more.
 the night is as the day, the dark - ness light.
 and lead me in the ev - er - last - ing way.

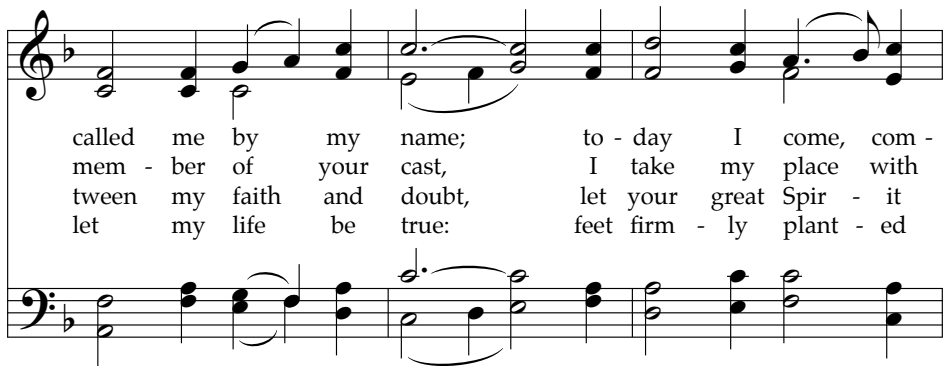
Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The effectiveness of this paraphrase of Psalm 139:1–12, 23–24 partly derives from its imitation of the characteristic repetitions that give emotional intensity to Hebrew poetry. Such patterns of repetitiveness can also be seen in the last three notes of each phrase of the tune.

Lord, When I Came into This Life 691



1 Lord, when I came in - to this life you
2 With - in the cir - cle of the faith, as
3 In all the ten - sions of my life, be -
4 So help me in my un - be - lief and



called me by my name; to - day I come, com -
mem - ber of your cast, I take my place with
tween my faith and doubt, let your great Spir - it
let my life be true: feet firm - ly plant - ed



mit my - self, re - spond - ing to your claim.
all the saints of fu - ture, pres - ent, past.
give me hope, sus - tain me, lead me out.
on the earth, my sights set high on you.

Written for the confirmation of the author's son, this text of self-dedication also voices our recurring individual need to recommit ourselves in less formal ways. The familiar shape note tune enhances a sense of finding our place among God's people from all times and places.

TEXT: Fred Kaan, 1976

MUSIC: American folk melody; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1988

Text © 1979 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

Music Harm. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company)

LAND OF REST

CM

(alternate harmonization, 545)

726 Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons

Capo 3: (D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (Asus) (A)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 Csus C

1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(Em7) (G) (F#m7) (G) (Asus) (A)
 Gm7 B^b Am7 B^b Csus C

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

The first four stanzas of this ballad-like hymn are understood to be in the voice of Christ, with the fifth reflecting the individual singer's response. Created for this traditional Scottish tune, the text was written to mark the conclusion of a youth volunteer's time of ministry.