



# Bedford Presbyterian Church

## Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 9, 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 from Psalm 105)

Elder Larry Cowen

O give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name, make known God's deeds among the peoples.

**Sing to the Lord! Sing praises and tell of all God's wonderful works.**

Glory in God's holy name! Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

**Seek the Lord – the strength and presence God provides.**

Remember the wonderful works that God has done – God's miracles and judgments. Come, let us worship the Lord.

**Let us worship God, together.**

Hymn # 12 (see below)

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

ST. DENIO

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, you speak to us in unexpected voices and come to us in ways we do not recognize. Never leaving us to our own devices or defenses, you are the ever-present, all-powerful God. You work in ways that we cannot begin to fathom. Call us out in faith again and again, until we learn to walk with you in steadfast love, faithfulness, and peace. In Jesus' name we pray. 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

Children's Sermon

Pastor John Sawyer

Prayer for Illumination

Elder Larry Cowen

First Scripture Reading

Psalm 105:16-22

Listen now for the Word of God.

**Our ears are open. . .**

Second Scripture Reading

Genesis 27:1-4, 12-28

Pastor John Sawyer

. . . The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Let us Go Unto. . .”  
(The Scene of the Crime)

Pastor John Sawyer

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Hymn # 799 (see below) “I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry”

I LOVE THE LORD

Affirmation of Faith – Westminster Confession of Faith (6.024, 028) Deacon Mary Beth Dopfer  
God, the great Creator of all things, doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions, and things, from the greatest even to the least, by God’s most wise and holy providence, according to God’s infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of God’s own will, to the praise of the glory of God’s wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy. . . The most wise, righteous and gracious God, doth oftentimes leave for a season his own children to manifold temptations and the corruption of their own hearts, to chastise them for their former sins, or to discover unto them the hidden strength of corruption and deceitfulness of their hearts, that they be humbled; and to raise them to a more close and constant dependence for their support upon God, and to make them more watchful against all future occasions of sin, and for sundry other just and holy ends.

Call for the Offering

Offertory

Special Music

Abby Dopfer

*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 HUNDRETH

*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)

We give thanks to you, O Lord, for your sustaining presence and abundant grace. Receive now these gifts we bring to you out of your generous provision in our lives. May they be used to satisfy the hungry in famine, relieve the oppressed in time of trouble, and proclaim everywhere the good news of your Son, in whose name we pray. 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 # 800 (see below)

“Sometimes a Light Surprises”

SALLEY GARDENS

**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 Larry Cowen, Liturgist

Deacon Mary Beth Dopfer, Liturgist

Abby Dopfer, 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](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.

## I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry 799

(Psalm 116)

1 I love the Lord, who heard my cry cry  
2 I love the Lord, who heard my cry cry

and pit - ied ev ery groan.  
and chased my grief a - way.

Long as I live and trou-les rise,  
O let my heart no more de - spair

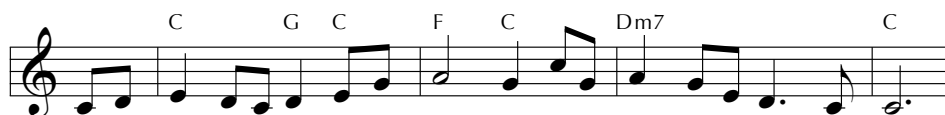
I'll has - ten to God's throne.  
while I have breath to pray.

This setting of stanzas from a metrical psalm draws on an African American singing tradition marked by a slow pace and individual improvisation. Vestiges of that practice appear here in the pattern of extended syllables occurring at regular intervals without regard to meaning.

## 800 Sometimes a Light Surprises



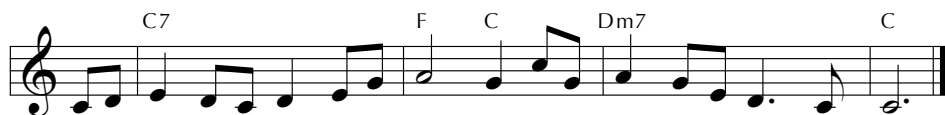
1 Some - times a light sur - pris - es the child of God who sings;  
 2 In ho - ly con - tem - pla - tion we sweet - ly then pur - sue  
 3 It can bring with it noth - ing but he will bear us through;  
 4 Though vine nor fig tree nei - ther their longed - for fruit should bear,



it is the Lord who ris - es with heal - ing in his wings;  
 the theme of God's sal - va - tion and find it ev - er new;  
 who gives the lil - ies cloth - ing will clothe his peo - ple, too;  
 though all the fields should with - er, nor flocks nor herds be there,



when com - forts are de - clin - ing, he grants the soul a - gain  
 set free from pres - ent sor - row, we cheer - ful - ly can say,  
 be - neath the spread - ing heav - ens no crea - ture but is fed;  
 yet God the same a - bid - ing, his praise shall tune my voice;



a sea - son of clear shin - ing to cheer it af - ter rain.  
 "Let the un - known to - mor - row bring with it what it may."  
 and he who feeds the ra - vens will give his chil - dren bread.  
 for while in him con - fid - ing, I can - not but re - joice.

This is one of the few hymns rooted in what can happen during worship, and that experience—gaining a spiritual insight while singing—is no less possible now than when this text was written in the 18th century. It is set here to a folk song variously labeled Irish or English.