

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2021 (177 Years)



Week of March 28th, 2021

We will continue sending out this combination of the newsletter and bulletin to keep you up to date on announcements, prayers, needs and scheduled activities for those that are uncomfortable to attend service.

Included will be the usual newsletter information, along with prayers, scripture and a sermon.

We hope that you can utilize this format to keep up to date while being away from actual services, meetings, activities and watching the online sermon.

Please be in prayer for the end of the coronavirus and healing for those affected by it.



Bedford Presbyterian Church
serving Christ since 1844

A Biblically Guided Christian Community,

Loving God, Loving Others,

Serving the World & Growing Disciples

THE APPROACH TO GOD

One: The peace of Christ be with you

All: And Also with you

Prelude

"In Paradisum"

Faure/Dupre

Words of Welcome and Announcements

- Maundy Thursday services will be at 7 pm and next Sunday is Easter Sunday.
- Please join us for Something More, Tuesday, April 6th, as Rebecca Overstreet will tell the story of the 'Cross Quilt,' at 3 pm, in-person and ZOOM.
- For other announcements, be sure to read the emailed version of the weekly bulletin.

Call to Worship – Palm Sunday

One: On this Palm Sunday we come to worship, thanking God for the promise of a Messiah and the gift of a Savior.

All: Jesus calls us to demonstrate our faith in our daily living.

One: Like the people long ago, we also welcome Jesus.

All: We prepare ourselves to follow Him to the cross and beyond.

One: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

All: Hosanna in the highest!

Hymn of Praise

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

Praise Team

Prayer of Confession- Palm Sunday

Loving God, today we recall the glad hosannas of those who welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem. Today and every day we want to be people who happily welcome Jesus' presence with us. Help us to let go of whatever hinders us from being humble, as Jesus was; from being obedient, as Jesus was; from being as passionate as Jesus was about ministering Your grace to others.

This week also, help us not to forget the horrors yet to come, our savior's betrayal, abandonment, beatings and finally death on the cross, all endured in our behalf. Help us to once again anticipate and receive with great joy the Easter shout that "Christ has Risen" and know that we are forgiven. We ask this in our Savior's name, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Through Jesus Christ we have been born again to new life.

Gloria

"Glory be to the Father"

Hymn 734

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

Time for all God's Children

Scripture

Mark 10:32-34, 11:1-11

Anthem

"Yes, He Did!"

Men's Quartet

Sermon

Don't Lose the Passion Amidst the Palms

Portions adapted from "Palm Or Passion?" by Bruce Ball @ SERmonCentral.Com

Once upon a time, "**Holy Week**," was the most celebrated event of the Christian year. It would begin on **Palm Sunday** with joyous parades and festivals throughout the town as Christians reenacted Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. For the rest of the week, all regular work would cease and courts would close. Passion Plays would be performed in the town square as people took time to rest and think about the life they were living in comparison to Christ's.

Then on **Maundy Thursday** evening, everyone would come to Church to celebrate the Lord's Supper as instituted by Jesus on that night and to renew their vow to *"love one another as Christ has loved us."*

At noon on **Good Friday**, the whole town would again parade to church, this time very somberly, to reflect on Christ's suffering and death in their behalf. Using the **Stations of the Cross**, they would symbolically join with Christ on His final walk through Jerusalem; some even very painfully recreating the crucifixion scene for people to view as they prayed, asking forgiveness for their own sins which forced this death upon Him.

On **Holy Saturday**, people would come to church yet again at sundown to keep vigil, fasting and praying through the night, as they awaited news of Christ's resurrection on Easter Morning.

Then on **Easter Sunday**, sunrise and other joyous worship services throughout the day would commemorate the victory of our risen Lord. People would feast and celebrate. Children and new converts were often baptized and welcomed into the church family. **It was the most joyous day of the year.**

Of course nothing ever goes perfectly. It was during the Dark Ages that remnants from an ancient Roman fertility festival, including **rabbits, eggs** and even the popular name "**Easter**," got blended into Holy Week. Thus, it should not surprise us that in our current secular society, Easter Eggs and Easter Bunnies now dominate most community celebrations.

Well, that was then and this is now. As the world has grown busier, more secular and especially during this pandemic, most Christians have restricted their Church attendance to Sunday's only - if at all - which has basically hollowed out the message of Holy Week.

If we just move from waving palms one Sunday, to singing "*Christ the Lord is Risen Today*" the next, how will we ever learn **WHY** Jesus had to die in the first place. How can we ever personally identify with the suffering He endured in our behalf?

I knew people back in my school days who would read only the first and last chapters in a book and then try and give a book report on it. Oh, they knew full well everything that happened in the

beginning and the end, but they missed out on all the important information in the middle. Let's not make that mistake with Holy Week

Modern church strategists thought they would solve this problem by rebranding Palm Sunday as **Passion/Palm Sunday**, leaving the onus on the preacher whether to have a palm parade or speak on our suffering savior.

Such were the questions I wrestled with in deciding the focus for this morning: the glory of the palms or the gloom of the passion? Jesus riding victoriously into Jerusalem or, bruised and beaten, stumbling up Golgotha Hill. So I decided to let Mark tell the story this year.

With some variation, all four Gospel writers record the events of Holy Week. **John's** Gospel focuses on the triumphal entry with palm branches and crowds celebrating Jesus as their coming King. In **Luke's** Gospel, multitudes sing Jesus' praises so loudly that the Pharisees try to silence the crowd. **Matthew's** account records large crowds, both leading and following Jesus into Jerusalem, setting the city in an uproar and causing people to ask, "*who is this?*" **Mark** tells a quieter story.

In Mark's story, the ride into Jerusalem is not as dramatic. The disciples were distracted; many were afraid because of what Jesus had said was to come; others were privately maneuvering to claim the most important positions in His new kingdom.

Mark recorded more of a rag tag parade than a grand processional. People laid cloaks and branches on the road, while the marchers started up a cheer: *blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David.* Mark also records that it was late in the day by the time the parade entered town, so Jesus took a quick look inside the Temple, then He and His disciples left to find evening shelter in a nearby village. In Mark's gospel it is still Palm Sunday, but there is also an undertone of fear and unfinished business.

Mark's account is both "Palm" and "Passion" Sunday. If we are to do justice to the events of long ago, then we need to celebrate this day as such. But, to more fully understand everything that surrounded Jesus and to figure out what to make of all the events, we need to enjoy the parade, but we also need to include the cross. One does us no good, if we don't also understand the other. So, we need to pay as much attention to **Good Friday** as we do to **Palm Sunday**.

We know from all accounts that Good Friday was anything but a peaceful lazy day in the sunshine. Crowds swarmed over the city, shouting in loud and sometimes angry voices. An odor of sweat and blood hung in the air from the countless number of Passover lambs being slaughtered for that evening's meal.

Neither did Good Friday offer anything good for Jesus and His followers. With His arrest, the disciples had fled into hiding. Then throughout the night, Jesus had been shuffled from court to court and beaten several times along the way. Three times before the break of dawn, Peter had denied even knowing Him. By sunrise, Governor Pilate, fearing the crowds and fearing Jesus, had already washed his hands of the affair, turning Jesus over to be flogged then crucified.

So, early Friday morning found the bloodied Jesus walking out of town in a very different kind of parade, led by soldiers and followed by mourners and wailing women. Jesus was already so weak from the beatings, that the soldiers compelled a passerby – Simon of Cyrene – to carry the heavy crossbeam of wood up a nearby hill to which, by nine in the morning, Jesus was tied and nailed and lifted up on a post to die (Mark 15:25).

Yes, we need to look just as determinedly at the bad as we do at the good, so that we can better appreciate what and why Jesus Christ deliberately chose to endure this kind of suffering and death just for us. He did so because of His great love for us. He did so because it was the only way -- and He was the only person who could trade His life for ours.

Jesus didn't remain aloof to us because of our sin. Rather than keep at a safe distance, He actually left His heavenly home and laid aside His godly glory to walk right up to us and dine with us and witness to us of our need for a savior; which is what He Himself was personally offering not only to us, but to all who thirst for righteousness and who call upon His name.

As this coming week passes, let us each – personally if not publicly – once again walk with Jesus through these events of long ago. Choose any Gospel account you wish, or read a different account every evening, as each tell a slightly different story. **Matthew** focuses more on Jesus' final sermons to the people (20:17-28). **Luke** gives more details of His trial and death (19:28-24). **John** lovingly records Jesus' actions, words and prayers for His disciples during that fateful final meal (15-21). **Mark** focuses on what Jesus did and where He went; but all these stories end at the same cross (11-16). Thus having walked with Jesus throughout Holy week all the way to the cross and then the grave, when Easter morning arrives, we can knowingly and joyously join the throngs in shouting, *Christ is risen, He is risen indeed !*

As we once again remember the road Jesus traveled for us and we rejoice in that love for us which led Him to do it; then we should also be ready with renewed enthusiasm to respond to the command of our newly risen savior, ***to go into all our world baptizing and discipling all people, and teaching them everything he has taught us.*** For different reasons, some of us cannot do so at this time and others might be severely limited in where they can go. God knew there would be restrictions, so He afforded us many ways to share our faith, from kind words gently spoken, to food and water lovingly given. It would also be fantastic, if along the way you could get some more people to join with us in this church, but what is important is that you introduce people any way you can to Jesus Christ, their savior who died so that they might live.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn

"The Old Rugged Cross"

Praise Team

Affirmation of Faith

Celtic Creed

We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life, of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female. We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, born of woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man of sorrows, He died forsaken. He descended into the earth to the place of death. On the third day He rose from the tomb. He ascended into heaven, to be everywhere present and His kingdom will come on earth. We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire, life-giving breath of the Church, Spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen.

Doxology

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Let us, O Lord, offer our lives, our hearts and our gifts to serve You. As our vision is renewed, so renew our acts of kindness, our dedication to show Jesus to the world and our desire to make

our spheres of influence better reflect the glory of God. Help us to live as Easter people every day and all year long. Amen.

Lord's Prayer- *Now let us pray together the prayer our Lord taught us*

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.

Closing Song

"May Your Presence Go With Us"

Don Moen

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction

The peace of God be with you; The love of Christ be with you; The comfort of God's indwelling Spirit be with you; And with your children; From the day that we have here today, Until the day of the end of your lives.

Postlude

"Valet will ich dir geben"

Builmant



Joys- March 28th

Joy- DeWitt, Tammy's parents continue to heal, taking rehab at home

Concerns- March 28th

Avery: Rev. Frank and for Tinkie who has dementia

Barnes: Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer, husband colon cancer

Benton: Roger (friend) in rehab

Linda Crawford- (friend) chemotherapy

Blair: Katy Neel- (LHS student) lymphoma- chemo

Tonya Blair's friend-(Shelly Longnecker) recurring cancer

Boone: Jim Hedrick - (friend) cancer

Judy Jockets- (sister's friend) lung cancer

Jim Cutler- (LHS teacher) stage 4 lung cancer

Dennis Sulka - terminal pancreatic cancer

Garland Craun- therapy, gout in foot

Dan Bartz- (brother-in-law) doing better

Jean Cannaday-(cousin) in hospital, covid complications

Compter: two brothers- unbelievers

Prayers for friends to come to the Lord

Bob- (friend) Parkinson's

Michael Compter-(brother) heart failure

Cram: Winslow's-(friends of Sally) family & medical problems

Janice Campbell-(friend) under hospice care

Ryan- (grandson) searching for his faith

Avery Hardy-(neighbors 2yr granddaughter) burns, needing grafts

John Light- (friend) in hospital with covid

DeWitt- Tammy's parents are home in rehab

Dills: Katy Neel- lymphoma- chemo

Fleming: family dealing with addiction and self- esteem

Their children- having difficulties

Linda Marcet- (Friend) lumpectomy

Christina- (daughter) battling substance abuse

Foster: Tom- home with heart monitor

Joyce Abbott- (former member) cancer

Marian Kelly- (friend) breast cancer, mother's caretaker

Craig Nielson-(nephew) in hospital with covid

Howard-(Tom's brother) thyroid and other health issues

Ron- (brother-in-law) appendectomy

Goodman: Charles- health issues, heart monitor, dialysis

Randall Sales-(SRHS coach) cancer

Katherine Saunders- (Hugh's daughter) hospice

Grigg: Danny Miller- (co-worker) bladder cancer

Harris: Judy- throat and ear pain, more surgery in April

Heinrich: Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder
Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

Kuhn- Kibbey: Nancy Milton- (friend) cancer, Alzheimer's
Dot- idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, wet macular degeneration
Grandson- alcoholism
Dan Withers- (friend) inoperative cancer

Mauser: Joyce Reese- (friend) health problems
Steven-(son's boss) going blind
Norma Jean- (Gayle's sister) medical issues

Morris: Lisa (Robert's wife) lung cancer, undergoing treatment

Morris: all law enforcement, firefighters and all other first responders
Forensic scientists who deal with crime
Doris Jean Coble- (cousin) in nursing home
Ron – back brace, going through therapy, in rehab

Parker: Nithi & Angie Abraham, Nithi near end of life

Saunders: (Ronnie) Colin Bridges- (grandson)
Scott- (son-in-law) doing well, still undergoing chemo
Ronnie- worried about children

Scheurer: Jim Hedrick-(friend) cancer, partial lung removed
Bob Lindell-(friend) prostate cancer
Sonny- (son) colon cancer, taking radiation and chemo

Smith: Dorothy Smith (John's mother) pray she comes to the Lord
Bill & Marie Walker- (Sonya's parents) continue doing well

Stetson: Clay Ramsey- thyroid cancer

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems
Mike Elliston- asthma
Bill Gray- loss of leg, cancer, covid-19
Russell- upcoming knee surgery, May 5th

Toney: Karen Hyde-(friend) bladder cancer
Cal Rice- (former pastor) bone cancer, refused treatment

Van Dyke: Donna Mannel- (friend) MS

Prayers for all front line workers, Drs, nurses, first responders

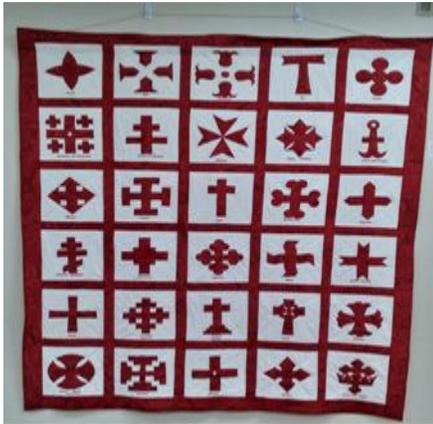
Prayers for our nation and our President

Prayers for those dealing with loneliness

Prayers for healing the divisive spirit among our leaders/nation

Prayers for an end of the coronavirus and healing for those infected

Prayers to speak and listen to those who are different



Join Us at the April 6th Something More, in-person or ZOOM.

Rebecca Overstreet will do a presentation on the 'Cross Quilt.' Describing the crosses and their meanings from different cultures and times.

The quilt is hanging in the fellowship hall, if you would like to see it before the meeting.

Three more ways to support Bedford Presbyterian



CREDIT CARD! -- If you wish to make a donation to the Church using your credit card, go to the Bedford Presbyterian Website and look for the **DONATE** button. Donations through the website will be charged a 2% processing fee by the Presbyterian Foundation.

CLICK for more information: <https://www.bedfordpresbyva.org/donate.html>



SHOP ONLINE! – on your web browser or cell phone app shop at Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com). Register Bedford Presbyterian as your charity of choice and Amazon will .5% of your entire eligible purchase price to the church.

CLICK for more information: <https://smile.amazon.com/>



SHOP IN THE STORE – Link your Kroger Card to Bedford Presbyterian Church as your charity of choice and a percentage of all your purchases will be contributed to the church.

Click for more information: <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>

It's not much.... but every little bit helps.



Capital Campaign

The funds raised by the 175th campaign are nearly depleted and a new campaign "Moving in Faith" has begun to address some exterior maintenance and repair issues, as well as some interior lighting upgrades. Some items are critical such as painting the steeple. Others, like new doors to the fellowship hall and sanctuary are not so critical but will soon become so. Our goal is \$45,000.00 over the next

two years. Move forward in faith and give to the "Moving in Faith" capital campaign.

**Thank you for continuing to send in your contributions and pledges.
You can mail your pledge or contribution (also 5 ¢ a meal and Heifer) or you
can drop by the office, Mon-Thurs between 8 am - 4pm.**

Activities for week of March 28th

Sunday: 10 am Worship
Palm Sunday

Monday: Quilters- 6 pm

Tuesday: 3 pm Something More, in-person and ZOOM

Thursday: Maundy Thursday service, 7 pm

Sunday: April 4th

10 am Worship
Easter Sunday- He Is Risen!
Communion

April Birthdays

Margaret Lambert - 4
James Fleming- 11
Sherry Parker - 18
Tricia Schubert - 23
Al Mauser - 24
Richard Tate - 29

April Anniversaries

Dave and Lori Stetson - 1
Ron and Margaret Morris - 8
Fred and Sandy Scheurer - 22
John and Sonya Smith - 30

Here's a list of our shut-ins, please take time to send a card or
give them a call, to let them know you are thinking of them.

Covid Shut-ins

Mr. & Mrs. Roy Cram
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Heinrich
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Kibbey
Mr. & Mrs. Al Mauser
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Morris
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Neal
Ms. Lynne Palmer
Mrs. Christine Riley
Mrs. Judy Toney
Ms. Gloria Saunders

Mr. Ronnie Saunders
Ms. Mary Wilkes

Long Term Shut-ins

Anne Arthur
Rev. Frank & Tinkie Avery
Pat Clarke
Janet Eagler
Ann Fowler
Dorinda Hopkins
Doris Koch
Ruby Page

