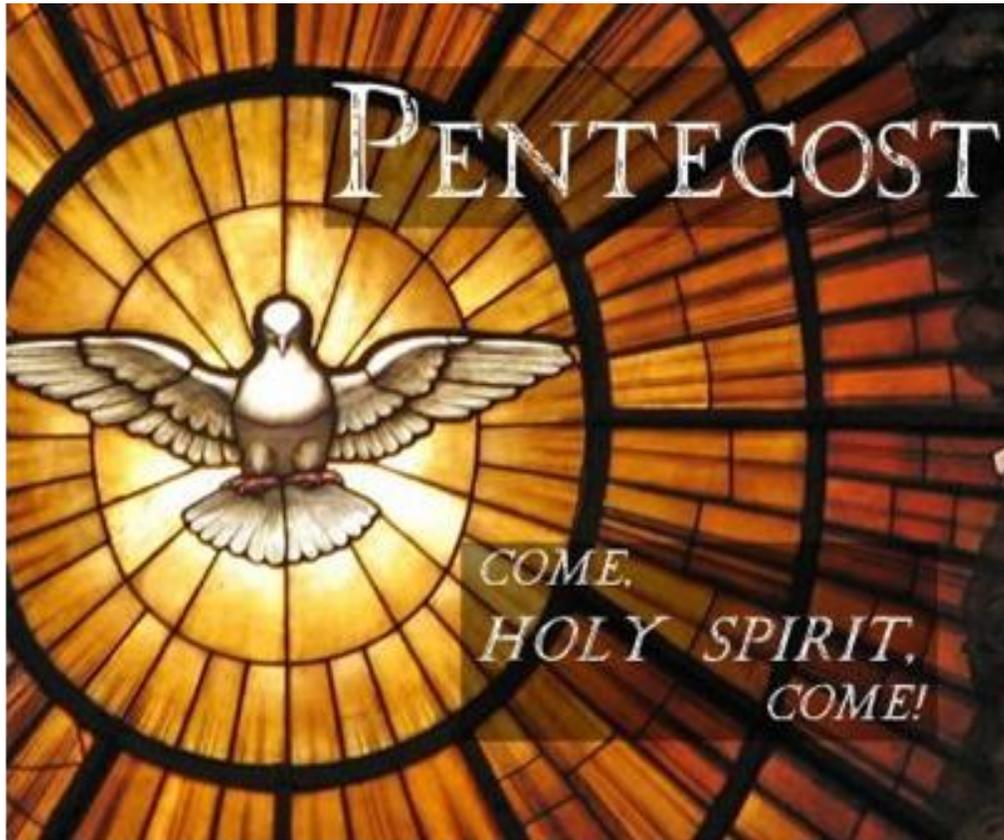


# Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2022 (178 Years)



## Week of June 5<sup>th</sup>

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 yet.

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.



*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**

*“Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song”*

John Carter

### **Welcome and Announcements**

- Prayer time meets in the Anna Latimer room following service.
- The Bedford Hiking Club will meet at 9:30 am at the horse meadow on the Parkway, mile marker 80.5, or at the church at 9 am, for a walk at Black Rock overlook this coming Saturday.
- For other announcements, be sure to read the emailed version of the weekly bulletin.

### **\*Call to Worship**

One: Come, Holy Spirit, Come.

Men: Set your daughters on fire with good news!

Women: Teach your sons new languages of peace!

**All: Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

One: Come, Holy Spirit, Come.

Women: Open your sons’ eyes to new visions!

Men: Open your daughters’ hearts to new hopes!

**All: Come, Holy Spirit! Come again, Come here; Come now!**

### **\*Hymn of Praise**

*“On Pentecost they Gathered”*

Hymn 334

### **\*Prayer of Confession**

Come to us, Holy Spirit and be the source of life restored. Where lives are parched, send the waters of life. Where sins abound, wash these away. Where spirits are worn and wounded, be a healing presence. Where hopelessness abounds, ignite the fire of Your love within our hearts. Where our ancient enemy binds us in apathy, loosen the reins. Bring us to new life, we pray, O God, and may Your Holy Spirit ever flow through us. Come to us, Holy Spirit, and be the source of life restored. 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.**

### **\*Worship Song**

*“Like a Mighty Wind”*

Andre Crouch

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

### **Introduction to Scripture**

#### **Scripture**

1 Chronicles 16: 23-34 (Psalm 96: 23-34)

## Sermon

## Singing to God

Disclaimer: Material from this message was adapted in part from messages found on the Sermon Central website.

When we last saw David, he was triumphantly bringing the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem. As the parade of 30,000 priests, musicians and nobility entered the city, David – lost in worship – was dancing before the Lord with all his might, while his wife Michal, wrapped in her own sense of self, looked on from a safe distance. Sadly, her disdain for David's dancing in worship marked the end of their relationship, which is what can happen when one truly worships while another simply watches. But since we are done with that story, today let's return to the rest of David's celebration before the Lord to see if we can learn WHY we should also worship God the way David worshipped.

Once in Jerusalem, David placed the Ark in a new tent and appointed priests to make continuous thank offerings to God before it. He also appointed other priests to play music before the Lord, and still others to sing songs of praise to God; songs which he himself had written.

Being a talented musician from his youth, David had probably already composed many songs, 73 of which are included in the book of Psalms, and would do so for the rest of his life. But here in Chronicles is the first written record of a song David had personally composed and today's scripture portion is actually from the second stanza of that song. Separately these first and second stanzas appear again in our Bible as Psalms 105 and 96.

So let's take a closer at David's praise song to God to see why losing ourselves in worship should matter as much to us as it did to David.

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Why do we come here to worship, Sunday after Sunday, 52 Sundays a year for 5, 10, 30 years or even a whole lifetime? Why get up early Sunday morning, getting ready, getting the children dressed, driving to church in all sorts of weather, sometimes not feeling too well ourselves, angry at the government, worried about our health and financial problems, dressed in our best and on our best behavior, walking into the building, greeting friends, singing hymns, praying prayers, reading Scripture, listening to sermons, bringing our offering, taking the bread and the cup? Because all of this is a part of what we call "worship". But why do we worship?" Why does worship matter?

In this second stanza of his song, David wrote...

*Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;*      1 Chronicles 16:23-25

There are four basic reasons why we worship and why it matters. **First, because God is worthy of our worship.** Which is exactly what worship is doing: declaring worthiness. Worship, worthiness, worth, they all come from the same root; so whatever we worship we are declaring as having value, having worth to us, and being worthy of our worship.

David further instructs us to ....

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name ... Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, let them say among the nations, 'The LORD is king!' 1 Chronicles 16:29-31

“Ascribe” is a word we seldom use these days, it means to regard a quality as belonging –in this case – to a person. Hence, our worship belongs to God, Who is certainly worthy of our worship because He is the creator of the Universe, He created the fish in the sea and the birds in the air. He hung the stars of the sky and designed every strand of DNA in your body. He is also the Savior of the World and provider of all your needs. He has committed to love you unconditionally and He gave His only Son to die on the cross for the sake of your sins. Thus He is worthy of all praise.

As king of the nations, God is also worthy of praise and thanksgiving from every tribe, people and tongue for what He has done and continues to do in our lives. Every time we get a glimpse of heaven in the Scriptures, we see the angels and heavenly host worshiping God and offering up praise, “*singing in a loud voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!'*” (Revelation 5:12)

**Second, worship helps us fulfill our life purpose,** because we were designed for worship. David opened his song of praise with these words,

*Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praises to him, tell of all his wonderful works.*

*Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.*

(vs. 8-10)

Sometimes we think we become a Christian and then we become a worshiper. But the truth is, every one of us was worshiping long before we placed our faith in Jesus Christ. There is something inside of us that longs for and searches for something of meaning and significance to give ourselves to. You were wired to say with your words and life to someone or something: “*You are worthy to me. You matter to me. You are of ultimate significance to me.*” *You and I will determine with our lives how we spend and invest our time, our resources and our attention.*”

Everybody is worshiping and everybody is building their life around someone or something that they have deemed worth of their allegiance. As Bob Dylan said, “*You may serve the devil or you may serve the Lord, but you gotta serve somebody.*” **Who you serve is who you worship.** Either you worship the God of Creation and the Redeemer of all humanity or you’re going to worship money, material possessions, yourself, your family, or something else. But you’re going to worship something because that’s who you are. That’s why worship matters to you.

**The third reason our worship matters is because we become what we worship.**

The poet Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote,

The gods we worship write their names on our faces ... Therefore, it behooves us to be careful what we worship, for we are worshiping what we are becoming *Ralph Waldo Emerson.*

***“The gods we worship write their names on our faces, be sure of that. And a man will worship something - have no doubt about that either. He may think that his tribute is paid in the secret dark recesses of his heart but it will come out. That which dominates will determine his life and his character. Therefore, it behooves us to be careful what we worship, for we are worshiping what we are becoming.”***

Whatever you value most eventually ends up transforming you. It can be a new relationship, a new car, or a new job. It will consume your time, your energy, your thoughts, your passion and ultimately your whole life. We were made in the image of God and like the angels we were intended to focus our worship on God, celebrating His character, His attributes, His heart, His acts of love and salvation. In the process our worship then transforms us, changing our character into

His character and our heart into His heart. We begin to see the world through the eyes of God and respond to the world with the heart of God ... or whatever else it is that you are worshipping. That's why what you worship, matters to you.

**Fourth, worship is fuel for our soul.** Yes, worship is about declaring God's worthiness (remember, worship is not about us!), but worship also does something for us. As one song phrases it, praise and worship is the wind beneath our wings, it lifts us up to stand on mountains. In his song, David tells us to....

**Seek** the LORD and his strength, Seek his presence continually. **Remember** the wonderful works he has done, His miracles, and the judgments he uttered, 1 Chronicles 16:11-12

Worship gives us a new perspective; God's perspective. When we really worship God, we see things differently. We move from a worldly perspective to an eternal perspective on life and circumstances.

Worship also helps us to understand God's sovereignty, to see that God is in control. There are times in our life – like the world events of this past year – when we feel everything is spinning out of control and it is in those times when we most need to be reminded that God's in control.

I learned a new word this week. All of this year's tragic events has given me a powerful case of the morbs. Deriving from the word morbid, "**morbs**" means a temporary sense of melancholy. It was a very popular word in the late 1800's which I think is again fitting for our world today. So while I do occasionally struggle with the morbs, I just have to remember that I have read the Book and I know who wins in the end; and then as I turn to God in worship and praise, my world grows brighter.

Worship also increases our desire to obey God. The more we worship God, the better we get to know Him. The more we know Him, the deeper our relationship becomes and the greater our desire to please Him.

Finally worship gives us physical, emotional and spiritual rest. True worship brings peace to our spirit and gives us the rest we need from a world-weary heart. When we really worship, it gives us conviction and direction an eternal perspective on life and a deepening commitment to follow and worship God all the more. It is God who saves our soul, but it is our life of worship that transforms us into God's people.

That's why losing your "self" in worship is so important in your life, because it can transform your life; always for the better.

David concluded his song with,

*O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Say also: 'Save us, O God of our salvation, gather and rescue us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name, and glory in your praise.* 1 Chronicles 16:34-36

Every day, we should be giving thanks to the Lord, for His steadfast love that endures forever and it is because it is God who saves us and not we ourselves. If you daily dwell on that for a while, you can't help but get lost in worship ... and maybe even dance a bit.

At the conclusion of David's song of worship, scripture records, *Then all the people said 'Amen!' and praised the Lord* (vs. 36). Which, as we once again come to this celebratory table, is what we should now be doing. Amen? (Amen)

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

### **Worship Song**

*"You're Worthy of My Praise"*

Hymn 648

### **Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. On the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen

### **Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Gracious God, Your Spirit has entered our lives that we may be blessed. We are indeed blessed. We give You thanks for the gift of Your Spirit and for the many other gifts yet unknown to us. As we dedicate ourselves to You with these gifts, continue to empower us to do Your will in this world, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### **Invitation to Communion**

#### **Choral Anthem**

*"You Are Welcome Here"*

Marty Parks

#### **Communion**

*"Communion Meditations"*

Lani Smith

#### **Lord's Prayer**

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 Hymn**

*"Wind Who Makes all Winds That Blow"*

Hymn 333

### **THE SENDING FORTH**

#### **Benediction**

To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy -- To the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.  
(Jude 24-25)

#### **Postlude**

*"Komm, o komm, du Geist des Lebens"*  
*(O Come, O Come, Thou Spirit of Life)*

Gael Liardon

**The flowers are given to the Glory of God** and in memory of my parents,  
Fred and Gloria Wiepert by Lynne Palmer.

### Joys- June 5<sup>th</sup>

**Joy-** John Salley had good conference and visit with dad

**Joy-** Judy Toney's son and family visiting

**Joy-** Betty Goodman welcomed 17<sup>th</sup> great grandchild

**Joy-** Lori Stetson that no one was hurt in tornado

**Joy-** Sonya Smith's brother visiting

### Concerns- June 5<sup>th</sup>

**Avery:** Tinkie, hospice care, Frank, cancer returned

**Barnes:** Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Joey Hedrick- (Kim's husband) cancer

**Benton:** Kim- sister's neighbor- thyroid cancer

Faye McDaniel (friend) husband has severe health issues

Tracey Thomas- (daughter's friend) chemo

**Blair:** Tonya Blair's friend (Shelly Longnecker) recurring cancer

Steve Arrington- (friend) pneumonia, possibly covid

Marshall Dunlap- (friend) cancer

Harvey Clarke- Weebee sleeping most of the day now

Sara (daughter) covid

**Boone:** Don Bartz- (brother-in-law) undergoing tests

Sarah Walker- (daughter) arthritis in neck

**Compter:** two brothers- unbelievers

Prayers for friends to come to the Lord

Bob- (friend) Parkinson's

Michael Compter- (brother) heart failure

Steve & Mary- (friends) Steve disabilities

Aunt Herta- broke hip, pneumonia

Mike Neighbors-(friend) stroke

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

Janice Campbell-(friend) under hospice care

Ryan- (grandson) searching for faith

Prayers for family on passing of Roy

**DeHart:** Dawn's mother radiation treatments

**Easter:** Ruby Key (friend) cancer

**Fleming:** Steve Trombecky- heart condition, in hospital

James Anthony- (son) recovering from bypass surgery

**Foster:** Ron- (brother-in-law) to get out of hospital and into home

Ellen- trouble breathing

**Goodman:** Charles- health issues, heart monitor, dialysis

Mike Virts- (nephew) may have liver transplant

**Grigg:** Danny Miller (co-worker) cancer relapse

**Heinrich:** Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder

Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

**Kuhn- Kibbey:** Jeff Milton (friend) both in memory care

Dot- idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, wet macular degeneration

Dick- macular degeneration, taking shots

**Mauser:** Joyce Reese- (friend) health problems

Steven-(son's boss) going blind

Barbara-(Al's sister-in-law) intense headaches

Gayle Mauser- health issues, still struggling

**Morris:** all law enforcement, firefighters and all other first responders

Forensic scientists who deal with crime

Doris Jean Coble- (cousin) in nursing home

Kyle Coble- (cousin) lymphoma

European conflicts, to find solutions

**Narwid:** Ed- recovering at home

**Neal:** Whitney Janet's (friend) kidney removed

**Nichols:** JC (nephew's son) mitochondrial disease

**Parker:** God's intervention in Ukraine

**Poindexter:** Heather- rheumatoid arthritis

**Rutledge:** Sherry (friend) covid complications

**Saunders:** (Ronnie) Colin Bridges- (grandson)

Scott- (son-in-law) terminal brain cancer

**Scheurer:** Jim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Bob Lindell-(friend) prostate cancer

Sonny (son) doing well

**Smith:** Dorothy Smith- (John's mother) pray she comes to the Lord

**Stetson:** Clay Ramsey- thyroid cancer

Katy Dubinski-(daughter) friend Michelle, depression

**Stevens:** Jackie Landis- heart problems

Duncan Elliston- (fireman)

Bill Gray- loss of leg, cancer

Jessica Canfield- (friend) struggling after surgery

Smith Farris- (friend) recovering from surgery, pneumonia

Tom Richardson- (friend) hospital, afib

**Toney:** Grandson having surgery

**Van Dyke:** Donna Mannel (friend) MS

Nancy- lymphoma, prayers for remission, treatments and follow Dr's prescription for living her life

**Watkins:** Joy- needing veterinarians for animal hospital

**Winberry:** Chris- severe heart issues. Some improvement

Tom & Dee-(brother) COPD, maybe hospice, prayers for family

**Prayers for our nation and our President**

**Prayers for those dealing with loneliness**

**Prayers for healing the divisive spirit among our leaders/nation**

**Russian invasion ends and not resort to nuclear weapons. Nations to stand up for freedom.**

**Prayers for new residents to come to worship with us**

**Prayers for our constant responders**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for continuing to send in your contributions and pledges.  
You can mail your pledge or contribution, or you can drop by the office,  
Mon-Thurs between 8 am - 4 pm.

### Activities for week of June 5<sup>th</sup>

Sunday: 10 am Worship

Pentecost Sunday

Communion

Prayer Time following service

Monday: Cubs

Saturday: Bedford Hiking Club, 9:30 am at the horse meadow on the Parkway, 9 am carpool from church

Sunday: June 12<sup>th</sup>

10 am Worship with

5 ¢ a Meal Offering

Prayer Time following service

### June Birthdays

Dot Kuhn - 7

Dave Stetson - 12

Hugh Saunders - 19

Betty Salley - 25

### June Anniversaries

BJ & Heather Poindexter - 11

Jim and Joy Barefoot - 21

David & Kathy Grigg - 21

Philip & Sherry Parker - 28

### June 11<sup>th</sup> is the Bedford Hiking Club's annual Black Rock Overlook Rhododendron Walk.

Saturday, June 11, may be too late to enjoy the rhododendron blooms, but Bedford Hiking Club can still this beautiful stroll along the Black Rock overlook section of the AT. It is a 3 mile roundtrip, with some climbing – but it takes you past The Cornelius Creek trail shelter, across mountain creeks, through rhododendron thickets to a beautiful mountainside overlook only available to hikers. This is a good trail for dog walking (on a leash).

Also, here is your opportunity to be a **"trail angel!"** Along with your own **water bottle**, bring along a **small trash bag** to pick up any garbage you find along the trail and beside the shelter. And, you might add some **special treat** to share with any "AT through hikers" we usually meet this time of year.

Carpoolers will **leave from the Church at 9a.m.** If you wish to meet us there at 9:30, park your car in the horse meadow at Parkway mile 80.5; just past the horse crossing sign.

