

## Welcome to Bedford Presbyterian Church

We are glad to have you join us today.

*We envision a church worshipping with joy, loving each other with compassion and reaching out to the world with grace and justice.*

### Worshipping with Joy

In person at 10 a.m. Sunday morning. Also livestreamed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=whFBdWMyctE>

### Downstairs

There is Children's Church for children between the ages of 3-8.  
There is also a nursery and a separate room for nursing mothers.

### Bible Studies

- **College and Career study**—Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. at the home of Nathan and Laura Priddle. Studying Colossians. Resumes in January.
- **Adult Bible study**—led by Reid Campbell Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom on the gospel of John. Resumes in January.
- **Men's Bible study** meet on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. on the Ten Commandments. Resumes in January.
- **ISM study groups** are meeting—contact Will or Chi Perrie.
- **Women's Bible Study** on Genesis led by Laura Priddle meets Wednesday morning at 9:30 a.m. Come early for coffee, tea and snacks. Resumes in January

### Pray for:

- the missionaries we support
- Christ Church Halifax (Michael and Brittney Chhangur)
- Harbour Light Church
- Kevin Burrell – cancer treatment
- persecuted Christians throughout the world
- for Israel
- the attack on Ukraine to end
- Evangelism
- Marion Stout – family of the week

## Officers of the Church

### Elders

Bill Radford—Pastor  
Peter Bustin  
Reid Campbell  
Will Perrie  
Glenn Wadden

### Pastor Emeritus

Don Codling

### Deacons

David Campbell  
Honza Pokorny  
Edward Woolley

**Electronic giving:** You can give electronically by sending an Interac e-transfer to [bedfordpca@gmail.com](mailto:bedfordpca@gmail.com)

**At church:** There is a plate for offerings on the back table.



© Can Stock Photo // Aquamarine4

## Bedford Presbyterian Church

Pastor Bill Radford

December 17, 2023

[www.bedfordpca.org](http://www.bedfordpca.org)

49 Nelsons Landing Blvd.

Bedford, NS

## Reflections

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away."

*Revelation 21:1-4*

"Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!"

*Dr. Seuss, How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*

"Christmas is the end of thinking you are better than someone else, because Christmas is telling you that you could never get to heaven on your own. God had to come to you."

*Tim Keller, Hidden Christmas*

## Welcome and Announcements

### Invocation

**Call to Worship** *from Isaiah 60*

Minister: Arise, shine, for your light has come,

**People: And the glory of the LORD rises upon us.**

Minister: See, darkness covers the earth

**People: And thick darkness is over the peoples,**

Minister: but the LORD rises upon you

**People: and his glory appears over us.**

Minister: The sun will no more be your light by day,  
nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you,

**People: for the LORD will be our everlasting light,  
and our God will be our glory.**

**Hymn of Praise:** Once in Royal David's City

**Old Testament Reading:** *Micah 5:2-4*

**Call to Repentance:** *Matthew 1:21*

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

**Hymn of Reflection:** Away in a Manger

### Confession of Sin

O Lord, we have not longed for your coming and your kingdom as we ought. Instead, clinging to the things of this world and counting them dear, we have grown callous to needs of the poor and downtrodden, the lonely and the suffering. We have not cried out for justice as we should. Nor have we cared about those who are without Christ and without hope in this world. We have been silent when we could have spoken and have lacked boldness in our witness. Lord, forgive us for our offenses. And grant that by the power of your Spirit we might live in light of your coming again. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen

### Silent Confession

**Declaration of Forgiveness:** *Acts 10:43*

To him (*that is Jesus*) all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

### Song of Renewal:

Psalm 103

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

**New Testament Reading:** Philippians 2:1-11

### Pastoral Prayer

### Doxology

**Gospel Reading:** *Luke 1:26-38*

### Sermon: God with Us

*Pastor Bill Radford*

**Closing Hymn:** Hark the Herald Angels Sing

### Benediction

### Dismissal

## Sermon: God with Us