

## Welcome to Bedford Presbyterian Church

We are glad to have you join us this Christmas Eve. Our vision is a church worshipping with joy, loving each other with compassion and reaching out to the world with grace and justice. You are most welcome to attend our regular worship service on Sundays at 10 a.m. followed by refreshments and fellowship.

The livestream link for the Christmas Eve service is:

<https://youtube.com/live/puKXSZcrpMM?feature=share>

### Officers of the Church

#### Elders

Pastor Bill Radford  
Peter Bustin  
Reid Campbell  
Will Perrie  
Glenn Wadden

#### Pastor Emeritus

Don Codling

#### Deacons

David Campbell  
Honza Pokorny  
Edward Woolley

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*



# Merry Christmas



**Bedford Presbyterian Church  
2023 Christmas Eve Service**

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.  
Psalm 119:105*

# Christmas Eve Service

## Reflections

Mary “announces that this kindness of God will be kept in remembrance throughout all generations. But if it is so remarkable, that it ought to be proclaimed every where by the lips of all men, silence regarding it would have been highly improper in Mary, on whom it was bestowed. Now observe, that Mary makes her happiness to consist in nothing else, but in what she acknowledges to have been bestowed upon her by God, and mentions as the gift of his grace. ‘I shall be reckoned blessed,’ she says, ‘through all ages.’ Was it because she sought this praise by her own power or exertion? On the contrary, she makes mention of nothing but of the work of God.”

John Calvin on Luke 1:48

*Oh, magnify the LORD with me,  
And let us exalt His name together.  
Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good;  
Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!  
Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints!  
There is no want to those who fear Him.*

Psalm 34:2, 8-9

## Welcome and Announcements

## Invocation

**Hymn:** O Come All Ye Faithful

**Call to Worship** Luke 2:10,11,14

**Minister:** Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people.  
For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is  
Christ the Lord

**People:** **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!**

**Hymn:** O Holy Night

**First Lesson:** Genesis 3:8-15

God announces to Adam and Eve the coming of a child who will overcome Satan.

**Hymn:** What Child is This #213

**Second Lesson:** Isaiah 9:1-7

God’s Promise to Redeem His People through the Christ Child

**Third Lesson:** Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel tells Mary she will give birth to the Christ.

## Confession of Sin

Kind and loving heavenly Father, as we celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus our Lord and Saviour, we are made conscious of the ugliness of our sin against you. You gave us your most precious Son, Father. Lord Jesus, you left your glory to be born in a stable, for us. But we take that for granted and focus our lives on the things we want. We forget that your love is so great, and allow fear of a disease to shape our lives. We listen attentively to human authorities, and ignore your promises, your teaching.

Forgive us, Lord. Holy Spirit, please fill our hearts with your presence, so we turn from self-centred desires and fear of this world, to give ourselves to you, as you give yourself to us. Cleanse us of our sinful desires, as in Christ you have already cleansed us of our guilt. So fill our hearts with praise for you that nothing evil can draw us away. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen

## Silent Confession

**Childrens’ Choir:** Scripture Reading – Isaiah 52:7  
Go Tell it on the Mountain

**Fourth Lesson:** John 1:1-14

The mystery of the incarnation

**Hymn:** Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel #194

**Fifth Lesson:** Luke 2:1-7

The Christ Child is born.

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

**Sixth Lesson:** Luke 1:46-55

Mary praises God for the gift of the promised Saviour.

**Hymn:** Joy to the World #195

## Sermon: Christmas Peace

Pastor Bill Radford

**Closing Hymn:** Silent Night #210

**Benediction**