

Welcome to Bedford Presbyterian Church

49 Nelsons Landing Blvd., Bedford, NS www.bedfordpca.org

We are glad to have you join us for Christmas Eve 2024. 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 regular worship services on Sundays at 10 a.m. followed by refreshments and fellowship.

The livestream link for the Christmas Eve service is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85NICrvZubg>

Officers of the Church

Elders

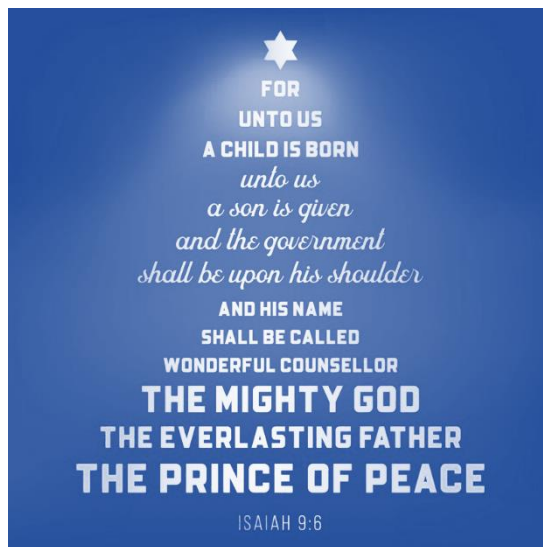
Pastor Bill Radford
Peter Bustin
Reid Campbell
Will Perrie
Glenn Wadden

Deacons

David Campbell
Honza Pokorny
Edward Woolley

Pastor Emeritus

Don Codling



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

Fourth Lesson: Luke 1:46-55

Mary praises God for the gift of the promised Saviour.

Hymn: Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel #194

Fifth Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

An angel appears to Joseph in a dream

Hymn: Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

The Christ Child is born.

Hymn: Joy to the World #195

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8-21

Glory to God in the Highest

Sermon: Call His Name Jesus

Pastor Bill Radford

Closing Hymn: Silent Night #210

Benediction