

## SERMON

Born to Reign  
Matthew 2

## GOSPEL READING

### Matthew 2

2 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." <sup>9</sup> After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup> And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

<sup>13</sup> Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

<sup>14</sup> And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

<sup>16</sup> Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. <sup>17</sup> Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup> "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

<sup>19</sup> But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, <sup>20</sup> saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." <sup>21</sup> And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

The Rule of Christ cannot be stopped.

We will see this in:

### 1) The Responses to the King (v. 1-12)

### 2) The Attempt on the King (v. 13-18)

### 3) The Return of the King (v. 19-23)

"If the death of Christ on the cross is the true meaning of the Incarnation, then there is no gospel without the cross. Christmas by itself is no gospel. The life of Christ is no gospel. Even the resurrection, important as it is in the total scheme of things, is no gospel by itself. For the good news is not just that God became man, nor that God has spoken to reveal a proper way of life for us, or even that death, the great enemy, is conquered. Rather, the good news is that sin has been dealt with (of which the resurrection is a proof); that Jesus has suffered its penalty for us as our representative, so that we might never have to suffer it; and that therefore all who believe in Him can look forward to heaven."

-James Montgomery Boice



## BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 5, 2026  
www.bedfordpca.org  
49 Nelsons Landing Blvd., Bedford, NS

## 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.

## CHILDREN

There is no Children's Church today so that everyone can attend the service celebrating the Lord's Supper. Downstairs there is also a nursery and a separate room for nursing mothers.

## UPCOMING

12:45 p.m., Wednesday, April 8, 2026: English Conversation Group.

April 25, 6:30 p.m.: Praise Night & Kids 2 Camp Fundraiser in support of Malagash Bible Camp, hosted at Grace Chapel (255 Ross St. Halifax)

May 1 - 3: MudBlast Retreat at Malagash Bible Camp, for kids in grades 2 - 6. For more information, visit [www.malagashbiblecamp.com](http://www.malagashbiblecamp.com).

May 22 - 24: Women's Retreat at Malagash Bible Camp. For more information, visit [www.malagashbiblecamp.com](http://www.malagashbiblecamp.com).

## BIBLE STUDIES

- **Adult Bible study:** 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays via Zoom. Led by Reid Campbell. Meets next on April 8. Studying 1 Samuel.
- **ISMC study groups** are meeting—contact Will or Chi Perrie.
- **Women's Bible Study:** Wednesdays at 9:30-11:00 a.m. at the home of Laura Priddle studying Joshua. The 7:15 p.m. Monday evening study on Romans meets every other week.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

- Family of the week: Rick Reynolds

## HOW TO GIVE

E-transfer to [bedfordpca@gmail.com](mailto:bedfordpca@gmail.com)

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS INVOCATION

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let us worship God.

**All: “He is our refuge and our fortress,  
our God, in whom we trust.”**

Leader: Let us confess with our mouths, “Jesus is Lord,”  
and believe in our hearts that God raised him  
from the dead.

**All: “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will  
be saved.”**

Leader: Let us call upon our true God, believing him in  
our hearts,  
confessing him with our mouths, worshiping  
him in spirit and in truth.  
—based on Psalm 91:2; Romans 10:9, 13

### HYMN OF PRAISE

Christ the Lord is Risen today

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

**Isaiah 1:21-31**

<sup>21</sup> How the faithful city has become a harlot!

It was full of justice;  
Righteousness lodged in it,  
But now murderers.

<sup>22</sup> Your silver has become dross,  
Your wine mixed with water.

<sup>23</sup> Your princes are rebellious,  
And companions of thieves;  
Everyone loves bribes,  
And follows after rewards.

They do not defend the fatherless,  
Nor does the cause of the widow come before them.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore the Lord says,  
The Lord of hosts, the Mighty One of Israel,  
“Ah, I will rid Myself of My adversaries,  
And take vengeance on My enemies.

<sup>25</sup> I will turn My hand against you,  
And thoroughly purge away your dross,  
And take away all your alloy.

<sup>26</sup> I will restore your judges as at the first,  
And your counselors as at the beginning.  
Afterward you shall be called the city of righteousness,  
the faithful city.”

<sup>27</sup> Zion shall be redeemed with justice,  
And her penitents with righteousness.

<sup>28</sup> The destruction of transgressors and of sinners shall  
be together,

And those who forsake the Lord shall be consumed.

<sup>29</sup> For they shall be ashamed of the terebinth trees

Which you have desired;

And you shall be embarrassed because of the gardens  
Which you have chosen.

<sup>30</sup> For you shall be as a terebinth whose leaf fades,

And as a garden that has no water.

<sup>31</sup> The strong shall be as tinder,

And the work of it as a spark;

Both will burn together,

And no one shall quench them.

### CALL TO REPENTANCE

Based on Old Testament reading

### SONG OF REFLECTION

Psalm 3

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Wondrous God, who sets suns and moons  
above us, mountains and valleys beneath us,  
and friends and strangers among us: how often  
have we tried to hide from your presence, how  
seldom have we looked for your creating face  
and your fashioning hand!

**All: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Leader: Wondrous God, who took upon yourself flesh of  
our flesh in Jesus our brother, and being found  
in human form made the ultimate disclosure of  
yourself in the face of Jesus Christ: how often  
we have forgotten you, how seldom have we  
really loved and followed you!

**All: Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Leader: Wondrous God, who pours out freely the Holy  
Spirit: how often have we ignored your  
promptings, how seldom have we asked for  
your help or accepted your gifts!

**All: Lord, have mercy upon us. Amen.**

### SILENT CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Here are words you may trust, words that merit full  
acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to  
save sinners. To all who confess their sins and  
resolve to lead a new life, he says, “Your sins are  
forgiven.” He also says, “Follow me.” Now to the  
one who rules all worlds, immortal, invisible, the  
only God, be honour and glory forever and ever.

—based on 1 Timothy 1:15, 17

### SONGS OF RENEWAL

Hallelujah for the Cross

Crown Him with many Crowns

### NEW TESTAMENT READING

**James 1:19-27**

<sup>19</sup> Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick  
to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup> for the anger of man  
does not produce the righteousness of God. <sup>21</sup> Therefore put  
away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive  
with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save  
your souls.

<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving  
yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a  
doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in  
a mirror. <sup>24</sup> For he looks at himself and goes away and at  
once forgets what he was like. <sup>25</sup> But the one who looks into  
the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no  
hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in  
his doing.

<sup>26</sup> If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his  
tongue but deceives his heart, this person’s religion is  
worthless. <sup>27</sup> Religion that is pure and undefiled before God  
the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their  
affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

### PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH AND CITY

Prayer for Rick Reynolds and Easter

### THE LORD’S PRAYER

**All: 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.**

### DOXOLOGY

### SERMON

Born to Reign

Rev. Jim Poopalapillai

### PROFESSING OUR FAITH

The Apostles’ Creed

### THE LORD’S SUPPER

### CLOSING HYMN

Worship Christ the Risen King

### BENEDICTION

Leader: <sup>20</sup> Now may the God of peace who brought again  
from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd  
of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal  
covenant, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good that  
you may do his will, working in us that which is  
pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to  
whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

—Hebrews 3:20-21

### DISMISSAL

Leader: Let us go forth to serve the world as those who  
love our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God!**