

SERMON
The Forerunner of the Faith
Matthew 3:1-12

The way of the Lord is prepared by:

1) Repentance (v.1-6)

2) Fruitfulness (v.7-10)

3) The Holy Spirit (v.11-12)

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:1-12

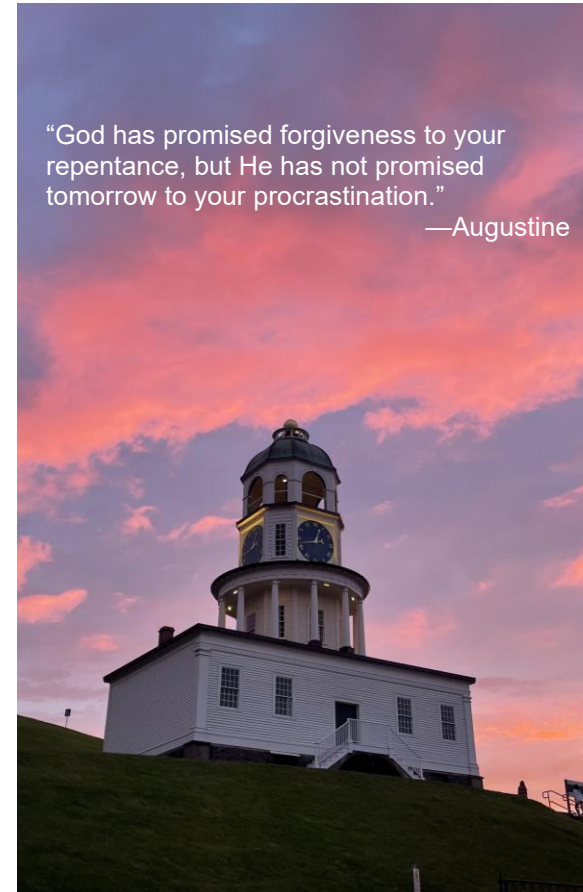
In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”

⁴Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”



“God has promised forgiveness to your repentance, but He has not promised tomorrow to your procrastination.”
—Augustine

**BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

April 12, 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 Children's Church for children between the ages of 3 to 10. Downstairs there is also a nursery and a separate room for nursing mothers.

UPCOMING

English Conversation Group: April 15, 12:45 p.m

Church Potluck: April 19, after Service

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

MudBlast Retreat: May 1–3 at Malagash Bible Camp, for kids in grades 2–6. For more information, visit malagashbiblecamp.com

Mothers' Day Luncheon: May 8, 11 a.m.–1 p.m, RSVP online: bedfordpca.org/rsvp/mday

Women's Retreat: May 22–24 Malagash Bible Camp. For more information: malagashbiblecamp.com

BIBLE STUDIES

- **Adult Bible study:** 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays via Zoom. Led by Reid Campbell. Meets next on April 12. 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: Semenov family

HOW TO GIVE

E-transfer to bedfordpca@gmail.com

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS INVOCATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: “Great and amazing are your deeds,
O Lord God the Almighty!

**All: Just and true are your ways,
O King of the nations!**

Leader: Who will not fear, O Lord,
and glorify your name?

**All: For you alone are holy.
All nations will come
and worship you,
for your righteous acts have
been revealed.”**

—from Revelation 15:3-4

HYMN OF PRAISE

Holy, Holy, Holy

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 2:1-11

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the Lord
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,
³ and many peoples shall come, and say:
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord.

⁶ For you have rejected your people,
the house of Jacob,
because they are full of things from the east

and of fortune-tellers like the Philistines,
and they strike hands with the children of foreigners.

⁷ Their land is filled with silver and gold,
and there is no end to their treasures;
their land is filled with horses,
and there is no end to their chariots.

⁸ Their land is filled with idols;
they bow down to the work of their hands,
to what their own fingers have made.

⁹ So man is humbled,
and each one is brought low—
do not forgive them!

¹⁰ Enter into the rock
and hide in the dust

from before the terror of the Lord,
and from the splendour of his majesty.

¹¹ The haughty looks of man shall be brought low,
and the lofty pride of men shall be humbled,
and the Lord alone will be exalted in that day.

CALL TO REPENTANCE

Based on Old Testament reading

SONG OF REFLECTION

Psalms 145

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Merciful God,
you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.
We humbly confess our sins
and ask your mercy.
We have not loved you with a pure heart,
nor have we loved our neighbour as ourselves.
We have not done justice, loved kindness,
or walked humbly with you, our God.
Have mercy on us, O God,
in your loving-kindness.
In your great compassion,
cleanse us from our sin.

**All: Create in us a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within us.
Do not cast us from your presence,
or take your Holy Spirit from us.
Restore to us the joy of your salvation
and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

—based on Psalm 51:10-12

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the
uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with
him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the
record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands.
This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

—from Colossians 2:13-14

MEMBERSHIP

Aidan and Eileen de Boer

COVENANT BAPTISM

Alexandra Rose Woolley de Boer

SONGS OF RENEWAL

Goodness of God

We Believe

NEW TESTAMENT READING

JAMES 2:1-13

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our
Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. ² For if a man wearing a
gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a
poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, ³ and if you pay
attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say,
“You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man,
“You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,” ⁴ have you
not then made distinctions among yourselves and become
judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers, has
not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in
faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to
those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonoured the poor
man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the
ones who drag you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who
blaspheme the honourable name by which you were called?

⁸ If you really fulfill the royal law according to the
Scripture, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself,” you
are doing well. ⁹ But if you show partiality, you are committing
sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For
whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has
become guilty of all of it. ¹¹ For he who said, “Do not commit
adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit
adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of
the law. ¹² So speak and so act as those who are to be
judged under the law of liberty. ¹³ For judgment is without
mercy to one who has shown no mercy.
Mercy triumphs over judgment.

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH AND CITY

Prayer for Semenov family and Media and Journalists

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

The Forerunner of the Faith

Rev. Jim Poopalapillai

CLOSING HYMN

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

BENEDICTION

Leader: Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God
our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and
good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish
them in every good work and word. Amen.

—2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

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!