

SERMON
Kingdom Identity
Matthew 5:13-16

Christ's kingdom is called to be a life preserving and life presenting covenant community.

We see this in Jesus calling his followers...

1. Salt: life preserving (v.13)

2. Light: life presenting (v.14-16)

GOSPEL READING
Matthew 5:13-16

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.



**BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

May 24, 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 usually Children's Church for children between the ages of 3 to 10. There is no Children's Church on Sundays when the Lord's Supper is celebrated. Downstairs there is also a nursery and a separate room for nursing mothers.

UPCOMING

English Conversation Group: May 27, 12:45 p.m.

Calvin and Hops: May 29, 7-9 p.m. at Christ Church Halifax Office. Discussion based on Calvin's Institutes Book 1, Chapters 14-15, 5th Edition.

Yard Day: May 30th, 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Church Potluck: May 31, after the service

Men's Breakfast: June 20, 9:00-11:00 a.m. at BPC

BIBLE STUDIES

- **Adult Bible study:** 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays via Zoom. Led by Reid Campbell. Studying NT book of Titus. Next meets May 27.
- **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.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE OPEN DOOR CENTRE which provides a safe place for youth who are sexually exploited or who are experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. On Mother's Day we invite you to pick up a HEY (Helping Exploited Youth) box or a baby bottle and fill it generously. Bring the box or bottle back with your donation inside, on Father's Day. To find out more about Open Door visit opendoorcentre.com

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Family of the week: Patrick and Josefina Woolley

HOW TO GIVE

E-transfer to bedfordpca@gmail.com

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS INVOCATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

People: The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.

Leader: We desire to live in God's house
and to seek God in his holy temple.

**People: We have come with shouts of joy,
to sing and to make music to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**People: Teach us your ways and make straight our
paths in this hour of worship and always.**
—based on Psalm 27; John 4:23

HYMN OF PRAISE

Just as I Am, Without One Plea

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 3:16-26

The Lord said:
Because the daughters of Zion are haughty
and walk with outstretched necks,
glancing wantonly with their eyes,
mincing along as they go,
tinkling with their feet,
¹⁷ therefore the Lord will strike with a scab
the heads of the daughters of Zion,
and the Lord will lay bare their secret parts.

¹⁸ In that day the Lord will take away the finery of the anklets,
the headbands, and the crescents; ¹⁹ the pendants, the
bracelets, and the scarves; ²⁰ the headdresses, the armlets,
the sashes, the perfume boxes, and the amulets; ²¹ the signet
rings and nose rings; ²² the festal robes, the mantles, the
cloaks, and the handbags; ²³ the mirrors, the linen garments,
the turbans, and the veils.

²⁴ Instead of perfume there will be rotteness;
and instead of a belt, a rope;
and instead of well-set hair, baldness;
and instead of a rich robe, a skirt of sackcloth;
and branding instead of beauty.

²⁵ Your men shall fall by the sword
and your mighty men in battle.

²⁶ And her gates shall lament and mourn;
empty, she shall sit on the ground.

CALL TO REPENTANCE

Based on Old Testament reading

SONG OF REFLECTION

Psalm 24

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

People: Gracious God,
You asked for my hands,
that you might use them for your purposes.
I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them,
for the work was hard.
You asked for my mouth
to speak out against injustice.
I gave you a whisper that I might not be
accused.
You asked for my eyes
to see the pain of poverty.
I closed them, for I did not want to see.
You asked for my life,
that you might work through me.
I gave a small part, that I might not get too
involved.
Lord, forgive my calculated efforts to serve you,
only when it is convenient for me to do so,
only in those places where it is safe to do so,
and only with those who make it easy to do so.
Father, forgive me,
renew me, send me out
as a usable instrument,
that I might take seriously
the meaning of your cross. **Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Leader: ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we
were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since,
therefore, we have now been justified by his
blood, much more shall we be saved by him
from the wrath of God.

—Romans 5:8-9

SONGS OF RENEWAL

Holy Forever
Lord, I Need You

NEW TESTAMENT READING

James 4:13-17

¹³ Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go
into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade
and make a profit"— ¹⁴ yet you do not know what tomorrow
will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears
for a little time and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead you ought to
say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." ¹⁶ As it
is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is
evil. ¹⁷ So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do
it, for him it is sin.

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH AND CITY

Prayer for new parents and Patrick and Josefina Woolley

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**People: 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

Kingdom Identity

Rev. Jim Poopalapillai

CLOSING HYMN

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

BENEDICTION

Leader: May the grace of Christ, which daily renews us,
and the love of God, which enables us to love
all, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, which
unites us in one body, make us eager to obey
the will of God until we meet again, through
Jesus Christ, our Lord.

—based on 2 Corinthians 13:13

DISMISSAL

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

People: Thanks be to God!

