

## SERMON

### Doctrine to be lived 5 The Return of Christ 1 Corinthians 15; Psalm 72

1. He will return in the flesh
  - a. Incarnation
  - b. Resurrection
  - c. Ascension
  - d. Return
  
2. He returns to judge all people
  - a. General resurrection
  - b. Wicked will be condemned
  - c. Warning to turn to Christ
  
3. He returns to bring the great reward to his people
  - a. Your body raised in perfection
  - b. Prepared for full enjoyment of God
  
4. He returns to rule the universe, visibly
  - a. He will subdue all things
  - b. His people will reign with him
  - c. Work now to subdue all things to Christ

<sup>3</sup>For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

<sup>12</sup>Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup>But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. <sup>15</sup>We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. <sup>17</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup>Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup>If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup>For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death. <sup>27</sup>For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. <sup>28</sup>When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

<sup>29</sup>Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf? <sup>30</sup>Why are we in danger every hour? <sup>31</sup>I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! <sup>32</sup>What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." <sup>33</sup>Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." <sup>34</sup>Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

<sup>35</sup>But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" <sup>36</sup>You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup>And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup>But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. <sup>39</sup>For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. <sup>40</sup>There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. <sup>41</sup>There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

<sup>42</sup>So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup>It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup>It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup>Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup>But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup>The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup>As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup>Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

<sup>50</sup>I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup>Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup>in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup>For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup>When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." <sup>55</sup>"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

<sup>56</sup>The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup>But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>58</sup>Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

## NEW TESTAMENT READING 1 Corinthians 15

<sup>15</sup>Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>2</sup>and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.



## BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

July 5, 2026  
Rev. Jim Poopalapillai  
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

**Bedford Presbyterian's 50th Anniversary Service:**  
Sunday, September 27

**English Conversation Group:** on break till September

## BIBLE STUDIES

- **Adult Bible study:** 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays via Zoom. Led by Reid Campbell. Studying NT book of Titus. On summer break.
- **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. On break for the summer. The 7:15 p.m. Monday evening study meets every other week but now on summer break

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Family of the week: Tarcisio and Erika Braga and daughter Chloe

## HOW TO GIVE

E-transfer to bedfordpca@gmail.com

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS INVOCATION

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!

**People: Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!  
Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!**

Leader: Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!  
Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,  
O offspring of Abraham, his servant, children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

**People: He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth.  
He remembers his covenant forever.**  
—Psalm 105:1-8a

### INVOCATION

#### HYMN OF PRAISE

In Christ Alone

#### SCRIPTURE READING Revelation 19

After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, “Hallelujah!

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,<sup>2</sup> for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”

<sup>3</sup> Once more they cried out, “Hallelujah!

The smoke from her goes up forever and ever.”

<sup>4</sup> And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, “Amen. Hallelujah!” <sup>5</sup> And from the throne came a voice saying, “Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great.”

<sup>6</sup> Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.” <sup>7</sup> Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; <sup>8</sup> it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”—  
for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

<sup>9</sup> And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.” <sup>10</sup> Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “You must

not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God.” For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. <sup>13</sup> He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. <sup>14</sup> And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. <sup>15</sup> From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. <sup>16</sup> On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

<sup>17</sup> Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, “Come, gather for the great supper of God, <sup>18</sup> to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great.” <sup>19</sup> And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. <sup>20</sup> And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. <sup>21</sup> And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

#### CALL TO REPENTANCE

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand! —Matthew 3:2

#### SONG OF REFLECTION

Psalm 91

#### CONFESSION OF SIN

Oh Lord most high, we know you and worship you as a God of infinite love and perfect unflinching justice. But Father, we confess that we do not live as those who know your love and justice. We know that Christ suffered pain that we cannot imagine to free us to be your children, but instead of responding by loving you with our whole hearts, we take your love lightly and surrender to many temptations that lead us away from you. We fail to honour your holiness and justice, but go our own ways, ignoring the fact that you are present to see every sin.

Father, please forgive our light honouring of your love and glory. Pour your Spirit out on us, to remind us of your perfect holiness and of the desperate evil of our sin. Strengthen us, we pray, so that we may more and more serve you in joyful obedience. Bind us to Christ so when we are tempted we may remember how serious is our disobedience, how great a penalty he paid to free us from the judgment we deserve, and so enable us to live for him. Amen

#### SILENT CONFESSION

#### DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:

Him [Jesus] God has exalted to his right hand to be Prince and Saviour, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.  
—Acts 5:31

#### SONGS OF RENEWAL

The Heart of Worship  
From the Inside Out

#### SCRIPTURE READING

##### Psalm 72

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son!

<sup>2</sup> May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice!

<sup>3</sup> Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness!

<sup>4</sup> May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor!

<sup>5</sup> May they fear you while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

<sup>6</sup> May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth!

<sup>7</sup> In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

<sup>8</sup> May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!

<sup>9</sup> May desert tribes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust!

<sup>10</sup> May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!

<sup>11</sup> May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!

<sup>12</sup> For he delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and him who has no helper.

<sup>13</sup> He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

<sup>14</sup> From oppression and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight.

<sup>15</sup> Long may he live; may gold of Sheba be given to him! May prayer be made for him continually, and blessings invoked for him all the day!

<sup>16</sup> May there be abundance of grain in the land; on the tops of the mountains may it wave; may its fruit be like Lebanon; and may people blossom in the cities like the grass of the field!

<sup>17</sup> May his name endure forever, his fame continue as long as the sun!

May people be blessed in him, all nations call him blessed!

<sup>18</sup> Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

<sup>19</sup> Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen!

<sup>20</sup> The prayers of David, the son of Jesse, are ended.

#### PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH AND CITY

Prayer for Canada and the Braga family

#### 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

The Return of Christ

Rev. Don Codling

#### PRAYER

#### INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

#### CONFESSION OF FAITH (The Apostles’ Creed)

#### THE LORD’S SUPPER

#### CLOSING HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

#### BENEDICTION

#### 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!**