

SERMON
The Posture That Pleases God
Luke 18:9-17

GOSPEL READING Luke 18:9-17

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

¹⁵ Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. ¹⁶ But Jesus called them to him, saying, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁷ Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”



**BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

July 12, 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: Donna Burrell

HOW TO GIVE

E-transfer to bedfordpca@gmail.com

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS INVOCATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

People: ²**Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!**

Leader: ³Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his;

People: **we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

Leader: ⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

People: ⁵**For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.**

—Psalm 100

INVOCATION

HYMN OF PRAISE

Holy, Holy, Holy

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 51:1–17

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

³For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment.

⁵Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.

⁶Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,

and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.

¹⁴Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

¹⁶For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

CALL TO REPENTANCE

“Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord:
though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as
snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall
become like wool. —Psalm 1:18

SONG OF REFLECTION

Psalm 139

CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy and merciful God,
in your presence we confess
our sinfulness, our shortcomings,
and our offenses against you.
You alone know how often we have sinned
in wandering from your ways,
in wasting your gifts,
in forgetting your love.
Have mercy on us, O Lord,
for we are ashamed and sorry
for all we have done to displease you.
Forgive our sins,
and help us to live in your light
and walk in your ways,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:

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 honor and glory forever and ever. —based on 1 Timothy 1:15, 17

SONGS OF RENEWAL

Once Again
Lord I need You

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Philippians 2:1–11

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH AND CITY

Prayer for Social Workers and Counsellors
and for Donna Burrell

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 Posture That Pleases God

Steve Savage

CLOSING HYMN

To God Be the Glory

BENEDICTION

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. —Romans 15:13

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!**

