

SERMON
The Greatest is Love
John 13:1-20

- I. An Expression of Love.
Upper Room Discourse, chapters 13-17—agape—31 times. A commitment to serving the other person.
- a. vs.16, “Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.”
 - b. vs.1, He loved them to the end.
- II. An Extension of His Humility.
- a. vs.18. “He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me.”
- III. An Expiation for Sin.
- a. vs.8, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”

Exodus 30:19-20, “Aaron and his sons are to wash their hands and feet with water from it. Whenever they enter the tent of meeting, they shall wash with water so that they will not die.”

1 Kings 7:23, The Bronze Laver - 15 feet across, 47 feet around, and 7 ½ feet deep.
“the depth of the water in the bronze altar seems to indicate that the priests completely immersed themselves in it rather than just washing their hands and feet.”

- b. vs.9, “...not just my feet but my hands and my head as well.”

Titus 3:5-6, “He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.”

1 John 5:17, “...and there is a sin that does not lead to death.”

1. It Frees Us From Personal Guilt Before The Lord.
Psalm 32:3-4, “When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groanings all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped...”
2. It Impresses Upon Us The Great, Merciful, Unboundless Love of God for Sinners.
Psalm 118:18, “The Lord has disciplined me severely, but He has not given me over to death.”
vss.1,2,3,4, and 29... “For His lovingkindness is everlasting.”
3. It Assures Us of Our Salvation.
IV. An Example for Us
vs.15, “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.”

SERMON TEXT
John 13:1-20

¹ Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?” ⁷ Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.” ⁸ Peter said to him, “You shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.” ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.” ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

¹² When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. ¹⁸ I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, ‘He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.’ ¹⁹ I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he. ²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.”



BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

August 23, 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 no Children's ministry on Sundays when the Lord's Supper is celebrated. Downstairs there is an unstaffed nursery and a separate room for nursing mothers.

UPCOMING
Summer Book Club Gathering:
Wednesday, August 26, 7 p.m. A gathering to discuss the summer book *The Enemy Within* at Jim and Dina's house.

Church Building Work Day
Saturday, September 12, 9:30 a.m. The day will be spent caring for, maintaining and improving our church building. Tasks include painting, organizing, cleaning and doing minor repairs. Lunch will be included. Please let Dina know if you plan to come.

Bedford Presbyterian's 50th Anniversary Celebration
Saturday, September 26: 5:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Dinner
Sunday, September 27: 10 a.m. Morning Service followed by a dessert potluck and history of the church
Sunday, September 27: 5 p.m. Evening Service

BIBLE STUDIES
• **ISMC study groups** are meeting—contact Will or Chi Perrie.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Family of the week: Chris Dyck and Katie Chan and their children James, William L, Ginny, William D and Sophie

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

Leader: Know that the Lord, he is God!
People: **It is he who made us, and we are his; we
are his people, and the sheep of his
pasture.**

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and
his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!
People: **For the Lord is good; his steadfast love
endures forever, and his faithfulness to all
generations.**
—Psalm 100

HYMN OF PRAISE
And Can It Be

OLD TESTAMENT READING
Exodus 30:17–21

¹⁷ The Lord said to Moses, ¹⁸ “You shall also make a basin
of bronze, with its stand of bronze, for washing. You shall
put it between the tent of meeting and the altar, and you
shall put water in it, ¹⁹ with which Aaron and his sons shall
wash their hands and their feet. ²⁰ When they go into the
tent of meeting, or when they come near the altar to
minister, to burn a food offering to the Lord, they shall
wash with water, so that they may not die. ²¹ They shall
wash their hands and their feet, so that they may not die.
It shall be a statute forever to them, even to him and to
his offspring throughout their generations.”

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.
—Isaiah 1:18

SONG OF REFLECTION
Psalm 2

CONFESSION OF SIN

People: **Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have
done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart
and mind and strength. We have not loved
our neighbors as ourselves.**

**In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are, and direct what
we shall be, so that we may delight in your
will and walk in your ways, to the glory of
your holy name.
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: ²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you
shall be clean from all your uncleannesses,
and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶ And
I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will
put within you. And I will remove the heart of
stone from your flesh and give you a heart of
flesh.
—Ezekiel 36:25-26,

SONGS OF RENEWAL

Revelation Song
Build My Life

NEW TESTAMENT READING
Hebrews 10:19–22

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to
enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new
and living way that he opened for us through the curtain,
that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great
priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a
true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts
sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our
bodies washed with pure water.

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH AND CITY

Prayer for students and teachers and prayer for Chris Dyck
and Katie Chan and their children James, William L, Ginny,
William D and Sophie

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 Greatest is Love
Rick Barnes

CLOSING HYMN
How Great Thou Art

BENEDICTION

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you;
²⁵ the Lord make his face to shine upon you and
be gracious to you;²⁶ the Lord lift up his
countenance upon you and give you peace.
—Numbers 6:24-26

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!**

