

December Events

- 1 **Ladies Christmas Fellowship, 6:30-8:30pm**
Forgot to sign up? See Loni Bragdon.
- 2 **Southern NH Rescue Mission**
Sign up in the foyer, or contact Eric Wittenberg for more information
- 17 **Children's Choir during Worship**
If you are interested in having your child sing in the choir, see Megan Mitchell as soon as possible, as rehearsals begin this week.
- 24 **Christmas Eve Sunday!**
We will gather at 10:00am, as usual. This will be an intimate gathering, so children are welcome to worship with us. (The cry room will be available for those with smaller children.)

Detailed announcements are available via email. Sign up on the website or by sending us a message at info@bedfordroad.org.

If you would like to get involved with ministries at Bedford Road or learn more about covenant membership, we would love to connect. See Pastor Erik after the worship gathering, or ask a greeter to direct you to another elder.

Financial Summary

2023 Budget	\$224,885	Budget to Date	\$203,275
Weekly Budget	\$4,325	Giving to Date	\$209,333

You can give via the offering box in the back of the sanctuary, via mail, or online at bedfordroad.org/giving.

Website: <http://bedfordroad.org> Email: info@bedfordroad.org
Phone: (603) 424-9623 Mail: PO Box 443, Merrimack, NH
Pastor: Dr. Erik K. DiVietro pastor@bedfordroad.org

November 26, 2023



**BEDFORD ROAD
BAPTIST CHURCH**

*Creating environments where people
encounter Jesus and journey together*

Today's Worship

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

1853, John Mason Neale, Public Domain, CCLI# 85158

We begin our worship this morning with a song of rejoicing. This song was originally a 14th century German hymn called Nun singet und seid froh ("Now Sing and Rejoice"). It is set to an even older tune called In Dulce Jubilo. As the men's ensemble sings, you are welcome to join in. Between the verses, they will be sharing reasons they are rejoicing in this season.

Verse 1

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!
 Give ye heed to what we say,
 News, news! Jesus Christ is born today!
 Ox and ass before Him bow and He is in the manger now
 Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Verse 2

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!
 Now ye hear of endless bliss,
 Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this
 He has opened heaven's door and man is blessed evermore
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Verse 3

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!
 Now ye need not fear the grave
 Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

*Feel free to use the space below
 to jot down your own reasons for rejoicing in this season*

Exploring the Scriptures

"Born a King"

(Matthew 1:1-17)

The Big Idea:

*Nursery is provided 9:30-11:30am for children ages 0-3.
 Children ages 4-10 will be dismissed right before the message for an age appropriate teaching time. If you need assistance, a greeter would be happy to help.*

Echoes of the Prophets

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Something to Consider

Looking back to Jesus's birth after knowing him and seeing him resurrected and ascended, the gospel writers saw his arrival as a human being through the lenses of the Hebrew prophets. They drew confidence from the words of these prophets, who foresaw what they could not comprehend.

As Peter would later write:

Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. (1 Peter 1:9–11)

In Jesus, there is the fulfillment of the Hebrew Scriptures, the culmination of the hopes of millennia. So, we light this first candle in gratitude for the voice of those who longed to see him, rejoicing that we may know Him as Savior and Lord.

Join Together in Prayer

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,

You revealed yourself to Israel through your prophets as King and Lord. Thank you for being the God who speaks to us throughout history. Thank you for your Word and the hope we have in Christ. Amen.

The Doxology

Louis Bourgeois and Thomas Ken, Public Domain, CCLI# 56204

After the observance of the Lord's Table, please stand and sing with us.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Praise Him, all creatures here below!
Praise Him above ye heavenly host!
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen!

O, Holy Night

Adolphe C. Adam, Placide Cappeau, John S. Dwight, Public Domain, CCLI# 32015

Originally written in French, this song was translated into English by John Sullivan Dwight in 1855. It became immediately popular in the Northern United States because it demonstrates Christ's opposition to slavery and racism.

Verse 1

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn

Chorus 1

*Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night, O holy night, O night divine*

Verse 2

Truly He taught us to love one another
His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His name all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
Let all within us praise His holy name

Chorus 2

*Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!
His power and glory evermore proclaim.
His power and glory evermore proclaim!*

Mary, Did You Know?

© 1991, Buddy Greene and Mark Lowry, CCLI# 839225

Mark Lowry wrote the lyrics of this song in 1984 as a monologue. The questions the singer asks are rhetorically directed to Mary, the mother of Jesus, but the purpose of the song is for the hearer to reflect on their own understanding of God's mysteries.

As you listen to the song being sung, consider the mystery of the incarnation and God's sovereign will over not just the big things, but also the small things. How can you better see the God of sky and sea also at work in your everyday?

Verse 1

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Would save our sons and daughters?

Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you.

Verse 2

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Would give sight to the blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Would calm a storm with His hand?

Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
And when you kiss your little baby,
you've kissed the face of God!

Bridge

*The blind will see. The deaf will hear. The dead will live again.
The lame will leap. The dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb!*

Verse 3

Oh Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Will one day rule the nations?

Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?
And the sleeping Child you're holding is the great I AM!

Immanuel

© 1986, Michael Card, CCLI# 71014

Verse 1

A sign shall be given. A virgin will conceive.
A human baby bearing undiminished Deity.
The glory of the nations, a light for all to see
And hope for all who will embrace His warm reality.

Chorus

*Immanuel, Our God is with us!
And if God is with us, who could stand against us?
Our God is with us, Immanuel.*

Bridge

For all those who live in the shadow of death
A glorious light has dawned!
For all those who stumble in the darkness
Behold! Your light has come!

Verse 2

So what shall be your answer? Oh, will you hear the call
Of Him who did not spare His Son, but gave Him for us all?
On earth there is no power, There is no depth or height
Could ever separate us from the love of God in Christ

The Gospel of Matthew

*This morning, we begin a journey through the Gospel of Matthew.
Here are few pieces of background information to help get you started.*

AUTHOR: Anonymous, but universally attributed to the Apostle Matthew

DATE: Sometime around AD 50–60

STYLE: The Greek text is good, but not rhetoric, like Luke or John. Large portions were translated from Hebrew or Aramaic at some point *before* the book was written.

THEMES: Jesus as Messiah, the rightful king of Israel, the fulfillment of the Law and Prophets, the Divine Healer, and the Great Shepherd not just of Israel but of all nations