

## December Events

- 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.)*

## January Events

- 6 Southern New Hampshire Rescue Mission**  
*See Eric Wittenberg to hear more, or sign up in the foyer.*
- 20 Ladies' Ministry, 9:15am**  
*If you would like to know more, contact Loni Bragdon, Heather Biron, or one of the other ladies on the ministry team.*

*Detailed announcements are available via email. Sign up on the website or by sending us a message at [info@bedfordroad.org](mailto:info@bedfordroad.org).*

## Financial Summary

<b>2023 Budget</b>	\$224,885	<b>Budget to Date</b>	\$211,925
<b>Weekly Budget</b>	\$4,325	<b>Giving to Date</b>	\$219,547

*You can give via the offering box in the back of the sanctuary, via mail, or online at [bedfordroad.org/giving](http://bedfordroad.org/giving).*

Website: <http://bedfordroad.org> Email: [info@bedfordroad.org](mailto:info@bedfordroad.org)  
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Pastor: Dr. Erik K. DiVietro [pastor@bedfordroad.org](mailto:pastor@bedfordroad.org)

December 10, 2023



**BEDFORD ROAD  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

*Creating environments where people  
encounter Jesus and journey together*

# Today's Worship

## Let Us Adore

© 1952, Julius Chajes, CCLI# 21318

In 1938, the accomplished pianist Julius Chajes fled his native Austria when it was annexed into the German Third Reich. As a Jew, he rightfully feared for his life. He settled in Chicago and began composing music for Reformed synagogues. This song is a loose adaptation of the traditional Hebrew prayer Aleinu leshabei'ach ("it is our duty to praise God"). The second verse, which explicitly praises Jesus as Lord and God, was added by when the song was adopted by churches.

**Verse 1** Let Us adore  
The Ever-living God  
And render praise  
Unto Him.  
Who spread out the heavens,  
And established the earth.  
And Whose glory  
*Is manifest throughout the whole earth.*

**Chorus 1** He is our God.  
He is our God!  
*There is no one else. (REPEAT)*

**Verse 2** I praise Your name  
Most high and awesome God  
And lift my hands  
Unto You (echo)  
You saved my soul  
On a rugged tree  
Now I praise You  
*And serve You, Lord, through all eternity*

**Chorus 2** You are our God.  
You are our God!  
*There is no one else! (REPEAT)*

# Exploring the Scriptures

## "Born King of the Jews"

(Matthew 2:1-13)

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*The Big Idea:*

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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.

# Shepherds in the Fields

## The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Today, we light this third candle in rejoicing that He is our God. Shepherding was once the most important job in ancient Israel. Sheep eat just about anything and in return, they provide wool, dairy products, and meat at a very low cost. By the time of Jesus's birth though, shepherds had become marginalized from society. God had not forgotten that he called himself Israel's shepherd, and so he announced his Son's birth to lowly shepherds.

*'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.'*  
*For the Lord has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall be like a watered garden, and they shall languish no more. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, declares the Lord. (Jeremiah 31:10–14)*

**Great Shepherd of our souls,  
We are the sheep of your pasture. You watch over us, caring for us, and gather us to yourself. Today, we join in celebration of your saving hand and unfailing love. Amen.**

# O Come, All Ye Faithful

Public Domain, C. Frederick Oakeley and John Francis Wade, CCLI# 31054

*In 1751, the English hymnist John Francis Wade wrote an adaptation of a medieval Latin hymn, Adeste fideles. His hymn was translated into English by C. Frederick Oakeley in 1845. Oakeley was not a rigid ritualist, and he believed there was great value in adding new elements to worship, and so he included songs like this one in the worship.*

## Chorus

*O come let us adore Him! O come let us adore Him!  
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

## Verse 1

*O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels*

## Verse 2

*Sing choirs of angels! Sing in exultation!  
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!*

## Verse 3

*Yea, Lord we greet Thee, born this happy morning!  
Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!*

# 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!*

# Here I Am to Worship/We Fall Down

© 2000, Tim Hughes CCLI#3266032, © 1998 Chris Tomlin, CCLI#2437367

*Tim Hughes composed "Here I am to Worship" in response to a study of Philippians 2. Chris Tomlin wrote "We Fall Down" while serving as the worship leader at a conference. Louis Giglio was preaching on Revelation 4, and as Tomlin reflected on the eternal worship in heaven, he sought to write something reflective of that here on earth.*

## **Verse from "Here I Am to Worship"**

Here we are to worship. Here we are to bow down.  
Here we are to say that You're our God.  
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,  
Altogether wonderful to us.

## **Verse from "We Fall Down"**

We fall down, We lay our crowns at the feet of Jesus  
The greatness of mercy and love, at the feet of Jesus

## **Chorus**

*And we cry, Holy, Holy, Holy! And we cry, Holy, Holy, Holy!  
And we cry, Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lamb*

## **Joseph's Five Declarations**

*There are five moments in Matthew 1-2 when Joseph, Mary's husband and Jesus's adopted father, declares Jesus to be the Christ.*

- (1) Joseph adopted Jesus as the Son of David (1:25, cf. 2 Samuel 7:16).
- (2) Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the city of David (2:1, cf. Micah 5:2).
- (3) Jesus came up from Egypt (2:15, cf. Hosea 11:1)
- (4) An evil king attempted to thwart God's purposes (2:18, cf. Jeremiah 31:5).
- (5) The identification of the "branch" with Nazareth (2:23, cf. Isaiah 11:1).

# Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Public Domain, Felix Mendelssohn and Charles Wesley, CCLI#27738

*Perhaps no Christmas Carol had a more curious path to us than this one. When Charles Wesley first penned the song in 1739, he called it "Hymn for Christmas-Day" and its opening line was "Hark! How all the Welkin rings." His friend and fellow preacher, George Whitefield, changed the first line to the more familiar form we know today. The song was also originally sung to the same tune as another of Wesley's hymns, "Christ the Lord is Risen Today. In 1855, William Hayman Cummings realized it could also be sung to the tune of Vaterland in deinen Gauen, a tune from Felix Mendelssohn's Fesgesang, a cantata that was written to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the moveable type press.*

## **Verse 1**

Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!  
"Peace on earth and mercy mild! God and sinners reconciled."

*Joyful, all ye nations, rise! Join the triumph of the skies  
With angelic hosts proclaim: Christ is born in Bethlehem  
Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

## **Verse 2**

Christ by highest heav'n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time, behold Him come. Offspring of the Virgin's womb

*Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see! Hail th'incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel  
Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

## **Verse 3**

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness  
Light and life to all He brings. Ris'n with healing in His wings  
Mild He lays His glory by. Born that man no more may die

*Born to raise the sons of earth.  
Born to give them second birth  
Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*