December Events

24 Christmas Eve Sunday!

10:00am, usual service time. Nursery will be provided.

January Events

6 Southern New Hampshire Rescue Mission
See Eric Wittenberg to hear more, or sign up in the foyer.

7 Elder Commissioning, during worship gathering

Youth Ministry Team Meeting, after worship

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.

21 New Members Workshop

If you are interested in learning more about Bedford Road and possibly joining the covenant membership, see Ray Pouliot.

Lord's Table Devotion Team Meeting, after worship See Jim MacDuff for more information.

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

Financial Summary

2023 Budget \$224,885 **Budget to Date** \$216,250 **Weekly Budget** \$4,325 **Giving to Date** \$224,920

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

December 17, 2023



BEDFORD ROADBAPTIST CHURCH

Creating environments where people encounter Jesus and journey together

Today's Worship

Please use the Celebration Hymnal in the chair racks to sing along.

The page number appears in parentheses.

"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night" (272) Public Domain, George Frederic Handel and Nahum Tate, CCLI# 32008

- Kids' Choir -

"Joy to the World" (270)

Public Domain, George Frederic Handel and Isaac Watts, CCLI# 24016

"Angels We Have Heard on High" (285)
Public Domain, Edward Shippen Barnes and James Chadwick, CCLI#27721

- Lord's Table -

"The Doxology" (815)
Public Domain, Louis Bourgeois and Thomas Ken, CCLI# 56204

- Choral Ensemble -

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" Public Domain, Gerard Moultrie, CCLI# 154773

"The First Noel" (265)
Public Domain, Traditional Carol, CCLI# 31047

- Advent Candle Lighting -
- Exploring the Scriptures Together -

Although the arrangement of "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" you will hear today only dates from the 19th century, this hymn has been a key component of Christian worship since the 3rd century. The lyrics are drawn from Habakkuk 2:20 and it was traditionally sung during the observance of communion. It remains one of the few hymns used universally across every major denomination of Christianity.

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.

Exploring the Scriptures

"Into Egypt"

(Matthew 2:14-23)

T D - I.	
The Big Idea:	

A Heavenly Host The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Luke describes the multitude that appeared to the shepherds as a "heavenly host." In the Old Testament, this term was often applied not to angels but to the deities of pagan nations. While Luke clearly has angels in mind here, he uses a term recognizable by non-Jewish readers to declare that ALL of creation, even that which they falsely worship, declared Jesus's birth.

> I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations. to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the Lord."

(Isaiah 66:18-20a)

God offers hope through Jesus to all nations, all peoples. All will bow before Him, but whether it is in reverence or in fear will be up to them. We light this fourth candle to celebrate God's love and grace for all who will receive Christ.

God and Savior,

May we be mindful of the breadth and depth of your love for all of mankind, and in this season, help us not only to speak the Gospel but to live it as well. Amen.

Gospel **Matthew's** o **Structure** Ring

PASSION NARRATIVE (26:1-28:20)

Matthew tells the events of Jesus arrest, trial and crucifixion quite succinctly. It mirrors the opening

JERUSALEM DISCOURSE (23:1-25:46) himself as the fulfillment of the Law endgame themes and establishes A bookend to the Sermon on the Mount (cf 5:1), Jesus focuses on and Prophets

Finally arriving at Jerusalem, Jesus answers the final challenges of the leaders, who determine to religious

REJECTION NARRATIVE (13:53-17:23)

humility.

misunderstood, even by the disciples, setting the stage for Jesus's fulfillment in his death. The message of the Kingdom is

Jesus draws on two common experiences to give a vision of the kingdom as it will be manifest in him.

PARABLE DISCOURSE (13:1–52)

MINISTRY DISCOURSE (18:1–20:28) behavior of those in the kingdom, as discusses the Church's conduct and a sort of parenthetical aside. Jesus Matthew turns his focus to the

authority, inverting the common ideas of QUESTIONS NARRATIVE (11:1-12:50) Jesus answers competing claims to the kingdom.

The events of Jesus's incarnation and entrance into ministry demonstrates his qualifications to set up the Messianic kingdom, both temporal and celestial. OPENING NARRATIVE (1:1–4:35)

Jesus presents us with the idealized KINGDOM DISCOURSE (5:1-7:27) version of the Torah lived out as a identification his divine kingdom. restoration of relationships and

Jesus demonstrates sovereignty ove MIRACLE NARRATIVE (7:28-9:34)

illness and disability, as well as the

natural forces in the earth.

APOSTOLIC DISCOURSE (9:35-10:42) responsibilities and delegated authority The Apostles are sent out with specific from Jesus, the King.