

## UNISON PRAYER

Meet us where we are, O God,  
Whether we are weary from the rush of days just past.  
Or, lost somewhere amidst the glitter and tinsel of the season.  
Or, here with our hearts overflowing and souls dancing at the wonder of it all.  
Meet us where we are, O God, but leave us not there.  
Remind us, again, of the promises of Christmas;  
That the Holy is wrapped up in our very human lives.  
And lead us, again, to that place where Peace is born;  
That the witness of our lives might be added to the song of the angels.  
We ask it in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray. . .

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.      \*or “Our Creator”

## A WORD OF WELCOME

THE CHRISTMAS STORY FROM THE BIBLE Luke 2: 1-7

**SOLO** *Mille Cherubini in Coro* F. Schubert  
Niki Fusco

THE CHRISTMAS STORY FROM THE BIBLE Luke 2: 8-20

\*HYMN 38 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* CAROL

THE CHRISTMAS STORY FROM THE BIBLE Matthew 2: 1-12

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Solo *O Holy Night* A. Adam  
Niki Fusco

A CHRISTMAS MEDITATION *Imagine* Paul Alcorn

## LIGHTING OUR CANDLES

Please dip the **unlit** candle toward the flame as the light is passed.

HYMN 60                      *Silent Night, Holy Night*                      STILLE NACHT  
(Please remain seated)

## PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS (unison)

O God, grant us such love and wonder that with shepherds and wisemen and pilgrims unknown, we may come to adore the holy child. As you came in the stillness of the night long ago, so enter our lives and world again this night. Overcome our doubts and our fears with the light of Christ's presence that we may see clearly the way to walk, the truth to speak, and the life you would have us live. Amen.

\*HYMN 40 Joy to the World ANTIOCH

Please extinguish your candles as the carol begins.  
We ask that you leave your candles in the boxes by the doors.

**\*BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Preludium in G* J. S. Bach

\*please stand

**Thank you to the Rev. Heather Brown-Huston** for assisting in our service this evening.

**A Special Thank You** to Richard Clymer on trumpet and Niki Fusco for their wonderful musical gifts that add to our worship this evening.

The Rev. Dr. Paul D. Alcorn, Pastor  
The Rev. Heather Brown-Huston, Minister for Congregational Life  
John Lettieri, Director of Music  
Kathy DiBiasi, Director of Educational Ministries  
The Rev. Leslie Mott, Coordinator for Spirituality and Practice  
The Rev. Kym McNair, Minister of Community Education and Engagement

Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM  
Church School & Childcare 10:00 AM

Village Green Bedford, NY  
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www.bedfordpreschurch.org fax: 914-234-6151

# Welcome to Bedford Presbyterian Church!

We're very glad you've joined us for our Christmas Eve celebration.

The tradition at Bedford Presbyterian Church is that the cash portion of our Christmas Eve offering goes to help those in need.

This year our offering will support the work of the:

**Emergency Shelter Partnership**

and the

**Mt. Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry**

**The Emergency Shelter Partnership** is a coalition of more than 20 faith communities and community groups who provide food and shelter for those in need during the coldest five months of each winter.

**The Mount Kisco Food Pantry** is a volunteer organization represented by 12 faith based congregations in the area which provides supplemental food to those households who need it.

Besides our offering this evening, you can also make a contribution online at [www.bedfordpreschurch.org/giving](http://www.bedfordpreschurch.org/giving)

Or by following this QR code



Add the note "Christmas Eve"

**Thank you for your generosity and for making a difference in the lives of another.**

# CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Seven O'clock

December 24, 2016

PRELUDE

*Festive Music and Carols for Trumpet and Organ*

INTROIT

*Gesu' Bambino*

P. Yon

Niki Fusco

CALL TO WORSHIP

\*HYMN 41

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

\*OPENING SENTENCES (responsively)

Daring to believe in the promises of Christmas, we come.

To remember and to celebrate the birth of a child.

To listen anew for the proclamation of angels.

And to turn, again, in the direction of the Dream of God  
meant for us and for all:

Swords into plowshares;

Spears into pruning hooks:

Peace on Earth. Good will towards all.

**Response:** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,

And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains

Gloria in excelsis Deo;

Gloria in excelsis Deo.