



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 22, 2024

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary



Gathering of God's People

Please note that online worshipers join the livestream at 9:50 a.m.

We invite you to prepare for worship in quiet reflection.

PRELUDE Three Chorale Preludes

J.S. Bach

I. The Son of God Has Come

II. Praise be to God Almighty

III. From Heaven on High I Come Here

WELCOME

Rachel Pedersen

ADVENT INTROIT

TIF IN VELDELE



Light four can-dles to watch for Me - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.



He is com - ing; tell the glad ti - dings. Let your lights be shin - ing.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Joan LaLeike and Lawana Scales

One The Coming One shall feed his flock in the strength of the Lord.

All **We shall be surrounded by the majesty and glory of God.**

One The Shepherd will keep his flock safe, and we shall live securely.

All **The Shepherd will guide us in the way of peace.**

One Today we light the candle of love.

All **In love God makes a home among us, full of grace and truth.**

One Love is like a light shining brightly in the darkness.

All **May this glorious flame give light to the world.**

Please stand, if able.

HYMN 143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

CALL TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All Great God, we celebrate the promise of your Holy Child, yet we are also mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. You invite us to join mother Mary's faithful response, but we struggle to trust the angel's promise of your near presence. We are distracted and focused on things that matter little, and we have overlooked the good news of great joy. Tell us again that the Savior is born, we are forgiven, and life is abundant in faith, hope and love, not because of who we are, but because of what you have given us in Jesus Christ.

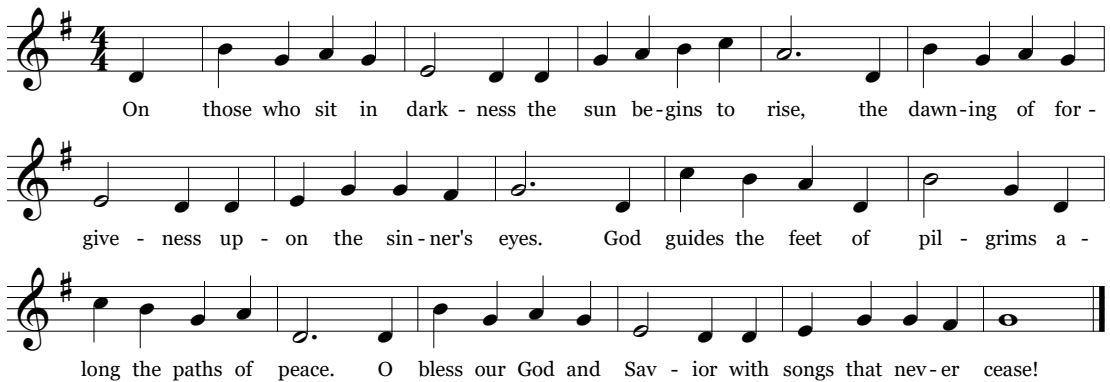
A moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

During the Sung Response, children are invited to come forward for the Children's Moment.

SUNG RESPONSE

MERLE'S TUNE



On those who sit in dark - ness the sun be-gins to rise, the dawn-ing of for -
give - ness up - on the sin-ner's eyes. God guides the feet of pil - grims a -
long the paths of peace. O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev-er cease!

Proclamation of the Word

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rachel Pedersen

Following the Children's Moment, children K - grade 5 depart for their Sunday School classes.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

One Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture these children by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of Christ's church?

All **We do.**

HYMN 188 Jesus Loves Me! (verse 1)

JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong.
They are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes,
Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Kirby Lawrence Hill

FIRST LESSON Micah 5:2-5a

(pg. 865 in pew Bible)

ANTHEM "He Shall Feed His Flock", from *Messiah*

G.F. Handel

Misoon Ghim, mezzo-soprano; Kara Goodrich, soprano

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. Come unto Him, all ye that labour, come unto Him that are heavy laden, and He will give you rest. Take His yoke upon you, and learn of Him, for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

SECOND LESSON Luke 1:39-45

Agnes W. Norfleet

(pg. 57 in pew Bible)

One The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *At Home in Our Hearts*

Agnes W. Norfleet

God Comes Home Advent Series

Response to the Word

Please stand, if able.

HYMN 146 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Kirby Lawrence Hill

All **Jesus came as a child
born of a woman as is every child,
yet born of God's power as was no other child.
He lived as a Jew among Jews.
He announced to his people
the coming of God's rule of justice and peace on earth.
We believe that the coming of Jesus
was itself the coming of God's promised rule.
Through his life, death, and resurrection
he initiates the relationship between God and the human race
that God always intended.**

~ from A Declaration of Faith

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

All **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 trespasses, as we
forgive those who trespass 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.**

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY ANTHEM A Christmas Carol

Norman Dello Joio

Mindy Rubinlicht, soprano; Nicholas Provenzale, baritone

The Christchild lay on Mary's lap, His hair was like a light. O weary, weary were

the world, but here, here is all aright. The Christchild lay on Mary's breast, His hair was like a star; O stern and cunning are the kings, but here the true hearts are. The Christchild lay on Mary's heart, His hair was like a fire, weary, weary is the world, but here the world's desire. The Christchild stood at Mary's knee, His hair was like a crown and all the flowers looked up at Him, and all the stars looked down. O weary, weary were the world but here the world is aright.

Please fill in the Friendship Pad at the end of your pew; pass it down your row and back again.

Please stand, if able.

DOXOLOGY 606 Praise God, from whom all Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDRETH

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Kirby Lawrence Hill

HYMN 134 Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

Agnes W. Norfleet

POSTLUDE Joy to the World

Pamela Decker

"I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE."

Allen C. Brown - December 18, 2024

Worship & Music Notes

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AT THE 10:00 A.M. SERVICE

Margaret James Stockel, daughter of Katie & Dan Stockel

Evelyn Sophia Williams, daughter of Emma & David Williams

PLAYING THE CARILLON

Brian Middleton

BULLETIN COVER

Nativity Three, Kate Cosgrove ©2014. Used with permission.

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WELCOME TO BRYN MAWR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

This is the time of the year when we celebrate the great God of all creation who chose to become one with us in the person of Jesus Christ. Each individual who joins our worship and work helps us embody the incarnate nature of being the church together. Whether you are a longtime member or a first-time visitor, you are welcome here! We hope that worship may be the entrée into deeper engagement of Christian formation, nurture, and outreach so that together we fulfill our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ.



The Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet
Senior Pastor

NEW HERE?

We are pleased that you are joining us as we worship God this morning. We invite you to introduce yourself to one of our pastors in the Atrium following the worship service. All of our programs, ministries, and opportunities for mission are open to everyone. Learn more at bmpc.org.

LIVESTREAMED CHURCH SERVICES

In addition to in-person worship, the Sunday worship services are available to watch live at 10:00 a.m. on our live-streaming page: www.bmpc.org/livestream. For your convenience, the service also will be posted on our Worship Services page on Monday.

CHILDCARE ON SUNDAY

Childcare is available on Sundays from 7:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for children ages six months and older. Please contact the Rev. Rachel Pedersen, RachelPedersen@bmpc.org or Childcare Coordinator Erika Henry, childcare@bmpc.org with any questions.

Announcements

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Christmas Eve Family Service. Tues., Dec. 24, 4:30 p.m., Sanctuary and Livestreamed. Family Service with Nativity Tableau and musical leadership by BMPC's Children's Choir, Youth Chorale, and the Bryn Mawr Festival Brass. Prelude and Carol Sing begins at 4:15 p.m. Infant and toddler childcare available without reservations from 3:45-5:45 p.m. in the Education Building, Room 101. For those who prefer a quieter setting, Congregational Hall will be available as a remote viewing space for our 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.

Christmas Eve Worship With Communion. Tues., Dec. 24, 8:30 p.m., Sanctuary and Livestreamed. Carols and anthems led by BMPC's Sanctuary Choir with the Bryn Mawr Festival String Quartet. The Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet will preach. Prelude begins at 8:10 p.m.

TODAY

Stewardship 2025: Bryn Mawr Gives Light.

As the end of the year approaches and the season of gift-giving is upon us, a donation to BMPC in the form of a fulfilled pledge or gift provides a tax deduction for this calendar year. If you have not made a contribution this year or would consider adding to your contribution, you may do so in the plate, by mail, or online at bmpc.org/giving Thank you!

Looking ALONG Advent: C. S. Lewis and a Christian Vision of Today's World. Sun., Dec. 8, 15, 22, 11:15 a.m., Fullerton Room. C.S. Lewis, renowned for his works on

Christian apologetics and the beloved "Chronicles of Narnia" series, significantly influenced 20th-century literature and theological thought, blending imaginative storytelling with profound philosophical and religious insights. In the season of Advent, we will learn more about how his theology and insights can inform our understanding and experience of Advent from theologian Dr. Steven Boyer of Eastern University, a scholar of Lewis' work.

Caroling in the Atrium with Singing for Life.

Sun., Dec. 22, 11:15 a.m., Atrium. Following worship, join the Singing for Life choir in the Atrium for a festive performance of traditional Christmas carols. All are wel-

come to participate as part of the choir or as attendees. We look forward to celebrating the season together through song.

Advent Gift Market. Sundays through Dec. 22, 11:15 a.m., Atrium. AGM provides the opportunity to purchase alternative gifts at Christmas for friends and family in support of a wide variety of partners around the world. AGM representatives will be present in the Atrium before and after worship to place orders and answer questions about mission groups and their chosen projects. Orders may also be placed online at www.BrynMawrAGM.com

Advent Story Path Labyrinth. Walking a labyrinth during Advent provides a meaningful way to journey to Bethlehem. The small labyrinth is open daily during Advent, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., and Sunday, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Contact, KMckKendrick@bmmpc.org

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carillon Tour. Sun., Dec. 29, 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary. Come see the instrument that welcomes you to worship and leads you out after services. Meet in the Choir Loft following the postlude to climb the tower stairs and see the bells. If you have keyboard skills and wish to take lessons with one of our carillonners, or if you want to become a BMPC carillonneur, contact ToriFisher@bmmpc.org

Strong Bones and Bone Health. Thurs., Jan. 9, 16 and 23, 1:00 p.m., Zoom. Maintaining bone health is critical to overall health as we age. Joanne P. Fagerstrom, PT, CFP, and owner of Mindful Physical Therapy, uses a holistic approach to bone health and exercise in treating osteopenia and osteoporosis patients. Ms. Fagerstrom will offer a virtual program focusing on bone health and exercise, with special attention to osteopenia and osteoporosis. Please bring hand-held weights (1-3 lbs. or a weight you're comfortable with). This free program includes recordings for participants to review and practice exercises at their convenience. Register with [Jennifer McArthur@bmmpc.org](mailto:JenniferMcArthur@bmmpc.org) to receive the Zoom link and additional details.

Deacons' Annual Blood Drive. Mon., Jan. 13, 1:00-6:00 p.m., Congregational Hall. Be a lifesaver! Volunteers are needed to donate blood at our Annual Deacons' Blood Drive. Your generous contribution can make a vital difference in someone's life. Register at bit.ly/2024-Blood-Drive today to give the gift of life. For more information, please contact MonicaDevane@bmmpc.org or call 610-520-8823.

CARING AND SHARING

Code Blue Volunteers Needed. For the month of January, BMPC will host a Code Blue Shelter to house up to five men sleeping outside in Lower Merion on the

coldest nights. Volunteers will work in shifts between 8:30 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. on nights the shelter is open. Visit bit.ly/CodeBlueVolunteer to sign up! Contact JenniferMcArthur@bmpc.org to receive the training video and more information.

Support Our Local Refugee Efforts. The BMPC Refugee Support Committee continues to support local families and individuals making a new home in our community. This season, we are looking for volunteers willing to assist refugees in their job search. Employment opportunities are needed for Afghans with undergraduate and graduate degrees and work

experience in finance, accounting, project management, fundraising, construction companies, and labor and delivery. If you have or know of potential opportunities or helpful networking possibilities, contact JenniferMcArthur@bmpc.org

Sanctuary Flower Donations. Openings are available in January and February for donors who wish to give flowers in memory of or in honor of loved ones. After Sunday services, our Deacons deliver small arrangements of the flowers to homebound church members. Contact SusanThorkelson@mac.com

Calendar

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

- 7:45 a.m. Childcare (Birth-Kindergarten), Ed. Bldg., Rm. 101
- 8:00 a.m. **Worship with Communion, Chapel**
- 8:45 a.m. Filling the Well, Children's Library, Ed. Bldg.
- 9:00 a.m. Frida Kahlo and the Art of Portraiture, Gallery
- 9:55 a.m. Sunday School Ages 2s, 3s, and Pre-K, Ed. Bldg.
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship with Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary and Livestreamed**
- 10:00 a.m. Youth Gathering, Gymnasium
- 10:15 a.m. Sunday School K-5th Grade, Ed. Bldg.
- 11:00 a.m. Family Fellowship, Ed. Bldg. Hall
- 11:00 a.m. Atrium Cafe, Atrium
- 11:15 a.m. Caroling in the Atrium, Atrium
- 11:15 a.m. Looking ALONG Advent, Fullerton Room

Calendar

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

No events scheduled.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

12:00 p.m. Church offices close at noon.

3:30 p.m. Childcare (Birth-Kindergarten), Ed. Bldg., Rm. 101

4:30 p.m. **Christmas Eve Family Worship with Nativity, Sanctuary and Livestreamed**

8:30 p.m. **Christmas Eve Worship with Communion, Sanctuary and Livestreamed**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

Campus closed. Merry Christmas!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

No events scheduled.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

No events scheduled.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

7:00 a.m. Saturday Morning Men's Connection Group, Converse House Parlor

10:00 a.m. Searching for Still Waters Bereavement Group, Witherspoon Parlor

3:00 p.m. Hallowell and Crowther Wedding, Chapel

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

10:00 a.m. **Worship with Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary and Livestreamed**

The Rev. Andy Greenhow will preach.

Giving

Your generosity can make a profound difference at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church. Join us in spreading love and hope by giving at <https://bit.ly/BMPCGiveOnline> or simply scan the QR code to the right. Every donation, no matter the size, fuels our mission to create a more faithful, just, and compassionate community. Together, let's make a lasting impact!



CONNECT WITH US



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Worship Staff

Agnes W. Norfleet, Pastor

Andy Greenhow, Interim Associate Pastor for Youth & Their Families

Rebecca Kirkpatrick, Associate Pastor for Adult Education & Mission

Kirby Lawrence Hill, Interim Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care & Senior Adults

Rachel Pedersen, Associate Pastor for Children & Family Ministry

Jeffrey Brillhart, Director of Music & Fine Arts

Edward Landin Senn, Assistant Director of Music