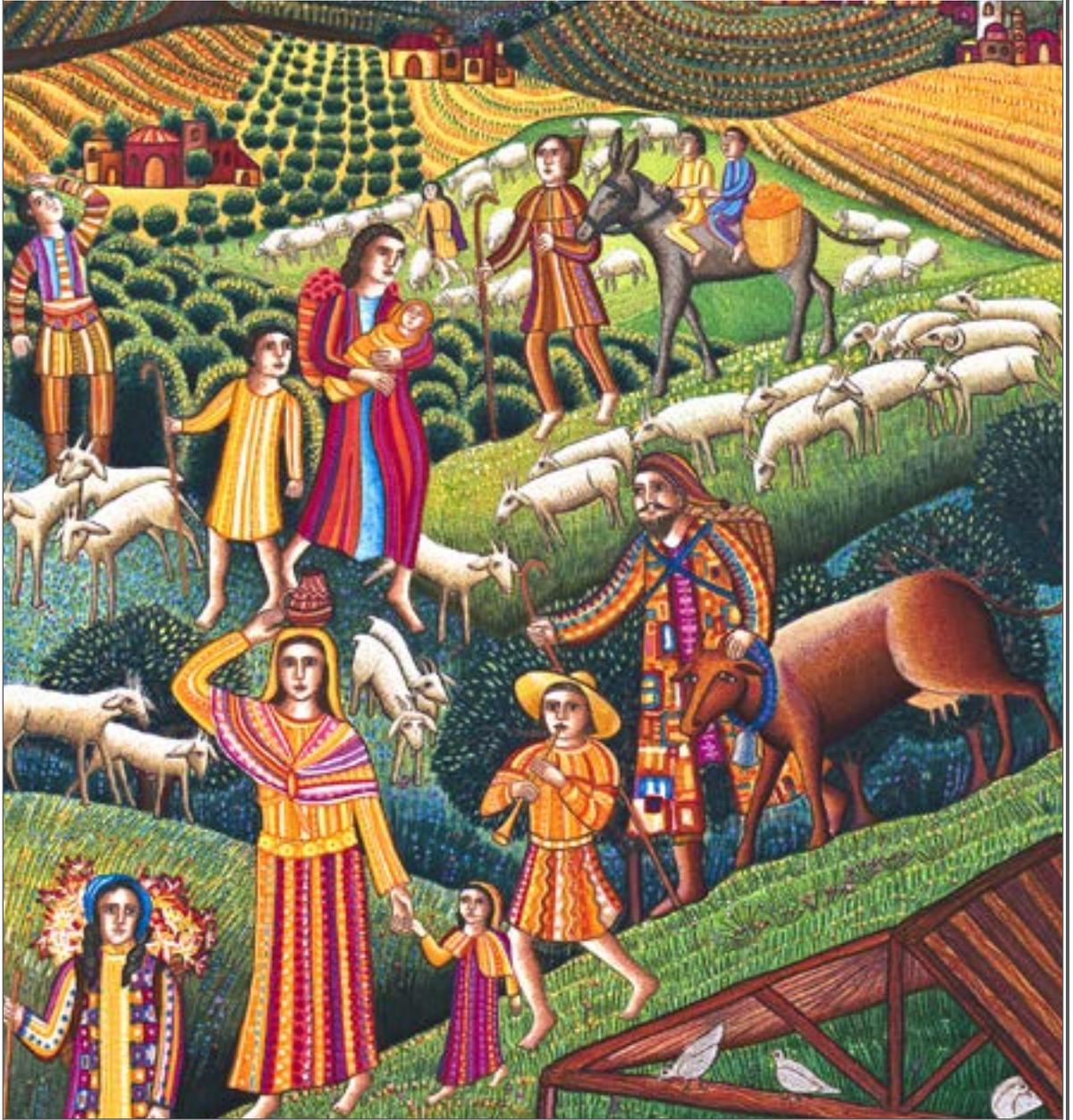


Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 10, 2023 | 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Second Sunday of Advent



WELCOME

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. Come join us!

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 AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

Childcare is available on Sundays from 7:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for children ages six months and older. See Sunday School class information on this page. Please contact Pastor Rachel, RachelPedersen@bmpc.org or Childcare Coordinator Erika Henry at childcare@bmpc.org with any questions.

WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

Subscribe to our BMPC eNews by visiting our website: www.bmpc.org

Today's Schedule

Childcare (infant - age 5)

7:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Ed. Bldg., Rm. 101

Worship with Sanctuary Choir

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Sunday School Classes

Age 2 - PreK

10:00 a.m., Ed. Bldg.

Grades K - 5

10:00 a.m., Worship in Sanctuary
10:15 a.m., Ed. Bldg.

Youth Gathering

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Atrium Café

11:00 a.m., Atrium

BMPC Members Art Exhibit

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.,
Art Gallery, Ministries Center

Stories of a Young Jesus

11:15 a.m., Fullerton Room

Advent Lessons & Carols Vespers Service

4:00 p.m., Sanctuary

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

Prelude on the Coventry Carol

Herbert Sumsion

WELCOME

Rebecca Kirkpatrick

ADVENT INTROIT

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, Des-ire of na - tions, bind all peo-ple in one heart and mind; bid
en - vy, strife, and dis - cord cease; fill the whole world with heav - en's peace. Re-
joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Peggy & Ron Gregg

Leader: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,

People: **Make straight in the desert a highway for our God."**

Leader: Fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah, John the Baptist was sent by God

People: **To prepare us for the coming of Jesus.**

Leader: John prepares us to turn toward Christ, saying:

People: **"The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me."**

Leader: May this small, but abiding, flame of peace

People: **Give light to the world.**

Leader: Lead us, O God, to prepare the way for you to come,

People: **And fill the whole world with heaven's peace.**

† HYMN 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÅG FÖR HERRAN

**CALL TO CONFESSION
AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(in unison)*

God of righteousness and justice, forgive us for the clutter of our lives that keeps us from preparing a way for you. We are richly blessed, but turn our eyes from the needs of those around us, particularly the oppressed, the poor, the unsheltered and the displaced. Help us to repent and turn from greed, violence, and systems that oppress; to turn toward acts that bear fruit worthy of your reign of peace, inspiring ourselves and those around us to prepare the way for your coming.

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 Lift Up Your Heads **PUER NOBIS**

Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rachel Pedersen

SENDING HYMN Go Now, Children, with Our Blessing

Go now, child-ren with our bless-ing, to love and serve the Lord. May God Bless you. May God guard you, May the light of God shine u - pon you, and may God be gra-cious to you. May the pre-sence of God be with you. May the pre - sence of God be with you, and give you peace.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Kirby Lawrence Hill

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 40:1-11 *(pg. 667 in pew Bible)*

ANTHEM

The Morning Star

Andrew Carter

Our hearts and minds come now prepare, the call of Advent fills the air; Behold the light that shines afar, awake! and greet the Morning Star. Come seek the Lord upon the way, the prophet cries 'Prepare the day.' Behold the light that shines afar, awake! and greet the Morning Star. O come amongst us, mighty Lord, and grant us grace to do your word; And in your mercy, Lord, we pray be gentle on our Judgment Day. So fire me, Lord, to take my part, Your day star rising in my heart. Arise! Awake! and come from afar, your Lord draws near: The Morning Star.

SECOND LESSON Mark 1:1-8 *(pg. 34 in pew Bible)*

Agnes W. Norfleet

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Prepare The Way!

Agnes W. Norfleet

Second in series, Advent's Action Plan

† **HYMN 96**

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

WINCHESTER NEW

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Franklyn C. Pottorff

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.

~A Declaration of Faith

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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 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.

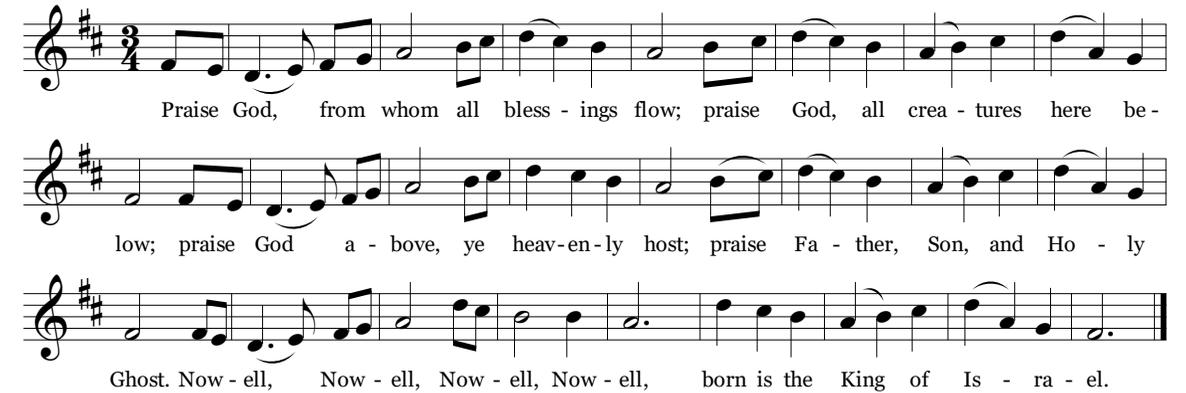
INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Zion, at thy Shining Gates George Guest

Zion, at thy shining gates, Lo, the King of Glory waits, Haste thy monarch's pomp to greet, Strew they palms before his feet. Christ, for thee their triple light, Faith and Hope and Love unite; This the beacon we display, To proclaim thine advent day. Come and give us peace within, Loose us from the band of sin, Take away the galling weight, Laid on us by Satan's hate. Give us grace thy yoke to wear, Give us strength thy cross to bear, Make us thine in deed and word, Thine in heart and life, O Lord. So, when thou shalt come again, Judge of angels and of men, We with all thy saints shall sing, Alleluias to our King.

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

† **DOXOLOGY** Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow THE FIRST NOWELL



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all crea - tures here be -
low; praise God a - bove, ye heav-en-ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly
Ghost. Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

† **PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Kirby Lawrence Hill

† **HYMN 136** Go, Tell It on the Mountain GO TELL IT

† **BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE** Agnes W. Norfleet

POSTLUDE Saviour of the Nations J. S. Bach

WORSHIP NOTES

PLAYING THE CARILLON

Paul McConnell

BULLETIN COVER

John August Swanson | Nativity Detail

Christmas Eve Services

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE. 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 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.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION. 8:30 p.m., Sanctuary and Livestreamed. The Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet will preach. Prelude begins at 8:10 p.m.

Announcements

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, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

CODE BLUE SHELTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. For the month of January, BMPC will host a Code Blue shelter to house up to 5 men sleeping outside in Lower Merion. If you would like more details about the volunteer expectations and to sign up, please contact RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org

BMPC MEMBERS ART EXHIBIT. Ministries Center Art Gallery. Come and view the artistry of our BMPC members! This exhibit features works in paint and ceramics. Some of the pieces are for sale and would make excellent Christmas gifts! The gallery is open on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to noon, and Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The exhibit runs through Sun., Dec. 17, 2023. To purchase any of the works, please contact mfa@bmpc.org.

ADVENT GIFT MARKET. 11:00 a.m., Atrium. AGM representatives will be in the Atrium after worship to process orders. Online orders also may be placed via the AGM website: www.brynmawragm.com

Today

STORIES OF A YOUNG JESUS: AN ADVENT BIBLE STUDY. Today, 11:15 a.m., Fullerton Room, Ministries Center. There are a variety of stories surrounding the earliest years of Jesus of Nazareth's life. In this Advent season, we will explore these traditions, what they teach us about the earliest understandings of who Jesus was and would become, and how they inform or challenge our faith today. The Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick and Dr. Joshua Yoder will teach this class together. For more information, contact RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS VESPERS SERVICE. Today, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary. Advent, a time of hope and expectations as Christians all around the world anticipate the birth of the Christ Child. Led by BMPC's Sanctuary Choir, as well as the Singing for Life and Youth Chorale ensembles, scripture readings, carols and anthems will surely draw you into the season. A free-will offering will be taken in support of Prevention Point Philadelphia – www.ppponline.org

This Week

ADVENT HARPSICHORD RECITALS. Tuesdays, Dec. 12 and 19, noon, Sanctuary. Featuring Silvanio Reis, Edward Landin Senn, and Jeffrey Brillhart, performing free 30-minute recitals on BMPC's William Dowd harpsichord.

QUIET PRAYER IN ADVENT. Wed., Dec. 13, 7:00 - 7:45 p.m., Witherspoon Parlor. Amidst the busyness of the Advent season, this is a time for contemplative guided prayer which will include Scripture readings, space for reflection, and a time of communal silence. Caring Ministry team members and Deacons will lead these sessions. A hybrid option will be available, please register with KikiMcKendrick@bmpc.org.

ANY OF THOSE DECEMBERS. Sat., Dec. 16, 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary. Lyric Fest of Philadelphia presents a winter cantata featuring poems of Jeanne Minahan and music by composer Benjamin Perry Wenzelberg. Performances by soprano Rebecca Meyers, mezzo soprano Devony Smith, tenor Steven Ng, baritone Steven Eddy, the Daedalus Quartet, Ray Furuta on flute, and Laura Ward on piano. Tickets are \$30.00. BMPC members can purchase \$20.00 discounted tickets through this link on the Lyric Fest website – <https://lyricfest.org/tickets/> - Follow this link and select BMPC performance. Then use coupon code: BMPCLyric

CASSEROLE BLITZ. Sat., Dec. 16, 8:30 a.m., Ministries Center Kitchen. Join us to make casseroles and friends at the Hunger Committee's Casserole Blitz! Enjoy this family activity (children over age 5) as you get to know BMPC folks you haven't met before and support a good cause while working with others to prepare casseroles for area shelters. Upcoming Dates: Jan. 20, Feb. 17. Please use our RSVP link to sign up: <https://bit.ly/Blitz-RSVP>

Next Sunday

RAINBOW REINDEER GAMES. Sun., Dec. 17, 11:00 a.m., Gymnasium. All youth (grades 6-12) and fifth graders are invited to join in the fun, games, and color powder shenanigans we have planned for our Rainbow Reindeer Games this year! To register, visit <https://bit.ly/RRgames2023>

Upcoming

WEE CHRISTMAS. Tues., Dec. 19, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary. Designed for children ages 2 - 5 years and their families, this special retelling of the Christmas Story allows our youngest members to hear and participate in the story of Jesus' birth. Helpers are welcome! MaryRichards@bmpc.org

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE. Wed., Dec. 20, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary and via livestream. This contemplative worship service is for anyone yearning for comfort amid personal grief and hope for a more peaceful world. A meditation by the Rev. Dr. Kirby Lawrence Hill will be accompanied by prayer, the singing of carols and lighting candles to lead us through darkness toward healing and wholeness. A labyrinth on the Education Building Lawn invites walkers following the service, weather permitting.

YOUTH INTERNATIONAL MISSION TRIP APPLICATION DEADLINE.

Mon, Jan. 1, 5:00 p.m. Rising 9-12th graders (current 8-11th graders) are welcome to apply for a spot on the international mission trip to Peru, July 10th-20th, 2024. Applicants will be notified by February 1st at 5:00 p.m. if they have been accepted. The application can be found on Realm, the youth ENews, or by emailing Pastor Leigh Devries at ldevries@bmpc.org

Calendar

Sunday, December 10

7:45	a.m.	Childcare (Birth-Kindergarten), Ed. Bldg., Rm. 101
8:00	a.m.	Worship with Communion, Chapel
8:30	a.m.	Sunday Morning Discussion Group, Cannon Room
8:45	a.m.	Art @ 9, Ed. Bldg., Rm. 102 Filling the Well, Children's Library, Ed. Bldg.
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 Service on www.bmpc.org Youth Gathering, Gymnasium
10:15	a.m.	Sunday School K-5th Grade, Ed. Bldg.
11:00	a.m.	Family Fellowship, Ed. Bldg. Atrium Cafe, Atrium
11:15	a.m.	Stories of a Young Jesus, Fullerton Room
4:00	p.m.	Advent Lessons & Carols Vespers Service, Sanctuary

Monday, December 11

6:00	p.m.	Middle School Mondays, Gymnasium
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Tuesday, December 12

9:00	a.m.	Repose Yoga, (Hybrid), Gymnasium
10:30	a.m.	Tai Chi (Hybrid), Gymnasium
12:00	p.m.	Advent Harpsichord Recital, Sanctuary
1:00	p.m.	Dance for Parkinson's Class, Gymnasium
6:45	p.m.	BMPC Tutoring Program, Ed. Bldg.
7:00	p.m.	Session Meeting, Fullerton Room

Wednesday, December 13

9:30	a.m.	Yoga206 Bone Boost Class, Gymnasium
10:00	a.m.	Coffee Cup Bible Study (Hybrid), Cannon Room Men's Study Group, Converse House Parlor
4:45	p.m.	Wednesdays Together, Ed. Bldg
5:30	p.m.	Wednesday Night Dinner, Congregational Hall
5:45	p.m.	Youth Chorale, Fine Arts Center
7:00	p.m.	High School Student Serve, Gymnasium Quiet Prayer in Advent (Hybrid), Witherspoon Parlor Trustees' Meeting, Fullerton Room

Thursday, December 14

11:00	a.m.	Artist's Gathering, Fine Arts Kitchen
7:00	p.m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Fine Arts Center

Friday, December 15

No Events Scheduled.

Saturday, December 16

7:00	a.m.	Saturday Morning Men's Group, Converse House Parlor
8:30	a.m.	Casserole Blitz, Congregational Hall
11:00	a.m.	James Crutchfield Jr. Memorial Service, Chapel
3:00	p.m.	Lyric Fest of Philadelphia Concert, Sanctuary

Sunday, December 17

8:00	a.m.	Worship with Communion, Chapel
10:00	a.m.	Sunday Worship with Sanctuary Choir Sanctuary and Livestreamed Service on www.bmpc.org The Rev. Dr. Agnes Norfleet will preach.

Worship Staff

Agnes W. Norfleet, Pastor

Leigh DeVries, 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

Franklyn C. Pottorff, Associate Pastor for Congregational Life & Stewardship

Jeffrey Brillhart, Director of Music & Fine Arts

Edward Landin Senn, Assistant Director of Music



Contact Information

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www.youtube.com/user/brynmawrpres

24/7 Answering Service for Pastoral Emergencies:
610-525-2821

The Middleton Center: 610-525-0766 •
info@middletoncenter.org

The Weekday School (Preschool): 610-525-2821, ext. 8840