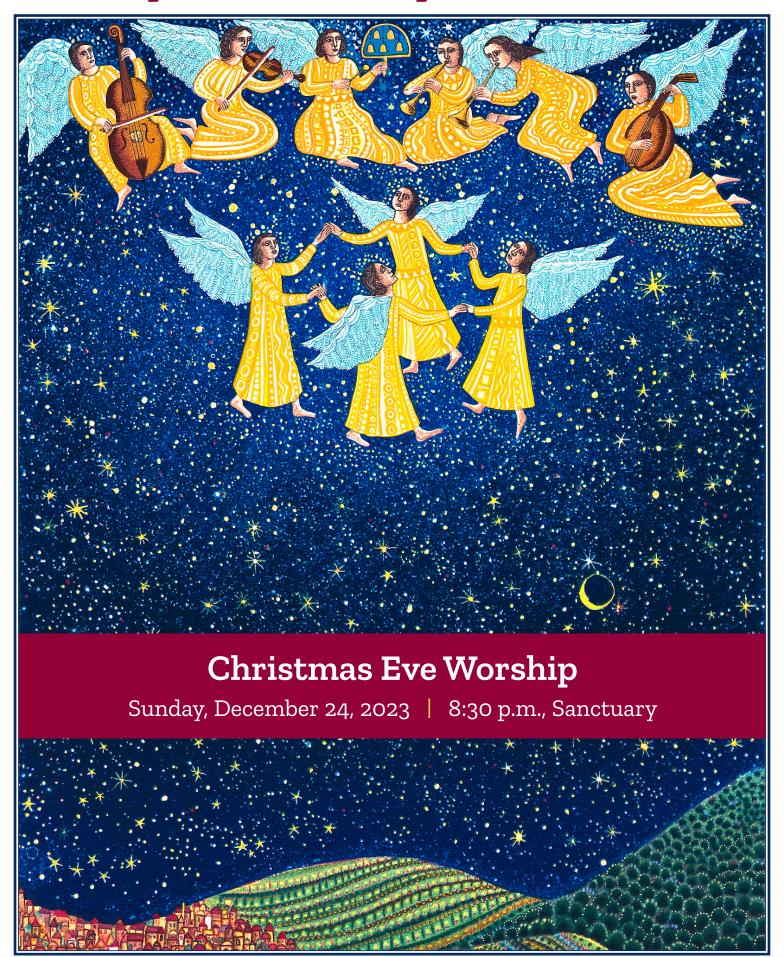
# Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church



# WELCOME TO CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP AT BRYN MAWR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are glad you are worshiping with us, and we invite you to participate in future opportunities for worship, fellowship, and outreach.

Please visit our website: www.bmpc.org for more information.

#### **WORSHIP NOTES**

#### **Bulletin Cover Image**

Nativity © 2011 John August Swanson | Eyekons

#### **Bryn Mawr Trumpet Duo**

Andrew Connors and Joseph Anderson

#### Carillonneur

Rob Mygatt

#### **Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church**

625 Montgomery Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010 Office Phone: 610-525-2821 www.bmpc.org

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

The Weekday School: 610-520-8840

Protective candle holders and candles, available near all entrance doors, will be lighted during "Silent Night." Please return the candle holders as you leave.

# THE CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

Christmas is a joyful celebration. Some prepare by greeting each other with quiet words of peace, and others wish to prepare in silent attention to the prelude.

Please be respectful of how those around you prepare.

**PRELUDE** 

"Grand jeu et duo" from *Douze Noëls* Louis-Claude Daquin Prelude and Fugue in C, BWV 547 J. S. Bach "Les Bergers" (The Shepherds) from *La Nativité* Olivier Messiaen The Nativity Jean Langlais In Quiet Joy Jean Langlais

# WORDS OF WELCOME LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Franklyn C. Pottorff Carolyn Gerrish, Tim Starn

One: At last we arrive at the manger in Bethlehem.

All: We are prepared to receive the Christ Child.

One: The great God of all creation has been born to the human family.

All: With hearts filled with gratitude we worship in spirit and in truth.

One: We kneel in quiet and faithful adoration with Joseph.

All: Beside Mary we ponder God's love for the world in our hearts.
One: In the darkness of this holy night, may this radiant light of Christ

All: Give light to the world.

One: With gladness we receive the gift of God's salvation.

All: O Come, let us shine forth the light of the Lord!

Please rise as able.

#### **CONGREGATIONAL CAROL** Once in Royal David's City

arr. Paul Halley

**IRBY** 

1 (Choir) Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:

Mary was that mother mild;
Jesus Christ, her little child.

- 2 (All) He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 3 Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew; he was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.
- 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above; and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

#### THE PRAYER OF ADORATION (in unison)

Leigh DeVries

Great God of heaven, and Prince of Peace on earth, on this holy night we gather — to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory; to sing with angels, rejoicing in your wonders; to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promises; to sit with Mary, cradling your love.

May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy; for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.

#### **INVITATORY CAROL**

What Sweeter Music

John Rutter

What sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for to sing the birth of this our heav'nly King? Awake the voice! Awake the string! Dark and dull night, fly hence away, and give the honour to this day that sees December turn'd to May. Why does the chilling winter's morn smile, like a field beset with corn? Or smell like a meadow newly shorn thus on the sudden? Come and see the cause, why things thus fragrant be: 'Tis he is born, whose quick'ning birth gives life and lustre, public mirth, to heaven and the underearth. We see him come, and know him ours, who, with his sunshine and his show'rs, turns all the patient ground to flow'rs; The darling of the world is come, and fit it is, we find a room to welcome him. The nobler part of all the house here is the heart, which we will give him; and bequeath this holly, and this ivy wreath, to do him honour, who's our King, and Lord of all this revelling.

THE PROPHECY

**Isaiah** 9:2-7

Rebecca Kirkpatrick

**CHOIR CAROL** 

Bogoroditse Devo

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Rejoice, O virgin mother of God, Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, for thou hast borne the savior of our souls.

**JESUS IS BORN IN BETHLEHEM** Luke 2:1-7

Kirby Lawrence Hill

#### Christmas World Premiere

Kim André Arnesen

A gentle splash at dawn: the Child had a restless night, crying out to the stars; now, at light's first quiet play, Mary comforts him with the music of water, and His Word is gurgles, His love giggles, plashes; Her Magnificat is laughter. By the time she raises him from the tub, and cradles Love in a towel, she is utterly soaked, and from the world's waters rises an angels' song, the music mingling with the mist, carrying incarnation's infant-cry far across the world.

**THE ANGELS APPEAR TO THE SHEPHERDS** Luke 2:8-20

Rachel Pedersen

**CHOIR CAROL** 

Christmastide World Premiere Kim André Arnesen

A solitary shepherd sleeps against an olive tree; His flocks graze nearby on the hills over Bethlehem. No hungry wolf the shepherd fears, nor angry tempest raging; A stillness lay that night on the hills over Bethlehem. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria! And so it is, The first to know the quickening air, to feel the brush of angel wings, The first to see the shining star rest above the manger were the gentle sheep, grazing on the hills over Bethlehem.

**GOD OUR SAVIOR APPEARED** 

Titus 3:4-7

Leigh DeVries

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please rise as able.

**CONGREGATIONAL CAROL** Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

arr. Richard Webster

- 1 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!
- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Please be seated.

**SERMON** 

*Pondering these Words* 

Agnes W. Norfleet

Christmas Eve 2023

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#### **CONGREGATIONAL CAROL** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN arr. Richard Webster

- 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 the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"
- 2 Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity, pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"
- Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
  Hail the sun of righteousness!
  Light and life to all he brings,
  risen with healing in his wings.
  Mild he lays his glory by,
  born that we no more may die,
  born to raise us from the earth,
  born to give us second birth.
  Hark! The herald angels sing,
  "Glory to the newborn king!"

Please be seated.

#### CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** 

The Holly and the Ivy

Franklyn C. Pottorff John Rutter

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full-grown; of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown. O, the rising of the sun and the running of the deer, the playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir. The holly bears a blossom as white as any flower; and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our sweet Savior. The holly bears a berry as red as any blood; and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to do poor sinners good. The holly bears a prickle as sharp as any thorn; and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas Day in the morn. The holly bears a bark as bitter as any gall; and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to redeem us all.

#### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

#### THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you. All: And also with you. Lift up your hearts. One:

We lift them to the Lord. All:

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. One: All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

#### 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.

#### THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All bread is gluten and casein free.

#### MUSIC AT COMMUNION

**CHOIR CAROL** 

Sleeps Judea Fair

Hugh A. MacKinnon

Sleeps Judea fair, bides the Christ Child there: Shepherds, haste ye! Flocks forsaking, swift your way to Him be taking, Babe, of Israel's prayer. Christ from God is come choosing earthly home: royal pomp and splendor never, but with love which naught can sever, He will heal the dumb; Christ from God is come. Lowly bend the knee, thou from sin set free: let the Christ Child, meekly smiling, infantwise, all woe beguiling, grant His grace to thee!

CHOIR CAROL

Puer Natus Est

Gregorian Chant

A child is born to us, and a Son is given to us: Whose government is upon His shoulder: and His Name shall be called, the Angel of Great Counsel.

Please remain seated.

#### **CONGREGATIONAL CAROL** Still, Still, Still

STILLE, STILLE, STILLE

1 Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill! The virgin's tender arms enfolding, warm and safe the child are holding. sweetest songs of joy are singing. Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill.

2 Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slumber deep while angel hosts from heaven come winging, Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slumber deep.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (in unison)

Franklyn C. Pottorff

God of mystery and might, we praise and worship you, for you came in silence, while all lay sleeping, to enter our world as a child of humble birth.

We thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, born of your handmaid Mary. In Christ's face we behold your glory, for in his life as in his death is your gift of salvation.

By your Spirit, make our hearts burn with thanksgiving, that we may give as we have received.

Let our whole lives be gifts of praise to you,

God of love and peace, in the gracious name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Please rise as able.

#### **CONGREGATIONAL CAROL**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES arr. Richard Webster

- 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!
  O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
  O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!
- 2 True God from true God, Light from light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; very God, begotten, not created!
  O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!
- 3 Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
  sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
  Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
  O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
  O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Please be seated.

INVITATION TO CANDLE LIGHTING

John 1:1-5, 14

Rebecca Kirkpatrick

#### LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

The candle lighters will light their candles from the Pastors' candles. They then will light the candle of the first worshipper in each pew who will pass the light down the pew.

When the light comes to you, please tip your candle toward the lighted candle.

#### CHOIR CAROL

I Will Light Candles This Christmas

Kim André Arnesen

I will light candles this Christmas; Candles of joy despite all sadness, candles of hope where despair keeps watch, candles of courage for fears ever present, candles of peace for tempest-tossed days, candles of grace to ease heavy burdens, candles of love to inspire all my living, candles that will burn all year long. When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among others, to make music in the heart.

Please remain seated.

#### **CONGREGATIONAL CAROL** Silent Night, Holy Night!

STILLE NACHT arr. Ken Cowan

- Silent night, holy night!
  All is calm, all is bright,
  'Round you virgin mother and Child!
  Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
  Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight, Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing "Alleluia; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."
- 3 Silent night, holy night!
  Son of God, love's pure light.
  Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
  With the dawn of redeeming grace,
  Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth; Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

#### BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

Agnes W. Norfleet

**POSTLUDE** "Dieu Parmi Nous" (God Among Us), from La Nativité Olivier Messiaen

### **MUSIC NOTES**

The simple harmonies that Sergei Rachmaninoff uses in his setting of *Bogoroditse Devo* transport the listener to a massive and resonant cathedral space in Russia where the unique timbre of the choir, from the delicate blend of the sopranos to the booming bass notes of the oktavists (basso profundos) evoke how Mary must have felt when the Angel Gabriel alerted her to how her life and the world were about to change.

John Rutter is internationally known as one of the most talented and prolific writers of choral music, particularly many well-known and programmed works during the Advent and Christmas season. What Sweeter Music and The Holly and the Ivy are counterparts in that the former is gentle and delicate and the latter is rhythmic and buoyant.

Sleeps Judea Fair by Hugh MacKinnon, who was for many years organist and choirmaster at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, is a serene carol that twice juxtaposes the first phrase of Silent Night with MacKinnon's own music, first in the organ accompaniment and later with the addition of a soprano soloist.

The Choir Carols in this evening's service include two World Premieres by leading Norwegian composer, Kim André Arnesen, that were commissioned in celebration of BMPC 150th anniversary year. *Christmas* uses a text by Euan Tait that not only humanizes Jesus but uses imagery of water and music that all parents can relate to, from those early moments of parenthood, bathing and singing to a child and interacting with them through moments of exhaustion but creating cherished memories during these fleeting moments of childhood. *Christmastide* uses a text by Charles Anthony Silvestri that beautifully depicts how it felt to be a shepherd taking in the joy and awe surrounding the hills of Bethlehem on that special night when Jesus was born. A third selection by Arnesen, *I Will Light Candles This Christmas*, takes place near the end of the service and not only touches on the nostalgic themes of Christmas, but more importantly on the work that must be done to honor the Christ child.

IN MEMORY OF

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond H. Adelhelm

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Paul and Patricia Axt

Wendolyn C. Bailey

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John H. Ball

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Geraldine and James Bond

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Medford Jennings Brown, III

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Ruth Miller Cox

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Hayley Craig

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Nancy Porter Gillespie

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Donald Smith Page

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**Thomas Stout** 

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#### IN HONOR OF

James and Winston Arney

Everett, Rosie, Timmy and "Baby B" Bickhart

BMPC's Music Program

BMPC's Ministers

BMPC's Pastoral Staff

BMPC's Pastors and Musicians

BMPC's Staff

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The Jeff Engelman Family

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Theodore Engelman

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Oma Mulligan

John J. Stetzer, III

The Parents of Steve and Kara Udicious

Deryle Whipple

Jackie Whipple

#### IN CELEBRATION OF

Birth of Emmet Scott Bastian

BMPC's 150th Anniversary

BMPC's Music Ministry

Nathan Beckett and Annie Graf

The 9th Wedding Anniversary of Dr. and Mrs.

David W. Montgomery

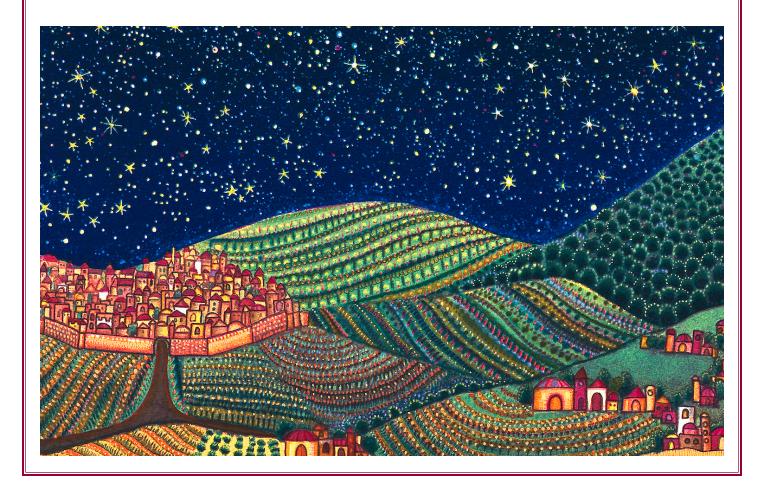
# JOY TO THE WORLD!

Thank you for worshiping with us. We hope you will find an opportunity to join us again by attending one of our Sunday services.

#### **REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

8:00 a.m. - Holy Communion Service in the Chapel 10:00 a.m. - Worship in the Sanctuary 10:00 a.m. - Sunday School ages 2 - grade 5 10:00 a.m. - Youth Gathering grade 6 - grade 12

Please visit our website www.bmpc.org for more information.



# Merry Christmas

# from the staff of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

#### **PASTORAL STAFF**

The Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet, Pastor

The Rev. Leigh DeVries, Associate Pastor for Youth & Their Families

The Rev. Dr. Kirby Lawrence Hill, Interim Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care & Senior Adults

The Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick, Associate Pastor for Adult Education & Mission

The Rev. Rachel Pedersen, Associate Pastor for Children & Family Ministry

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

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Monica Devane, Assistant, Church Administration & Senior Adults Liz Ellis, Program and Human Resources Administrator

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Alicia Franklin, Assistant, Adult Education, Mission & Congregational Life

Erika Henry, Sunday Supervisor/Childcare Coordinator

Patrick Howley, Music and Fine Arts Manager

Shayla Jordan, Program Assistant, Youth & Their Families

Edward Landin Senn, Assistant Director of Music

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Toshi Makihara, Facilities Specialist

Kiki McKendrick, Director, The Middleton Counseling Center

Sarah Miciek, Director, Finance

Tom Monaco, Facilities Specilaist

Homer Ramos, Supervisor, Facilities & Maintenance

Iris Ramos, Preferred Caterer

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Accounts Payable and Human Resources Assistant

Kathryn West, Social Worker