

Ascension of the Lord

Sunday, May 17, 2026

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary



Laying the c
1920s



at guy



Sanctuary
1940s



Project People
1960s

Gathering of God's People

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

We invite you to prepare for worship in quiet reflection.

PRELUDE On the Name "Maurice Duruflé"

David Hurd

James Kealey, organist

WELCOME

Rachel Pedersen

Please stand, if able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One The LORD is king; God is robed in majesty;

All **the LORD is robed; God is girded with strength.**

One The LORD has established the world; it shall never be moved;

All **your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting.**

One Your decrees are very sure;

All **holiness befits your house, O LORD, forevermore.**

HYMN 268 Crown Him with Many Crowns

DIADEMATA

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
2 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
3 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time;

hark, how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own!
rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab - sorbed in prayer and praise.
cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Crown Him with Many Crowns'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the final two lines.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His reign shall know no end; and round his pierc - ed feet
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 but down-ward bends his burn-ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra-grance ev - er sweet.
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

CALL TO CONFESSION AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All Living God, we confess that our faith is sometimes weak, our love for others can be faint, our prayers are often timid, and our gratitude is frequently unconvincing. When we stand looking toward heaven, yet feel far from you, you draw near in mercy to forgive us, and fill us with your power, through the grace of Jesus, our resurrected Savior.

A moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SUNG RESPONSE Gloria

James Kealey

Glo - ry be to God: cre - a - tor Christ and
 Ho - ly Ghost. As it was in the be - gi - nning is now and ev - er shall be.
 World with - out end. A - men! A - men!

Proclamation of the Word

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rachel Pedersen

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

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

John Willingham

FIRST LESSON Acts 1:1-11

(pg. 118 in pew Bible)

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of

the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and

you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven,

suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

ANTHEM God is Gone Up

Gerald Finzi

God is gone up with a triumphant shout: The Lord with sounding Trumpets' melodies: Sing Praises out, unto our King sing praise seraphicwise! Lift up your heads, ye lasting doors, they sing, and let the King of Glory enter in. Methinks I see Heaven's sparkling courtiers fly, in flakes of Glory down him to attend, and hear heart-cramping notes of melody surround His chariot as it did ascend; Mixing their music, making ev'ry string more to enravish as they this tune sing.

SECOND LESSON Luke 24:44-53

Andy Greenhow

(pg. 91 in pew Bible)

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And

see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

One The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *You Are All Witnesses*

Andy Greenhow

Response to the Word

Please stand, if able.

HYMN 486 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

KINGDOM

1 Child of bless - ing, child of prom - ise, bap - tized
2 Child of love, our love's ex - pres - sion, love's cre -
3 Child of joy, our dear - est trea - sure, God's you
4 Child of God, your lov - ing Par - ent, learn to

with the Spir - it's sign, with this wa - ter God has
a - tion, loved in - deed! Fresh from God, re - fresh our
are, from God you came. Back to God we hum - bly
lis - ten for God's call. Grow to laugh and sing and

sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.
spir - its; in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.
give you: live as one who bears Christ's name.
wor - ship; trust and love God more than all.

PRESENTATION OF THE CONFIRMANDS

COVENANTS AND PROMISES

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

Will you devote yourself to the church's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers?

Please stand, if able.

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

All **We do.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

All **Each member is the church in the world, endowed by the Spirit with some gift of ministry and responsible for the integrity of their witness in their own particular situation. Each member is entitled to the guidance and support of the Christian community and is subject to its advice and correction. They in turn, in their own competence, help to guide the church.**

-Adapted from the Confession of 1967

LAYING ON OF HANDS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

John Willingham

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 Christ Has no Body But Our Own

Aaron David Miller

Christ has no body but our own, No hands, no feet on earth but our own, Christ has no body but our own. Ours are the eyes with which he looks with compassion on this world. Ours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Ours are the hands with which he blesses all the world. Christ has no body but our own. Amen.

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

John Willingham

HYMN 320 The Church of Christ in Every Age

WAREHAM

1 The church of Christ in every age, be - set by
 2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
 3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
 4 For Christ a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
 5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -

change but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
 of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
 church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
 fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
 be - dience to our Lord: to care for all, with -

her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
 bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
 sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
 share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
 out re - serve, and spread Christ's lib - er - at - ing word.

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

Andy Greenhow

Please be seated.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

"I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE."

Sally Nelson - May 10, 2026

Worship & Music Notes

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of John S. Vaughan.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Today's prayer of confession is from Feasting on the Word.

CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2026

James Robertson Bertrand

Nathan Randolph Briddell

Lilah Grace Brown

Ruth Conway

Haley Correll Heaton

Ford Dylan Hulton

Samuel M. Kullen

Dylan Matthew Kwasniewski

Alexander A. Nicholas

Tyler William Noone

Eli Lewis Nestle Powers

Margaret Grier Reynolds

Sienna Jane Rowbotham

Paige Makenna Scheuerman

Chloe Anne Shissler

Colin Marcus Stoltz

TODAY'S MUSIC

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension (Christ's body ascending to Heaven) with Confirmation. The anthems reflect this duality with a rousing work by the British composer Gerald Finzi. "God is Gone Up" is a very popular anthem for the day, replete with trumpet fanfares, and soaring melodies. The words were written by the puritan poet Edward Taylor (c.1646-1729) and were published in *Sacramental Meditations*. His work wasn't published for over 200 years (Taylor did not wish it to be published) but he is now considered to be one of the leading writers of his time. "Christ Has No Body But His Own" is a newer work to our choral library, actually commissioned by the Chancel Choir of Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY. I was inspired by the text, by Teresa of Avila (1515-1582) on this Confirmation Sunday, reminding us of our duty here on Earth to be Christ-like, even as Christ's body ascends to the highest heights today.

- James Kealey, Director of Music & Fine Arts

PLAYING THE CARILLON

Brian Middleton

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AT THE 8:00 A.M. SERVICE

Willa Drew Walheim, daughter of Julia Marcellino & Michael Walheim

BULLETIN COVER

Photos from the BMPC archives.

WELCOME TO BRYN MAWR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church in this joyful season of Eastertide! As we celebrate the good news of Christ's resurrection, we are reminded that hope, renewal, and new life are at the heart of spring and our faith. Whether you're a longtime member or a first-time visitor, we're glad you're here. Through worship, fellowship, and service, we seek to live as resurrection people—grounded in love, growing in faith, and reaching out to the world. May this season draw us closer to God and to one another as we rejoice in the promise of Easter and the women's discovery of an empty tomb.



John M. Willingham
Interim 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 following the worship service. All of our programs, ministries, and opportunities for mission are open to everyone. Learn more at bmpc.org

T-COIL HEARING LOOP AVAILABLE

BMPC's Sanctuary and Congregational Hall are equipped with a T-Coil hearing loop system to enhance sound clarity for those with hearing aids or cochlear implants with a telecoil ("T" setting). Portable receiver units are also available in the Sanctuary upon request. We hope this technology enriches your worship experience!

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.

LIVESTREAMED CHURCH SERVICES

Our Sunday 10:00 a.m. service is livestreamed and can be viewed at www.bmpc.org/live or on our YouTube channel. A recording of the service will also be available on our Past Services website page and Vimeo channel starting Monday. If you are attending in person and prefer not to be on camera, please speak with an usher who will seat you in an area off camera.

Announcements

TODAY

Confirmation Sunday. Sun., May 17, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary. During the 10:00 a.m. worship service, the 2025-2026 Confirmation class will become members of the church. Confirmation mentors, family, friends, and the congregation are invited to celebrate their commitment to the church and Christian faith.

Congregational Meeting. Sun., May 17, following worship. The Session has called for a congregational meeting to take place immediately after the 10 a.m. service on May 17. The purpose of the meeting is to elect two additional youth officers. The individuals to be placed in nomination are Lindsay Collett for Ruling Elder and Whitney Shissler for Deacon.

End of Year Picnic. Sun., May 17, 11:15 a.m., Front Lawn. Join us for a picnic on the front lawn to celebrate the end of the year and thank our Sunday School teachers!

UPCOMING & ONGOING

2025 Annual Report. Copies of the 2025 Annual Report are available in the display racks in the Narthex, the Atrium, and the Ministries Center and online at bmpc.org/publications

Dynamic Watercolors: Domenic DiStefano. Sun., May 10 – Sun., Aug. 30, Gallery. This exhibition showcases the evocative watercolors of Domenic DiStefano (1924-2011), a painter and teacher for over 50 years, celebrated for his dynamic depictions of coastal and marine landscapes. His work

captures the interplay of light and shadow on water, reflecting both his passion for watercolor and his deep connection to Rockport, Massachusetts. His vivid portrayals of New England's seascapes continue to inspire through their expressive use of color and form.

Pizza Night! Wed., May 20, 5:30 p.m., Congregational Hall. Don't miss our last Wednesday Night Dinner of the season. Join us for Pizza Night as we celebrate a wonderful season of gathering around the table. Come for the pizza, stay for the fellowship, and help us close out the season with a fun evening together before summer begins.

Nurturing New Life Support Group. Fridays, 9:15 a.m., Converse House Parlor. Come as you are for this weekly meet-up for parents with infants. Each week will include time for fellowship and opportunities to hear from local experts on topics such as sleep, feeding, development, parental well-being, and navigating the early months of parenthood. The May 22 topic is Mental Health and Wellness, led by Brianna Dawson. Sign up at bit.ly/NurturingNewLife Contact: ColleenCatania@bmpc.org

Hersheypark Fun Day. Sun., May 31, 9:30 a.m. Rising 6th–12th graders register now! Roller coasters. Water rides. Chocolate. Bring your friends for a fun day out in the sweetest place on earth. It will be a blast. The cost is \$40, which includes admission to the park and one meal, with scholarships available. Register at bit.ly/Hersheypark2026 Contact: AndyGreenhow@bmpc.org

Crescendo for Justice: Breaking the Silence for Immigrant Rights. Mon., Jun. 1, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary. All are welcome to this concert organized by HIAS, one of our partners in refugee settlement, featuring music performed by musicians from the Philadelphia Orchestra, Philly Pops, and other renowned regional groups in honor of Immigrant Heritage Month.

Digging Deeper – Hearing the Message of Ecclesiastes. Sundays, Jun. 7- 28, 8:30 a.m., Gloucester Room. Explore Ecclesiastes with Christopher J. H. Wright’s “Hearing the Message of Ecclesiastes.” This class engages life’s hardest questions—meaning, injustice, work, and time—through Qoheleth’s searching voice. Together, we’ll embrace faithful uncertainty, honest reflection, and a deeper trust in God’s goodness amid life’s unresolved tensions and enduring mysteries. This class will be led by Dr. Joshua Yoder. Reserve a book and sign up for the class: bit.ly/BMPCBookpickup

Senior Adult Spring Social. Sun., Jun. 7, 4:00 p.m., Merion Tribute House. The Senior Adult Council invites members 55 and older to join them for their annual spring social. Tickets are \$25 and include heavy hors d’oeuvres, drinks, and dessert. RSVP by June 1 at bit.ly/SeniorSpringSocial2026 Contact: AnnaliseKirk@bmpc.org

CARING AND SHARING

Serve Dinner at the Ardmore Food Pantry. The Ardmore Food Pantry offers a community meal on Monday evenings during pantry hours. On the second Monday of each month, they serve BMPC Hunger Casseroles. Two to three volunteers from BMPC are needed on those Monday nights to serve dinner

from 5:15 to 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering for one month or on a regular basis, sign up at bit.ly/AFPDDinner Contact: JenniferMacArthur@bmpc.org

Volunteer Photographers Needed. Do you enjoy photography and have an eye for capturing meaningful moments? BMPC is looking for volunteer photographers to help take photos at church events throughout the year. Your images help us tell the story of our life together as a congregation through our publications, website, and social media. If you’re interested in serving in this way, please contact LisaBuscaglia@bmpc.org

BMPC Meal Train. Join us in this caring ministry that provides meal support to congregants in times of need. This act of caring has been described as an actual lifeline for some of our recipients. If you are interested in periodically making (or purchasing) and delivering a meal, please contact BMPC Deacon Kara Udicious at udicious@comcast.net

BMPC Prayer Partners 2026-2027. Prayer Partners commit to praying for a small group of students throughout an academic year. Prayer Partners may also connect with students through post cards and special events. This ministry serves more than 500 children and youth. Would you like to continue being a Prayer Partner or start being a Prayer Partner? Please sign up so we can plan for our 2026-2027 prayer partner team: bit.ly/PrayerPartnerSignUp2025 Contact: MaryRichards@bmpc.org

Calendar

SUNDAY, MAY 17

- 7:45 a.m. Childcare (infant - age 5), Ed. Bldg., Rm. 101
- 8:00 a.m. **Worship with Baptism and Communion, Chapel**
- 8:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Discussion Group, Cannon Room
- 8:30 a.m. Confirmation Breakfast, Congregational Hall
- 8:45 a.m. Art@9, Ed. Bldg., Rm. 102
- 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Choir Loft
- 9:55 a.m. Sunday School (Ages 2s, 3s), and Pre-K, Ed. Bldg.
- 10:00 a.m. Youth in Worship (Gr. 6-12), Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship with Confirmation, Sanctuary and Livestreamed**
- 10:15 a.m. Sunday School (K-5th Grade), Ed. Bldg.
- 11:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. End of Year Picnic, Front Lawn
- 11:00 a.m. Dynamic Watercolors: Domenic DiStefano, Gallery
- 1:00 p.m. Taizé Young Adult Cohort Meeting, virtual

MONDAY, MAY 18

- 7:00 p.m. Hunger Committee Meeting, Cannon Room
- 7:30 p.m. Fit4Mom, Gymnasium

TUESDAY, MAY 19

- 9:00 a.m. Yoga for Life (hybrid), Gymnasium
- 10:30 a.m. Tai Chi (hybrid), Gymnasium
- 12:00 p.m. Urban Suburban Book Group, Fullerton Room
- 1:00 p.m. Dance for Parkinson's Disease Class, Gymnasium
- 6:00 p.m. Bells of Bryn Mawr Rehearsal, Rehearsal Room

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

- 9:30 a.m. Yoga206, Gymnasium
- 10:00 a.m. Coffee Cup Bible Study, Cannon Room
- 4:30 p.m. Wednesday Connection Group, Converse House Parlor
- 5:30 p.m. Children & Youth Volunteer Thank You Celebration, Pastor Andy's Manse
- 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner, Congregational Hall

7:00 p.m. LGBTQ@BMPC, Converse House Parlor

7:00 p.m. Trustee Meeting, Fullerton Room

THURSDAY, MAY 21

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Rehearsal Room

FRIDAY, MAY 22

9:15 a.m. Nurturing New Life Support Group, Converse House Parlor

SATURDAY, MAY 23

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

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

SUNDAY, MAY 24

8:00 a.m. **Worship with Communion, Chapel**

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

The Rev. John Willingham 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 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!



Sanctuary Flower Donations. Openings are available throughout the year 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. For more information, contact SusanThorkelson@mac.com



CONNECT WITH US



BrynMawrPres



BrynMawrPres



user/brynmawrpres

Worship Staff

John Willingham, Interim Senior Pastor

Andy Greenhow, Associate Pastor for Youth & Their Families

Melanie Hardison, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care

Rebecca Kirkpatrick, Associate Pastor for Adult Education & Mission

Rachel Pedersen, Associate Pastor for Children & Family Ministry

James Kealey, Director of Music & Fine Arts

Daniel Carroll, Organ Scholar