



Second Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, January 4, 2026

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary



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

The Old Year has Passed, The New Year has Come; In Thee Is Joy

J. S. Bach

Jeffrey Brillhart, organist

WELCOME

Andy Greenhow

Please stand, if able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

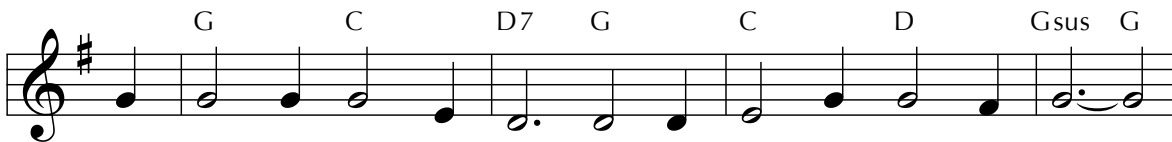
One Arise, shine, for your light has come,
All and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
One For darkness shall cover the earth,
All and thick darkness the peoples,
One But the Lord will arise upon you;
All and his glory will appear over you.
One Nations shall come to your light,
All and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

HYMN 106 Prepare the Way, O Zion

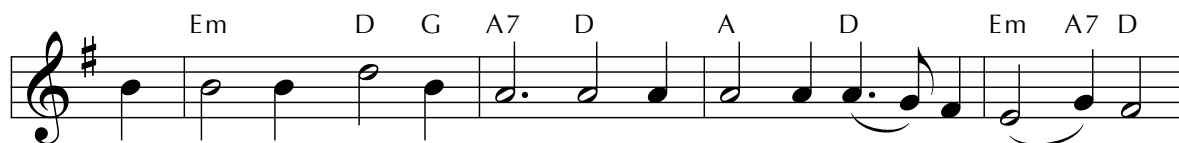
BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN



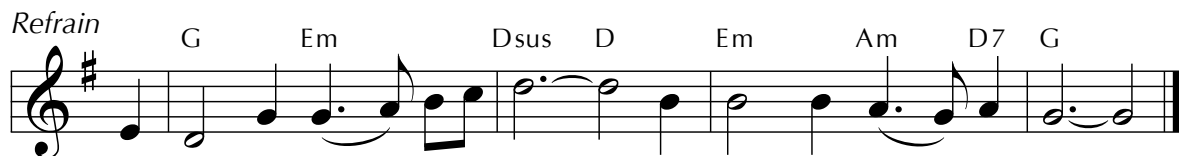
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw-ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro-claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re-sound-ing, for grace and joy a - bound-ing.
All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

CALL TO CONFESSION AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All God of wonder, God of night, you are holy light in dark places; you are holy darkness when all is too bright. Forgive us, O God, when we turn away from your light: when we follow our own ambitions instead of your call, when we respond to your presence with fear rather than joy. Forgive us, O God, when we do not comprehend the depth of your Christmas love, the meaning of your powerful story, or the call you place on each of our lives. Forgive us, O God, and by your forgiveness, empower us to follow the star once more.

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 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!

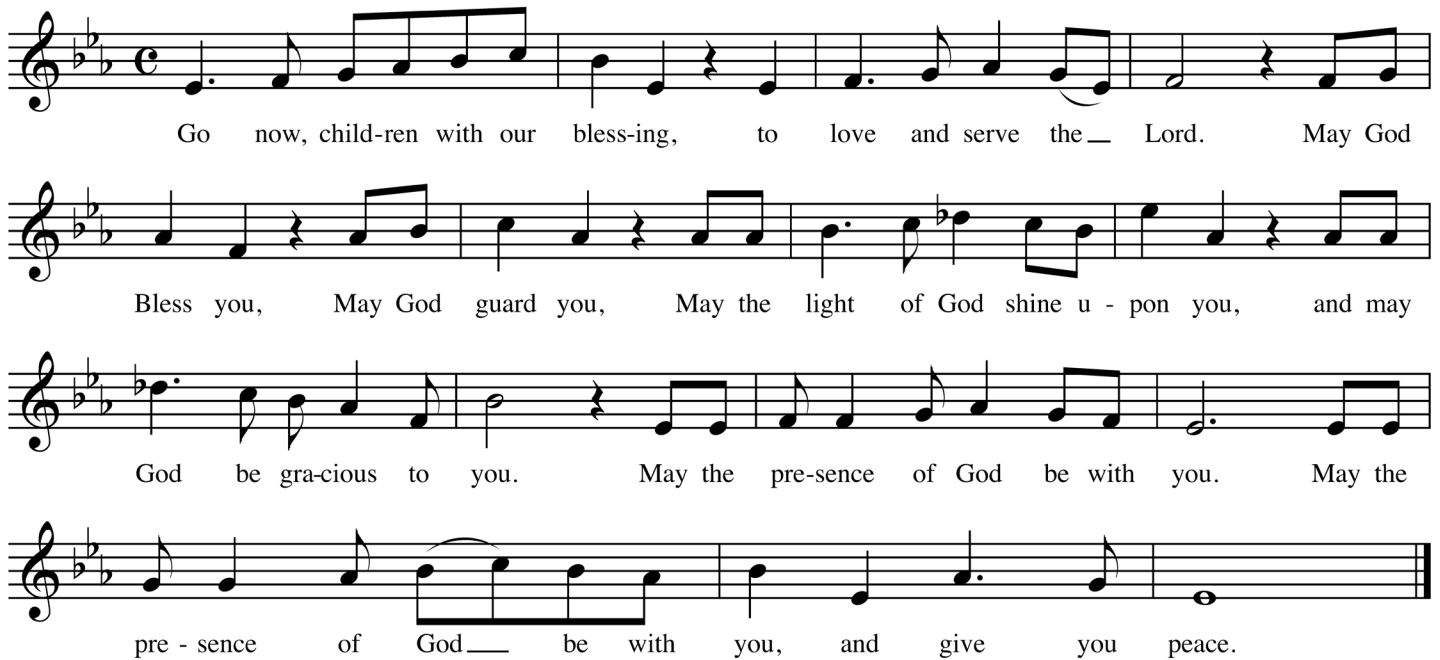
Proclamation of the Word

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

John Willingham

Following the Children's Moment, children return to their families in the Sanctuary.

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

Andy Greenhow

FIRST LESSON Matthew 2:1-12

(pg. 2 in pew Bible)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by

the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.

Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and

there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother,

and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

ANTHEM Behold a Star from Jacob

Felix Mendelssohn

Behold a star from Jacob shining, and a scepter from Israel rising to reign in glory over the nations. Like some bright morning star is He, the promise of the coming day, beyond the night of sorrow. Break forth, O Light! We, our joyful Hearts uplifting with thanksgiving, hail the brightness of Thy rising.

SECOND LESSON Numbers 13:17-20

John Willingham

(pg. 131 in [pew Bible](#))

Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan and said to them, “Go up there into the Negeb, and go up into the hill country, and see what the land is like and whether the people who live in it are strong or weak, whether they are few or many, and whether the land they live in is good or bad, and

[One](#) The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

whether the towns that they live in are unwalled or fortified, and whether the land is rich or poor, and whether there are trees in it or not. Be bold, and bring some of the fruit of the land.” Now it was the season of the first ripe grapes.

SERMON *Preparing, Not Planting*

John Willingham

Response to the Word

Please stand, if able.

HYMN 314 Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

Em Am7 Bm7 Esus Em

1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
 4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

Am7 Bm7 Esus Em Am7

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

D G C Am Dsus D

your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain G C G Em Bm Em

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

Am7 D G Dsus D Em Em7

dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

C Am7 D G Am7 G

church gath - ered to - day.

All We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, and feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples in Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of people long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

- from "A Brief Statement 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

Rebecca Kirkpatrick

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Jesu, Bright and Morning Star

Leo Sowerby

Jesu, bright and morning star, uncreated light of ages, star of Jacob, seen afar, guide our footsteps with yon Sages, till we also, of thy grace, see thy face. If the timid mariner do but eye thee, star of morrow, though the winter night be drear, courage high he straight will borrow, soon will gain the port where he fain would be. Wonder star of eastern skies, grant that, at thy next appearing, with our bodies we may rise, joyfully thy summons hearing, and to realms of endless day wend our way.

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 HUNDREDTH

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

Rebecca Kirkpatrick

HYMN 806 I'll Praise My Maker

OLD 113TH

1 I'll praise my Mak - er while I've breath; and when my voice
 2 How hap - py they whose hopes re - ly on Is - rael's God,
 3 The Lord pours eye - sight on the blind; the Lord sup - ports
 4 I'll praise my Mak - er while I've breath; and when my voice

is lost in death, praise shall em - ploy my no - bler powers.
 who made the sky and earth and seas with all their train;
 the faint - ing mind and sends the la - boring con - science peace.
 is lost in death, praise shall em - ploy my no - bler powers.

My days of praise shall ne'er be past while life and thought
 whose truth for - ev - er stands se - cure, who saves the op - pressed
 God helps the strang - er in dis - tress, the wid - owed and
 My days of praise shall ne'er be past while life and thought

and be - ing last, or im - mor - tal - i - ty en - dures.
 and feeds the poor, and none shall find God's prom - ise vain.
 the par - ent - less, and grants the pris - oner sweet re - lease.
 and be - ing last, or im - mor - tal - i - ty en - dures.

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

John Willingham

POSTLUDE Alleluyas

Simon Preston

James Kealey, organist

Worship Notes

PLAYING THE CARILLON

Klaus Volpert

WELCOME TO BRYN MAWR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church! The start of a new year is an ideal opportunity to explore. Perhaps you are seeking a church home. Or maybe, you've been part of BMPC for a long time, but are sensing a tug to get involved in more significant ways. In either case, I hope this time of worship will inspire you to take the next step and explore how God is nudging you to grow in faith, service, and meaning. We're honored to share in the journey with you!



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 Worship 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

Journeys by Richard Ranck Gallery

Opening. Jan. 4, 11:15 a.m., Gallery. Journeys showcases selected works by painter and sculptor Richard Ranck, whose four-decade career reflects a deep, process-driven exploration of materials. His paintings and sculptures blur boundaries through texture, transformation, and intuitive experimentation. Richard will be in the Gallery to discuss his work, giving visitors a direct look into his artistic process.

UPCOMING & ONGOING

The Labyrinth Ministry. Tues., Jan. 6, 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Congregational Hall. All are invited to walk our Chartres canvas labyrinth. Begin the new year and celebrate Epiphany with this prayerful experience. Contact KikiMcKendrick@bmpc.org

LGBTQ @ BMPC. Wed., Jan. 7, 7:00 p.m., Converse House Parlor. Come as you are and find connection in a welcoming, affirming space for all. This biweekly gathering (first and third Wednesday evenings each month) offers a judgment-free environment to build community, share experiences, ask questions, and receive support. For more information or to connect with our volunteer facilitators, contact RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org

Filling the Well. Starting Jan 11, 8:45 a.m., Children's Library, Ed. Bldg. These weekly classes for women will explore Mary Pipher's *Women Rowing North*, a thoughtful guide to aging with resilience, purpose, and joy. Through conversation and reflection, we'll consider how to navigate life's transitions with wisdom and grace. This supportive group offers connection, insight, and encouragement for women in every stage of midlife and beyond. This class is led by the Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick. Contact RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org

Jeffrey Brillhart Farewell Reception. Sun., Jan. 11, 11:15 a.m., Congregational Hall. Please join us after worship for a farewell reception honoring Jeffrey Brillhart, Director of Music & Fine Arts. We will gather with light food and refreshments to celebrate his remarkable 43 years of music leadership and to congratulate him on his retirement.

Youth Positive Parenting Series. Sun., Jan. 11, 6:00 p.m., Witherspoon Parlor. Join us for this month's session of our Youth Positive Parenting Series, led by experts from the Middleton Counseling Center. This month's focus is on stress and anxiety. Learn how to maintain balance, support adolescents, and maintain a calmer family environment. Designed for parents of 6th–12th graders, the series offers practical strategies for positive parenting and concurrent programming for youth. Contact AndyGreenhow@bmpc.org

High School Spirituality in College Retreat.

Fri., Feb. 27 - Sun., Mar. 1, Davis & Elkins College, Elkins, WV. High school students are invited to a retreat at Davis & Elkins College in wild and wonderful West Virginia. Students will have a chance to tour the campus, meet current students, stay in on-campus housing, explore artsy small towns, and connect with God and each other in the wilderness. Registration cost is \$200, with scholarships available. Register by Jan. 16: bit.ly/HighSchoolRetreat2026 Contact AndyGreenhow@bmpc.org

Faith in Action: Responding to a Changing World. Sun., Jan. 18, 11:15 a.m., Congregational Hall. Join us for an open, hope-filled conversation about the challenges facing our world, especially as they connect to our church's longstanding commitments to social justice. This gathering invites all who care deeply to share concerns, listen, and imagine faithful next steps together. Come help shape our community's path forward. Contact RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org

MLK Day Speaker Event. Mon., Jan. 19, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary. Join Eastern University and BMPC's Anti-Racism Committee for a special MLK Day talk with the Rev. Dr. Greg Thompson, author of *Blood From the Ground: Racial Healing and Public Memory*. He will share insights from his forthcoming book, a companion to his co-authored work *Reparations: A Christian Call to Repentance and Repair*.

Oil Painting Class. Fridays, Jan. 30 – Mar. 6, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Fine Arts Center. A welcoming, hands-on course taught by Alice Dustin for both beginners and experienced artists. Learn essential techniques, get personalized guidance, and grow your creative skills in a supportive studio environment. A supply list will be provided. Registration is \$150. Sign up: bit.ly/BMPCOilPaintingClass

God's Voice Within: The Ignatian Way to Discover God's Will. Tues., Jan. 20, 27, Feb. 3, 10, 7:00 p.m., Virtual. Join Patricia Danzon, Spiritual Director at the Middleton Counseling Center, as we explore *God's Voice Within*, written by spiritual director Mark E. Thibodeaux, SJ. We will discover how to use Ignatian discernment to access our own spiritual intuition and understand that the most trustworthy wisdom of all comes not from outside sources, but from God working through us. *God's Voice Within* is intended for people who know that there is more to the spiritual life than they are currently experiencing and are ready to take the next step in their walk of faith by making effective discernment—specifically Ignatian discernment—a daily practice. To register, KikiMcKendrick@bmpc.org

CARING AND SHARING

Join Us in the Fight Against Hunger.

Through the BMPC Hunger Fund, our congregation supports more than eighteen food pantries and feeding programs in Greater Philadelphia and helps provide over 1,000 casseroles each year. Your gifts make this possible and strengthen the work of our partners serving neighbors in need. Give using the white Hunger Envelopes in your pew rack or make a one-time or recurring gift online at onrealm.org/bmpc/give/hunger

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/AFPDinner Contact RebeccaKirkpatrick@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, JANUARY 4

- 8:45 a.m. Childcare (infant - age 5), Ed. Bldg., Rm. 101
- 8:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Discussion Group, Cannon Room
- 10:00 a.m. Worship with Families (Gr. K-12), Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship with Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary & Livestreamed**
- 11:00 a.m. Atrium Cafe, Atrium
- 11:15 a.m. Journeys by Richard Ranck Gallery Opening, Gallery

MONDAY, JANUARY 5

- 12:00 p.m. Prayer Partner Gathering, Cannon Room
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Ministry Council Meeting, Gymnasium

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

- 9:00 a.m. Yoga for Life (hybrid), Gymnasium
- 10:00 a.m. Monthly Labyrinth Walk, Congregational Hall
- 10:30 a.m. TaiChi (hybrid), Gymnasium
- 6:00 p.m. Bells of Bryn Mawr Rehearsal, Rehearsal Room

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

- 10:00 a.m. Coffee Cup Bible Study, Cannon Room
- 4:30 p.m. Wednesday Connection Group, Converse House Parlor
- 4:30 p.m. Piano Class A, Fine Arts Center
- 5:00 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal, Rehearsal Room
- 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner, Congregational Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Piano Class B, Fine Arts Center
- 7:00 p.m. LGBTQ@BMPC, Converse House Parlor
- 7:00 p.m. Student Serve, Gym Youth Lounge
- 7:00 p.m. Worldwide Ministries Council Meeting, Cannon Room

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

- 6:00 p.m. Refugee Support Committee Meeting, Cannon Room
- 6:15 p.m. Choir Leadership Meeting, Gloucester Room
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Rehearsal Room

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

No events scheduled.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

7:00 a.m. Fit4Mom, Gymnasium

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

8:30 a.m. Casserole Blitz, Congregational Hall

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

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

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

The Rev. Dr. John M. 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!



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Worship Staff

John M. 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

Jeffrey Brillhart, Director of Music & Fine Arts

James Kealey, Co-Director of Music & Fine Arts

Daniel Carroll, Organ Scholar