

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 19, 2021 | 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Fourth 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 outside the Sanctuary doors following the Worship Service. All of our programs, ministries, and opportunities for mission are open to everyone. Come join us!

COVID-19 GUIDELINES

Masks are required for both fully-vaccinated and unvaccinated people inside church buildings. Masks are not required for outdoor spaces. Please maintain physical distance inside, and be mindful that we are an intergenerational community and that while COVID vaccines are available for children ages five to 11, some children may not have been vaccinated.

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 8:00 a.m. to noon 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 Rebecca Kellich 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

8:00 a.m., Ed. Bldg., Rm. 102

10:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary

Sunday School

Ages 2 to Grade 5
10:00 a.m., Ed. Bldg.

Worship Together Sunday

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Grades 6-12

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

Sleepers, Awake!

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

Rebecca Kirkpatrick

ADVENT INTROIT (please remain seated)



By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Rob, Rachel, Carter and Avery Stoy

One: In the strength of the Lord, the flock of God shall be fed.

All: They shall be surrounded by the majesty and glory of God.

One: The Shepherd will keep the flock safe and they shall live secure.

All: God will guide us in the way of peace to the ends of the earth.

One: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of love.

All: We rejoice in the love that brought God from on high into our very presence.

One: May this candle of love shine brightly for everyone to see!

All: May our words and actions show forth our love for God and neighbor!

One: Let us sing our love for God's greatest gift.

† HYMN 105

People Look East

BESANÇON

CALL TO CONFESSION

AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

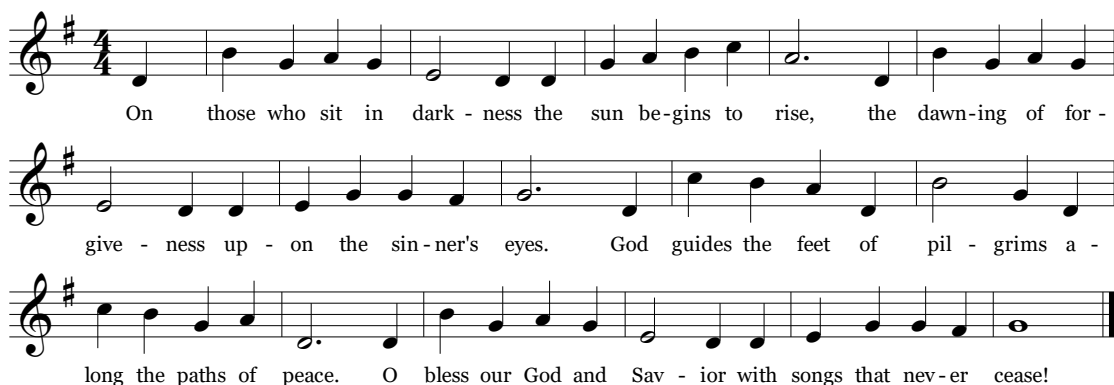
Great God, we celebrate the promise of your Holy Child, yet we are also mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. You invite us to join mother Mary's faithful response, but we struggle to trust the angel's promise of your near presence. We are distracted and focused on things that matter little, and we have overlooked the good news of great joy. Tell us again that the Savior is born. Tell us again that we are forgiven. Tell us again that life can be 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.

† Please stand, if able.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SUNG RESPONSE On Those Who Sit In Darkness



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

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Rebecca Kirkpatrick

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 His church?

All: We do.

BAPTISM HYMN 115

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Franklyn C. Pottorff

FIRST LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a (*p. 865 in pew Bible*)

ANTHEM

Magnificat
Sanctuary Choir

Herbert W. Sumsion

My soul doth magnify the Lord. And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath

filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel: As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

SECOND LESSON Luke 1:39-45 (*pg. 57 in pew Bible*)

Agnes W. Norfleet

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Let Us Find Our Rest in Thee
Advent Series on Hope – Hope in Our Hearts

Agnes W. Norfleet

† **HYMN 121**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*in unison*)

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.

~ from *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 ANTHEMJoys Seven
Sanctuary Choir

Stephen Cleobury

The first good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of one, to see the blessed Jesus Christ when He was first her son; good man, and blessed may he be; both Father, Son and Holy Ghost to all eternity. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of two, to see her own son Jesus Christ to make the lame to go. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of three, to see her own son Jesus Christ to make the blind to see. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of four, to see her own son Jesus Christ to read the bible o'er. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of five, to see her own son Jesus Christ to bring the dead alive. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of six, to see her own son Jesus Christ upon the crucifix. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of seven, to see her own son Jesus Christ to wear the crown of heaven.

† **DOXOLOGY**

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it, Three in One,
praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

† **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Franklyn C. Pottorff

† **HYMN 119**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

† **BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

Agnes W. Norfleet

POSTLUDE

Paeon on "Divinum Mysterium"

John Cook

WORSHIP NOTES

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Arthur Clement Fleuter & Hugh Warren Fleuter, sons of Beverly & Sam Fleuter

Brooks Matthew Hirt, son of Katie & Josh Hirt

Moira Catherine Schoeman, daughter of Michaela & Gary Schoeman

PLAYING THE CARILLON

Paul McConnell

BULLETIN COVER

A Visit © 2011 John August Swanson | Eyekons

Christmas Eve Celebration

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE LIVE NATIVITY. 1:00-3:00 p.m. Starting outside the Chapel and ending at the Sanctuary doors, you will walk through a Live Nativity and meet actors, animals, and readers who will reenact key moments from the Christmas story. Families are encouraged to sign up for a time slot to help with scheduling participants throughout the afternoon: <https://signup.com/go/CLoEVnN>.

PRERECORDED CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE STORY. Led by the children of our congregation, this simple worship service tells the story of Christmas through familiar scripture, actors, and carols. This prerecorded service will be available on the BMPC website on Christmas Eve for your family to enjoy.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS. 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary and livestreamed. Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols with the Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet preaching. This service will be livestreamed on the church website (www.bmpc.org/livestream) and BMPC's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/brynmawrpres) and YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/brynmawrpres).

Today

ADVENT GIFT MARKET. Today is the last day for in-person shopping in the Narthex. All are invited to participate in this creative and meaningful gift-giving program. Orders for gifts, inserts and greeting cards may be placed via the AGM website: www.BrynMawrAGM.com; by mailing/dropping off the order form enclosed in this year's catalog to the church office; or at the AGM table in the Narthex. Filled orders may be picked up from a bin labeled "Advent Gift Market" outside the BMPC Chapel door. Donors will be notified when orders are ready, usually 1-2 days after receipt of the order. When requested, insert cards may be downloaded and printed from your home computer. Marian Chitester, mmcthistle@verizon.net.

This Week

ADVENT STORY PATH LABYRINTH. Walking a labyrinth during Advent provides a meaningful way to journey to Bethlehem. The small labyrinth in the Chapel is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. An Advent Labyrinth Journey booklet is available.

ADVENT TUESDAY NOON RECITALS. Tues., Dec. 21, 12:00 p.m., Sanctuary. Join us during the season of Advent for the return of our Tuesday concert series! These concerts may be attended either in person (masks and social distancing required) or via livestream: <https://www.bmpc.org/livestream>. Our final concert is Dec. 21, and we welcome Jeffrey Brillhart and Edward Landin Senn who will present an organ duet program.

A WEE CHRISTMAS. Tues., Dec. 21, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary and livestreamed. Designed for children ages 2-5 and their families, this special retelling of the Christmas story allows our youngest members to hear and participate in the story of Jesus' birth. MaryRichards@bmpc.org.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE. Tues., Dec. 21, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary. This special worship service is for anyone who finds joy and celebration difficult to experience during the Christmas season. Scripture readings, the singing of carols, a brief meditation by the Rev. Brian K. Ballard, and a time of prayer to express our yearnings for healing and wholeness are intended to lead us through the long darkness. The Singing City Chamber Choir will help lead the music during this service which will be livestreamed on the church website and BMPC's Facebook page and YouTube channel. A labyrinth on the Education Building Lawn invites walkers following the service, weather permitting.

Upcoming

WELCOMING THE NEW YEAR WITH PRAYER. Beginning Fri., Dec. 31 online. Our Caring Ministries Team has put together a series of virtual prayer stations to help lead you through New Year's Eve. Each station focuses on a different theme: lament, remembering, silence, light, gratitude and intention. These stations lend a prayerful intention to the start of 2022 and a new calendar year. You may participate online, website link coming soon.

Caring and Sharing

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL REFUGEE EFFORTS. The BMPC Refugee Support Committee invites you to support the Afghan refugee family who moved into Foerderer House on Dec. 1. The committee is hard at work helping the family settle in, register for schools, and navigate the community. If you are interested in helping through donations or one-time volunteer opportunities such as driving, making meals or babysitting, you can use this link to sign up: <https://bit.ly/support-sepah>

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING. Supporting past, present and future leaders! A Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s, this Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges that serve communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Look for offering envelopes in the pew holders today, or note "Christmas Joy" on the memo line of your check.

Calendar

Sunday, December 19

- 8:00 a.m. Childcare, Ed. Bldg., Rm. 102
8:30 a.m. Faith Under 5 Sunday School, Virtual
9:00 a.m. Sunday School for Grades 1 & 2, Virtual
10:00 a.m. **Worship with Baptism & Sanctuary Choir,**
Sanctuary or Livestreamed Service on www.bmpc.org
Sunday School for ages 2 - 3, Ed. Bldg., Nursery
Sunday School for PreK & K, Ed. Bldg., Room 201
Sunday School for Grades 1 & 2, Ed. Bldg., Main Lobby
Sunday School for Grade 3, Ed. Bldg., Rm. 202 and Virtual
Sunday School for Grades 4 & 5, Ed. Bldg., Rm. 204 and Virtual
Worship Together Sunday for Grades 6-12
11:00 a.m. Advent Story Path Labyrinth - Open Walk, Children's Chapel

Monday, December 20

- 9:00 a.m. Advent Story Path Labyrinth - Open Walk, Children's Chapel

Tuesday, December 21

- 8:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Study Group, Ed. Bldg., Rm. 204
9:00 a.m. Advent Story Path Labyrinth - Open Walk, Children's Chapel
12:00 p.m. Advent Tuesday Noon Concert, Sanctuary or Livestream
4:00 p.m. Wee Christmas, Sanctuary or Livestream
Longest Night Rope Labyrinth Walk, Front Lawn
5:00 p.m. Mid-Week Meetup, Virtual
7:00 p.m. **Longest Night Service,**
Sanctuary or Livestreamed Service on www.bmpc.org

Wednesday, December 22

9:00 a.m. Advent Story Path Labyrinth - Open Walk, Children's Chapel
10:00 a.m. Coffee Cup Bible Study, Ed. Bldg., Rm. 204
Men's Study Group, Virtual

Thursday, December 23

9:00 a.m. Advent Story Path Labyrinth - Open Walk, Children's Chapel
7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir and Bryn Mawr Chamber Singers, Hybrid

Friday, December 24

9:00 a.m. Advent Story Path Labyrinth - Open Walk, Children's Chapel
1:00 p.m. Children's Outdoor Nativity, Front Lawn
7:30 p.m. **Christmas Eve Service,**
Sanctuary or Livestreamed Service on www.bmpc.org

Saturday, December 25

Church Office Closed: For pastoral emergencies, call 610-525-2821.

Sunday, December 26

10:00 a.m. **Worship, Sanctuary or Livestreamed Service on www.bmpc.org**
The Rev. Leigh DeVries will preach.

Monday, December 27

Church Office Closed: For pastoral emergencies, call 610-525-2821.

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Worship Staff

Agnes W. Norfleet, Pastor

Brian K. Ballard, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care & Senior Adults

Leigh DeVries, Associate Pastor for Youth & Their Families

Rebecca Kirkpatrick, Associate Pastor for Adult Education & Mission

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