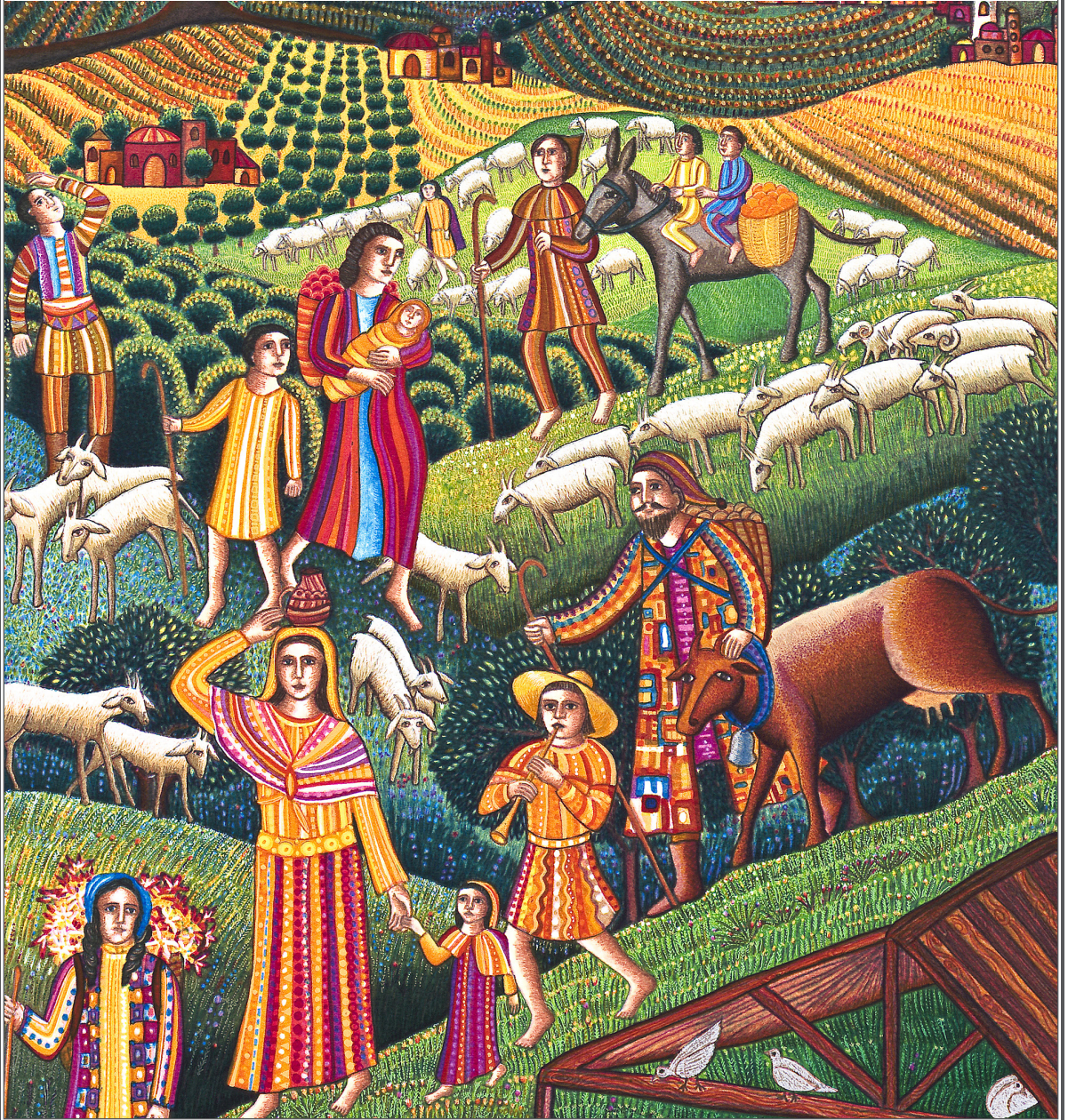


Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 17, 2023 | 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Third 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 Baptism & 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

Rainbow Reindeer Games

11:00 a.m., Gymnasium

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

Saviour of the Nations

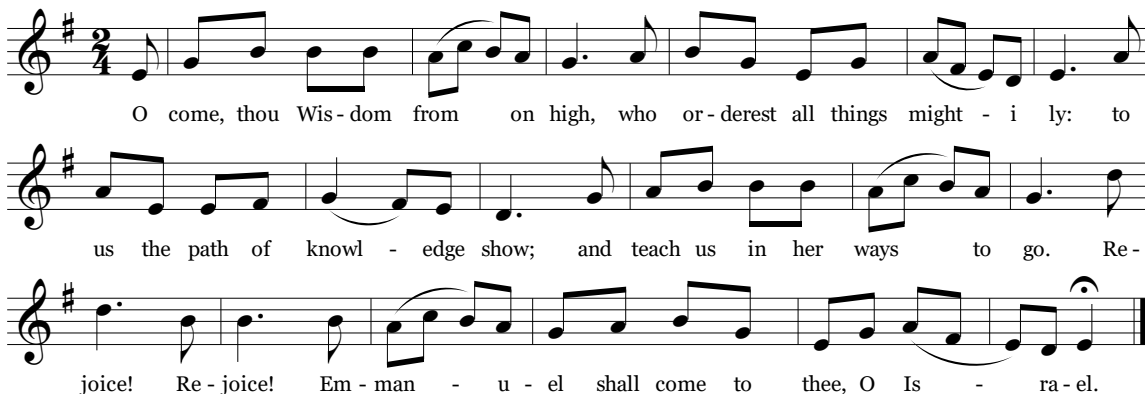
J. S. Bach

WELCOME

Rebecca Kirkpatrick

ADVENT INTROIT

VENI EMMANUEL



O come, thou Wis-dom from on high, who or-derest all things might - i ly: to
us the path of knowl - edge show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re -
joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

CALL TO WORSHIP &

Mike McMullan & Rachel Hanscom

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: The Prophet Isaiah says: "The spirit of the Lord is upon me,

People: **To bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up
the brokenhearted."**

Leader: The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary who had found favor with God,

People: **And said her child would be called the Son of the Most High.**

Leader: He would fulfill the promises of Isaiah to comfort all who mourn,

People: **To love justice and cause righteousness to spring up in the earth.**

Leader: May this small but abiding flame of joy

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

Leader: Help us, O God, to follow joy down your path of knowledge,

People: **And teach us in her ways to go.**

† HYMN 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

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

God, you are both mighty and tender;
you approach from on high and dwell in our midst.
You gather us in, feed us and bid us rest in your care.
Still we fear the world around us
and fail to relish in your help when we yearn for a Savior.
Yet you continue to call us to bear the light of Christ
in everything we do for family, friend, neighbor and stranger.
Forgive us and restore us, show us the light of your face
that we may be saved for the good work of the gospel.

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

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Rachel Pedersen

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 188

Jesus Loves Me!

JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rebecca Kirkpatrick

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (*pg. 691 in pew Bible*)

ANTHEM

Lo, in the time appointed

Healey Willan

Lo, in the time appointed the Lord will come will come, the Lord will come; the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands: for the Lord God shall come into his everlasting kingdom; and upon the throne of David shall he reign forever. Alleluia.

SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:26-38 (*pg. 56 in pew Bible*)

Agnes W. Norfleet

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Let it Be!

Agnes W. Norfleet

Third in series, Advent's Action Plan

† HYMN 109

Blest Be the God of Israel

MERLE'S TUNE

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Kirby Lawrence Hill

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

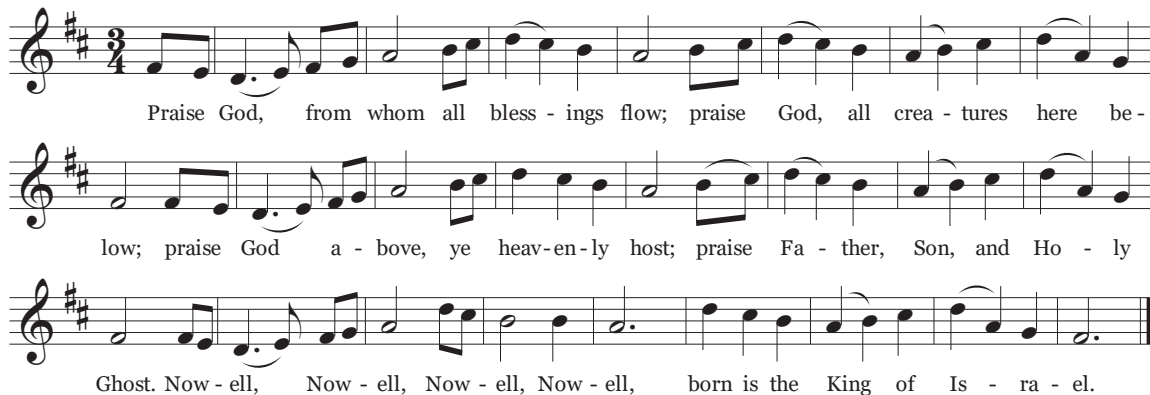
Creator of the Stars of Night

Malcolm Archer

Creator of the stars of night, Thy people's everlasting light, Jesu, Redeemer, save
us all, And hear thy servants when they call. Thou camest, bridegroom of the
bride, As drew the evening tide, Proceeding from a virgin shrine, The Son of
Man, yet all divine. At thy great name, exalted now, All knees must bend, all
hearts must bow, And things in heav'n and earth shall own, That thou art Lord
and King alone. God the Father, God the Son, and Spirit, Three in One, Laud,
honour, might and glory be, From age to age eternally. Amen, Amen, Amen.

*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**



† **PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Kirby Lawrence Hill

† **HYMN 132** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice **IN DULCI JUBILO**

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

POSTLUDE Savior of the Nations Pamela Decker

WORSHIP NOTES

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Maxwell Thomas Gerland

Son of Meredith & Scott Gerland

Zoe Pasion Walsh

Daughter of Erika & Barclay Walsh

PLAYING THE CARILLON

Rob Mygatt

BULLETIN COVER

John August Swanson | Nativity Detail

Season of Advent - Special Services

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@bmipc.org.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE. Wed., Dec. 20, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary and livestreamed. 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.

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. Assorted congregational and choir carols will be sung, including two World Premieres of works by Kim André Arnesen, commissioned in celebration of BMPC's 150 anniversary year as well as festive arrangements for two trumpets by Richard Webster. 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 on the coldest nights. Volunteers will work in shifts from 8:30p.m. to 6:30 a.m. the nights the shelter is open. A training will take place today at 1:00 p.m. in Congregational Hall for anyone interested in learning more. To receive the sign up link, and if you have questions, please contact RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org.

BMPC MEMBERS ART EXHIBIT. Ministries Center Art Gallery. Closes today. 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 exhibit ends today. 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

RAINBOW REINDEER GAMES. Today, 11:30 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>

This Week

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

Upcoming

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 10-20, 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

DEACONS' ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE. Mon., Jan. 22, 1:00-6:00 p.m., Congregational Hall. Volunteers needed to donate blood; register online:

<https://bit.ly/2024-Blood-Drive> Contact Monica Devane at 610-520-8823 or MDevane@bmpc.org.

Calendar

Sunday, December 17

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 Baptism & 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
11:30	a.m.	Rainbow Reindeer Games, Gymnasium

Monday, December 18

6:00	p.m.	Middle School Mondays, Gymnasium
7:00	p.m.	Hunger Committee Meeting, Cannon Room

Tuesday, December 19

10:30	a.m.	Tai Chi (Hybrid), Gymnasium
4:00	p.m.	Wee Christmas, Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 20

10:00	a.m.	Coffee Cup Bible Study (Hybrid), Cannon Room
5:00	p.m.	Longest Night Labyrinth Walk, Ed. Bldg, Front Lawn
5:30	p.m.	Wednesday Night Dinner, Congregational Hall
7:00	p.m.	High School Student Serve, Gymnasium
		Longest Night Worship Service, Sanctuary

Thursday, December 21

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

Friday, December 22

No Events Scheduled.

Saturday, December 23

7:00	a.m.	Saturday Morning Men's Group, Converse House Parlor
10:00	a.m.	Searching For Still Water Bereavement Group, Witherspoon Parlor

Sunday, December 24

10:00	a.m.	Sunday Worship with Sanctuary Choir Sanctuary and Livestreamed Service on www.bmpc.org The Rev. Dr. Agnes Norfleet will preach.
4:30	p.m.	Christmas Eve Family Service, Sanctuary
8:30	p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship Service with Communion, Sanctuary

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

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
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610-525-2821 • www.bmpc.org

www.facebook.com/BrynMawrPres

www.instagram.com/BrynMawrPres

www.twitter.com/BrynMawrPres

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