

# Christmas Eve

at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church



December 24, 2023, 4:30 p.m.  
The Nativity Tableau

# **WELCOME TO CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP AT BRYN MAWR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

We are glad you are worshipping with us,  
and we invite you to participate in future opportunities  
for worship, fellowship, and outreach.  
Please visit our website: [www.bmpc.org](http://www.bmpc.org) for more information.

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## **WORSHIP NOTES**

**Bulletin Cover Image**  
“Nativity” by Alexandra Reed

**Bryn Mawr Festival Brass**  
Andrew Connors, Trumpet 1  
Joseph Anderson, Trumpet 2  
Martina Adams, French horn  
Jarred Antonacci, Trombone  
William Connors, Tuba

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# THE NATIVITY TABLEAU

*Candles for "Silent Night" and children's bulletins are available at the entrance doors.  
As you arrive, please make space for others to join.*

## PRELUDE

Introduction et Variations sur un ancien Noël Polonais	Alexandre Guilmant
Cantique de Noël	T. Tertius Noble
Rhapsodie sur des Noël	Eugène Gigout

## WORDS OF PREPARATION

Children's Choir

*Please join when invited, singing the refrain from O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.*



## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

### WELCOME

Agnes W. Norfleet

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Eli Powers

One: Come, shout the good news:

**All: "A child has been born!"**

One: Come, proclaim the promise:

**All: "The Prince of Peace reigns!"**

One: Come, announce with the angels:

**All: "God is with us!"**

One: Come, young and old, weary, and joyful, come to worship:

**All: Tonight, Christ is born!**

*Please rise if able.*

- 1 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.*

## OPENING PRAYER

Youth Chorale

# LESSON 1: THE PROPHETS

## *THE PROPHETS TELL OF THE COMING OF THE SAVIOR*

Ruth Conway

### ISAIAH 9

Jackson England

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests on his shoulders; and he is named: wonderful counselor, mighty God, everlasting Father, prince of peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

### MICAH 5

Aria Albahary

But you, O Bethlehem, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

*Please rise if able.*

- 1 The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.

- 2 They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. (Refrain)
- 3 This star drew nigh to the northwest;  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay. (Refrain)
- 4 Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood our life hath bought. (Refrain)

*Please be seated.*

# LESSON 2: MARY AND JOSEPH

## LUKE TELLS OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS

### LUKE 2

Rosalie Kerr and Micah Lee

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

*Please remain seated.*

### CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

- 1    **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.**
- 2    **The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.**
- 3    **Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**



# LESSON 3: THE SHEPHERDS AND THE ANGELS

## THE SHEPHERDS GO TO THE MANGER

### LUKE 2, CONTINUED

Elliette Long, Greer McMahon, and Avery Stoy

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them,

*“Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”*

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

*“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and, on earth, peace to all the people!”*

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*Please rise if able.*



- 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 th'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 th' incarnate Deity,  
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King!"
- 3 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.*

# LESSON 4: THE STAR AND THE MAGI

## THE VISIT OF THE MAGI

### MATTHEW 2

Sasha Lou Albahary, Alex Conway, and Ivy Erdlen

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking,

*“Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, 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.’”*

The wise men set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, 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.

*Please remain seated.*

**All:** We three kings of Orient are;  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

**Refrain (All):** O, star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light!

**Soloist:** Born a King on Bethlehem's plain;  
Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King forever, ceasing never,  
Over us all to reign. **Refrain (All)**

**Soloist:** Frankincense to offer have I;  
Incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising gladly raising,  
Worshiping God Most High. **Refrain (All)**

**Soloist:** Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone cold tomb. **Refrain (All)**

**All:** Glorious now behold Him arise;  
King and God and sacrifice;  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Sounds through the earth and skies. **Refrain (All)**

## CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

Rebecca Kirkpatrick

## OFFERTORY CAROL

Ding, Dong! Merrily on High

Gerald Near

Ding, dong! Merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing: Ding, dong! Verily the sky is riven with angels singing. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis! E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen, and "I-o, i-o, i-o" by priest and people sung. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis! Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers; May you beautifully rhyme your eve-time song, ye singers. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

One: Loving God, you were born a child to bring light and life to a world filled with hate and fear. You understand our joys, our worries, and our struggles. You listen when we cry out. Listen to our voices and listen in the silence:

We give thanks for the gifts shared, for the offering collected, for the songs sung, for the welcome extended, and for the opportunity to be together. God of Hope, guide us in gratitude for all that we have received.  
Lord, hear our prayer.

**All: Be our light and our way.**

One: We pray tonight with all who are hungry, hurting, alone, or afraid. We pray with those in places of danger and in need of a safe place to rest. God of Peace, guard a place for each one. Help us care for one another as we heal.  
Lord, hear our prayer.

**All: Be our light and our life.**

One: We pray tonight with each one gathered here. Be with us in our celebrations, in our fears, in our work, in our rest, and in our lives. God of Joy, journey beside us each and every day. Lord, hear our prayer.

**All: Be our light and our guide.**

One: God whose love knows no bounds, teach us to love one another and ourselves so that we might be called your children and share your love with the world. O Living Word, guide us as we pray as you taught us saying:

**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.**

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing  
 Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging angels singing, nowells ringing,  
 tidings bringing, Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Flocks were sleeping, shepherds  
 keeping vigil till the morning new; Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a  
 gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow,  
 Christ the Babe was born for you!

## LESSON 5: THE LIGHT SHINES

*“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”*

### JOHN 1

Morgan Gunther, Alex Nicholas, and Charlie Reiner

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was  
 God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him,  
 and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him  
 was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness,  
 and the darkness did not overcome it.

### LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE AND PASSING THE LIGHT

*Candle lighters will bring the light to you. As you receive the “light of Christ,” please tilt your  
 unlit candle toward the flame, and pass the light to your neighbor.*

*Please remain seated.*

### CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1 Silent night, holy night!</b><br/> <b>All is calm, all is bright</b><br/> <b>‘Round yon Virgin Mother and Child!</b><br/> <b>Holy Infant so tender and mild,</b><br/> <b>Sleep in heavenly peace,</b><br/> <b>Sleep in heavenly peace.</b></p>     | <p><b>3 Silent night, holy night!</b><br/> <b>Son of God, love’s pure light</b><br/> <b>Radiant beams from Thy holy face,</b><br/> <b>With the dawn of redeeming grace,</b><br/> <b>Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,</b><br/> <b>Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.</b></p> |
| <p><b>2 Silent night, holy night!</b><br/> <b>Shepherds quake at the sight;</b><br/> <b>Glories stream from heaven afar,</b><br/> <b>Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;</b><br/> <b>Christ, the Savior is born,</b><br/> <b>Christ, the Savior is born.</b></p> |   |

## BENEDICTION

Rachel Pedersen

*Please rise if able.*

## RECESSIONAL CAROL

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

- 1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come.  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

## POSTLUDE

Improvisation

Jeffrey Brillhart

*Please return the candle holders as you leave.*

# **WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

## **HOLY FAMILY AND INNKEEPER**

Emily Penick, Chris Penick, Charlie Penick, Teddy Penick

## **ANGELS**

Katie Graham, Ford Griffith, June Gunther, Henley Hirt, Elliette Long, Brylee Pollock, Finley Pollock,  
William Schneider, Savvy Young

## **SHEPHERDS AND SHEEP**

Ellie Arnold, Maggie Arnold, Henry Conway, Caleb England, Hunter England, Hugh Fleuter,  
Mac Griffith, Brooks Hirt, Oakley Lanphier, Henry Lee, Jonathan Leong, Pallavi Misra, Tyler Noone,  
Evelyn Penick, Thomas Peter, Charlie Pottorff, Van Reiner, Celia Schneider, Arabella Senn, Carter Stoy,  
Rose Wiborg

## **MAGI AND SCRIBES**

Alex Conway, Sam Erdlen, Charlie Griffith, Kirby Lanphier, Andrew Lee, Parker Nicholas, Ryder Noone,  
Bella Peterson, Ollie Pottorff, Anthony Senn, Vincent Young

## **READERS**

Aria Albahary, Sasha Lou Albahary, Ruth Conway, Jackson England, Fiona Erdlen, Ivy Erdlen,  
Morgan Gunther, Rosalie Kerr, Micah Lee, Greer McMahon, Joe McMahon, Alex Nicholas,  
Eli Powers, Charlie Reiner, Avery Stoy

## **THE THREE KINGS SOLOISTS**

Siddhartha Misra, Nicholas Provenzale, Owen Yoder

## **CARILLONNEUR**

Paul McConnell

# **CHOIR PARTICIPANTS**

## **CHILDREN'S CHOIR, YOUTH CHORALE, AND FRIENDS**

Nina Bertrand, Kat Dee, Robert Dee, Taisiia Druchek, Kara Goodrich, Valerie Haber, Paul McConnell,  
Masie McMahon, Sunny McMahon, Oscar Medina, Siddhartha Misra, Sidney Nicholas,  
Nicholas Provenzale, Amelia Reiner, Owen Yoder, John Zalewski

Thank you to all the volunteers and staff who make  
this worship service possible!



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Paul and Patricia Axt  
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Alan E. Cobb  
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Middy and Elmer Craig  
Virginia T. Crone  
Misty Dailey  
Patricia Dailey  
Robert E. Dailey  
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Jean Carson Epps  
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H. Eugene Fisk  
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Elsie S. and Richard H. Flood  
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Charlotte H. Freeman and William K. Freeman  
David N. Freeman  
Mary Louise and Frank Fuller  
Terry Ann Gallagher  
Edward Joseph and Elizabeth Harper Gillespie  
Nancy Porter Gillespie  
Jean L. Gohn  
Stuart Gord  
Bayard M. and Ruthann H. Graf

# CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

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Joyce Hackman and Rowland Lex  
Eileen Haller  
George and Hazel Haller  
Richard Haller  
David Stewart Hanna  
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James Alexander Hughes  
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Mrs. Kathleen Robinson Mackie Lake  
Philip and Judy LaLeike  
Steve LaMantia  
Margaret and Jacob A. Lark

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Richard W. Ledwith  
James R. Ledwith  
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Duke and Mary Winston Norfleet  
Donald Smith Page

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Warren and Barbara Snyder  
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Thomas Stout

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# CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

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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  
BMPC's Sunday School Teachers & Volunteers  
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The Jeff Engelman Family  
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Richard W. Knecht  
Grammy and Grandad Lucas  
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

# **Merry Christmas**

from the staff of  
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

## **PASTORAL STAFF**

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

**The Rev. 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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**Cheryl Ferry**, Assistant, Receivables & Stewardship

**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

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**Robin Macon**, Director of The Weekday School

**Toshi Makihara**, Facilities Specialist

**Kiki McKendrick**, Director, The Middleton Counseling Center

**Sarah Miciak**, Director, Finance

**Tom Monaco**, Facilities Specialist

**Homer Ramos**, Supervisor, Facilities & Maintenance

**Iris Ramos**, Preferred Caterer

**Andrew Reeves**, Facilities Specialist

**Mary Richards**, Assistant, Children & Family Ministry, Wedding Coordinator

**Rich Rivera**, Director, Facilities & Maintenance

**Matthew Rowe**, Graphic Design & Multimedia Specialist

**Katie Singh**, Program Assistant for Children and Family Ministry &

Accounts Payable and Human Resources Assistant

**Kathryn West**, Social Worker