



Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 8, 2024

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary



Gathering of God's People

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

We invite you to prepare for worship in quiet reflection.

PRELUDE Veni, Veni Emmanuel

Pamela Decker

Three Vignettes on "Conditor alme siderum"

Edward Landin Senn

WELCOME

Rachel Pedersen

ADVENT INTROIT

TIF IN VELDELE



Light two can-dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.



He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Sarah, Morgan, and June Gunther

One The Lord declares: "I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me."

All **But who can endure the presence of the Lord?**

One The Lord is like a refiner's fire, and we will be purified like silver and gold.

All **We will be made righteous and holy in the light of the Lord.**

One Today we light the candle of peace.

All **We trust in God's peace which surpasses our understanding.**

One Peace is like a light shining boldly in the darkness.

All **May this small but persistent flame give light to the world.**

Please stand, if able.

CALL TO CONFESSION AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All **O God, who comes to us, in the wilderness you sent a messenger to prepare human hearts for the coming of Christ. We rejoice that through the centuries your message of expectation has brought hope and peace to your people. Forgive us for failing to discern your presence with us, for relying on the things of this world to fill our lives with meaning, and for failing to follow the risky paths of discipleship. By your steady presence among us, lead us to practice a faith of service in the way of Jesus Christ.**

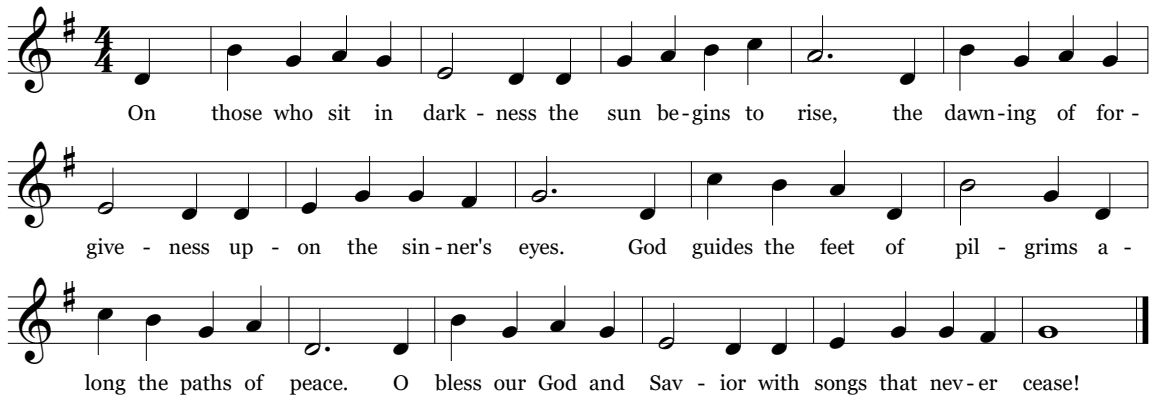
A moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

During the Sung Response, children are invited to come forward for the Children's Moment.

SUNG RESPONSE

MERLE'S TUNE



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

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

Kirby Lawrence Hill

FIRST LESSON Malachi 3:1-4

(pg. 889 in pew Bible)

ANTHEM Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

arr. Robert Leaf

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand Christ our God to earth descending comes our homage to demand. King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood, Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood, He will give to call the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.

SECOND LESSON Luke 3:1-6

Agnes W. Norfleet

(pg. 60 in pew Bible)

One The Word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *Company's Coming*

Agnes W. Norfleet

God Comes Home Advent Series

Response to the Word

Please stand, if able.

HYMN 87 Comfort, Comfort Now My People

GENEVAN 42

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Kirby Lawrence Hill

All **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

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.**

MINISTRY MOMENT Refugee Support

Mohib Hasrat

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Kirby Lawrence Hill

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Prophecy of Zechariah

Ken Lowenberg

Now the time came, and Elizabeth bore a son, and he was named John. Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit, and spoke this prophecy: “And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

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

Kirby Lawrence Hill

HYMN 88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

Agnes W. Norfleet

POSTLUDE Savior of the Nations, Come

J.S. Bach

Worship & Music Notes

PLAYING THE CARILLON

Rob Mygatt

BULLETIN COVER

Nativity Three, Kate Cosgrove ©2014. Used with permission.

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WELCOME TO BRYN MAWR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

This is the time of the year when we celebrate the great God of all creation who chose to become one with us in the person of Jesus Christ. Each individual who joins our worship and work helps us embody the incarnate nature of being the church together. Whether you are a longtime member or a first-time visitor, you are welcome here! We hope that worship may be the entrée into deeper engagement of Christian formation, nurture, and outreach so that together we fulfill our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ.



The Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet
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 in the Atrium following the worship service. All of our programs, ministries, and opportunities for mission are open to everyone. Learn more at bmpc.org.

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 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.

Announcements

TODAY

Stewardship 2025: Bryn Mawr Gives Light.

Literally! Your pledges keep the lights on, the buildings cooled and heated, the grass cut, and the snow shoveled. But these costs continue to go up every year. Please consider increasing your pledge to reflect the increased costs BMPC faces each year. Thank you!

Looking ALONG Advent: C. S. Lewis and a Christian Vision of Today's World.

Sun., Dec. 8, 15, 22, 11:15 a.m., Fullerton Room. C.S. Lewis, renowned for his works on Christian apologetics and the beloved "Chronicles of Narnia" series, significantly influenced 20th-century literature and theological thought, blending imaginative storytelling with profound philosophical and religious insights. In the season of Advent, we will learn more about how his theology and insights can inform our understanding and experience of Advent from theologian Dr. Steven Boyer of Eastern University, a scholar of Lewis' work.

Code Blue Volunteer Training. Sun., Dec. 8, 3:00 p.m., Congregational Hall. For the month of January, BMPC will host a Code Blue Shelter to house up to five men sleeping outside in Lower Merion on the coldest nights. Volunteers will work in shifts between 8:30 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. on nights

the shelter is open. Training will take place for anyone interested in learning more.

To receive the link to sign up to volunteer, and if you have questions, please contact JenniferMcArthur@bmpc.org

Live Nativity & Advent Workshop. Sun., Dec. 8, 4:00 p.m., Front Lawn. Families are invited to dress for the weather and experience the Christmas Story, meeting live animals and actors while creating ornaments and simple gifts to share. Evening worship at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary will follow. Register to volunteer at bit.ly/LiveNativityVolunteer Contact, MaryRichards@bmpc.org

Christmas Angels. Deliver to the Ministries Center reception desk or Ed. Bldg. Hall by Sun., Dec. 8. Share the spirit of Christmas by adopting a family or sponsoring a child (three to five gifts per child). Gift cards in \$25 increments from Amazon, Walmart, Target, Giant, and ShopRite are preferred. If you wish to buy a gift, you may sponsor a child's Christmas at bit.ly/BMPCXmasAngels2024, buy a general gift for a child (Legos, toiletry sets, Rubik's Cubes, makeup, cards and card games, board games, fidget toys, basketballs or footballs), or purchase from Gemma's Amazon Wish List: bit.ly/GemmaNeeds Contact, BMPCAngels@gmail.com

Advent Gift Market. Sundays through Dec. 22, 11:15 a.m., Atrium. AGM provides the opportunity to purchase alternative gifts at Christmas for friends and family in support of a wide variety of partners around the world. AGM representatives will be present in the Atrium before and after worship to place orders and answer questions about mission groups and their chosen projects. Orders may also be placed online at www.BrynMawrAGM.com

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, 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., and Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Contact, KMckKendrick@bmpc.org

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Support Our Local Refugee Efforts. The BMPC Refugee Support Committee continues to support local families and individuals making a new home in our community. This season, we are looking for volunteers willing to assist refugees in their job search. Employment opportunities are needed for Afghans with undergraduate and graduate degrees and work experience in finance, accounting, project management, fundraising, construction companies, and labor and delivery. If you have or know of potential opportunities

or helpful networking possibilities, contact JenniferMcArthur@bmpc.org

Wee Christmas. Wed., Dec. 18, 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! Contact, MaryRichards@bmpc.org

Longest Night Service. Wed., Dec. 18, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary and Livestream. This contemplative worship service is for anyone yearning for comfort amid personal grief and hope for a more peaceful world. The Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet will lead a meditation accompanied by prayer, carol singing, and candle lighting, leading us through darkness toward healing and wholeness. Weather permitting, a labyrinth on the Education Building Lawn will welcome walkers following the service.

UPCOMING

Advent Harpsichord Series: Edward Landin Senn with Brendan Dooley, flute. Tues., Dec. 10, noon, Sanctuary. On Tuesdays in Advent, join us as local harpsichordists perform assorted repertoire on BMPC's Robert Hauptfuhrer Memorial Harpsichord, crafted by the renowned William Dowd in 1966. This instrument, designed in the style of a French 'double' (with two keyboards), is modeled after a 1770

French Taskin harpsichord from the Yale University Musical Instrument Collection.

Rainbow Reindeer Games. Sun., Dec. 15, 11:30 a.m., Front Lawn. All youth in grades 5-12 are invited to Rainbow Reindeer Games. We will provide pizza, play ridiculously fun games, and have a great time. Friends are welcome to join. Register at bit.ly/RRGames2024 Contact, MaryRichards@bmpc.org

Christmas Lessons and Carols. Sun., Dec. 15, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary. You are invited to join the Sanctuary Choir, Bryn Mawr Festival Brass Ensemble, readers, and carillonneur Lisa Lonie as they bring a century-old tradition of Lessons and Carols to BMPC. In this service, we will listen to nine Scripture lessons that recount the Fall from Grace, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is followed by a carol sung by the

choir or congregation that reflects on the lesson's message.

CARING AND SHARING

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

Casserole Blitz. Sat., Dec. 14, 8:30 a.m., Ministries Center Kitchen. Join us to make casseroles at the Hunger Committee's Casserole Blitz! Enjoy this family activity (children over age 5) as you get to know BMPC folks you haven't met before and support a good cause while working with others to prepare casseroles for area shelters. RSVP to sign up: bit.ly/Blitz-RSVP

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Christmas Eve Family Service. Tues., Dec. 24, 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. Tues., Dec. 24, 8:30 p.m., Sanctuary and Livestreamed. Carols and anthems led by BMPC's Sanctuary Choir with String Quartet. The Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet will preach. Prelude begins at 8:10 p.m.

Calendar

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

- 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
- 8:45 a.m. Filling the Well, Children's Library, Ed. Bldg.
- 9:00 a.m. Frida Kahlo and the Art of Portraiture, Gallery
- 9:55 a.m. Sunday School Ages 2s, 3s, and Pre-K, Ed. Bldg.
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship with Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary and Livestreamed**
- 10:00 a.m. Youth Gathering, Gym Youth Lounge
- 10:15 a.m. Sunday School K-5th Grade, Ed. Bldg.
- 11:00 a.m. Family Fellowship, Ed. Bldg. Hall
- 11:00 a.m. Atrium Cafe, Atrium
- 11:15 a.m. Looking ALONG Advent, Fullerton Room
- 3:00 p.m. Code Blue Training, Congregational Hall
- 4:00 p.m. Live Nativity & Advent Workshop, Front Lawn
- 5:30 p.m. **Evening Worship, Sanctuary**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

- 10:00 a.m. **William W. "Bill" Shinn Memorial Service, Chapel**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

- 8:30 a.m. APNC for Congregational Care Meeting, Gloucester Room
- 9:00 a.m. RePose Yoga (Hybrid), Gymnasium
- 10:30 a.m. Tai Chi (Hybrid), Gymnasium
- 12:00 p.m. Advent Harpsichord Concert, Sanctuary
- 1:00 p.m. Dance for Parkinson's Disease Class, Gymnasium
- 6:45 p.m. BMPC Tutoring Program, Ed. Bldg. Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting, Fullerton Room

Calendar

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

- 9:30 a.m. Yoga206 Bone Boost, Gymnasium
- 10:00 a.m. Coffee Cup Bible Study, Cannon Room
- 10:00 a.m. Men's Book Group, Converse House Parlor
- 4:30 p.m. Wednesday Connection Group, Converse House Parlor
- 4:45 p.m. Beginners' Choir Rehearsal, Ed. Bldg. Hall
- 4:45 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal, Children & Youth Rehearsal Room
- 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner, Congregational Hall
- 5:45 p.m. Youth Chorale Rehearsal, Children & Youth Rehearsal Room
- 7:00 p.m. Student Serve, Gym Youth Lounge
- 7:00 p.m. Trustee Meeting, Fullerton Room

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

- 9:30 a.m. Singing for Life, Rehearsal Room
- 9:45 a.m. FIT4MOM, Gymnasium
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Rehearsal Room

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

- 9:45 a.m. FIT4MOM, Gymnasium

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

- 7:00 a.m. Saturday Morning Men's Connection Group, Converse House Parlor
- 8:30 a.m. Casserole Blitz, Congregational Hall
- 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Dress Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Searching for Still Waters Bereavement Group, Witherspoon Parlor

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

- 8:00 a.m. **Worship with Communion, Chapel**
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship with Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary and Livestreamed**
The Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet 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!



CONNECT WITH US



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Worship Staff

Agnes W. Norfleet, Pastor

Andy Greenhow, Interim 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

Jeffrey Brillhart, Director of Music & Fine Arts

Edward Landin Senn, Assistant Director of Music