



Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 15, 2024
8:00 a.m., Chapel



Gathering of God's People

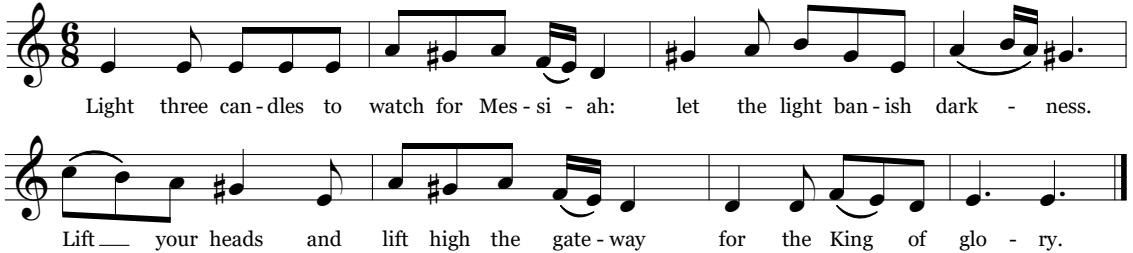
PRELUDE

WELCOME

Rachel Pedersen

ADVENT INTROIT

TIF IN VELDELE



Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si-ah: let the light ban-ish dark-ness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo-ry.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Keith Brinks

- One** Sing aloud, O children of God; shout with joy!
All **Rejoice and exult with all your heart;**
One the Lord has taken away the judgments against you.
All **God walks among us, for the Spirit of Christ is in our midst.**
One Today we light the candle of joy.
All **We are heirs to a joy that cannot be contained.**
One Joy is like a light shining bright in the darkness.
All **May this small but persistent flame give light to the world.**

Please stand, if able.

HYMN 83 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

STUTT GART

CALL TO CONFESSION AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- All** **God with us, Emmanuel, we hear the call to repentance, but we struggle to respond. A voice tells us to turn toward you, but we prefer to follow our own ways. We see the need of those around us, but we walk by in haste with little time to stop and serve. You**

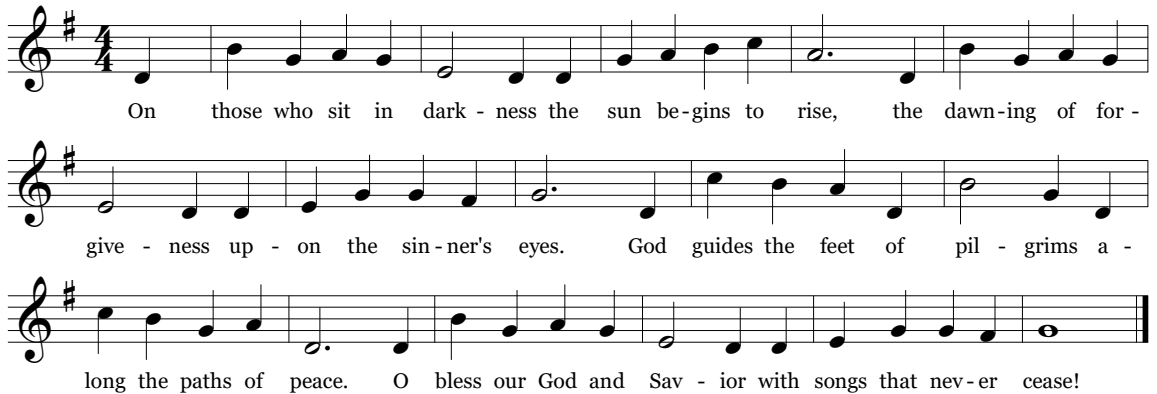
have blessed us with abundant gifts, but we can be stingy with our time and resources. Forgive us, and inspire us anew to be generous toward the world you so love that we may fulfill our calling as disciples of Christ.

A moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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!

Hearing of the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Keith Brinks

FIRST LESSON Zephaniah 3:14-20

(pg. 877 in pew Bible)

SECOND LESSON Luke 3:7-18

(pg. 60 in pew Bible)

Agnes W. Norfleet

One The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Household Renovations*

God Comes Home Advent Series

Agnes W. Norfleet

Response to the Word

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Rachel Pedersen

You are invited to come forward, using the center aisle, to partake of the Lord's Supper by intinction (dipping a piece of bread into the cup); return to your seat using the side aisle.

Gluten- and casein-free elements are on the center table.

You are invited to bring your offering when you come forward.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

One Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

One Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Agnes W. Norfleet

Please stand, if able.

HYMN 804 Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

MARION

SENDING AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Agnes W. Norfleet

One The peace of Christ be with you.
All **And also with you.**

POSTLUDE

"I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE."

Joyce E. Moriarty - December 6, 2024

Worship Notes

ASSISTING WITH COMMUNION

Keith Brinks, Elder

USHER

Tom Willcox

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

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 and Carol Sing 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. For those who prefer a quieter setting, Congregational Hall will be available as a remote viewing space for our 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.

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 the Bryn Mawr Festival String Quartet. The Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet will preach. Prelude begins at 8:10 p.m.

TODAY

Stewardship 2025: Bryn Mawr Gives Light.

In nine days, we will stand together at a Christmas Eve service, candles in hand, and watch the sanctuary—once full of darkness—begin to glow with hundreds of tiny flames. It's a beautiful and powerful image, a reminder of how one small light can grow and multiply, filling the space with light. By supporting Stewardship 2025: Bryn Mawr Gives Light, you can help spread that light throughout the congregation, the community, and the world. Thank you for your gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

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.

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, contact AndyGreenhow@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.

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

Caroling in the Atrium with Singing for Life. Sun., Dec. 22, 11:15 a.m., Atrium. Following worship, join the Singing for Life choir in the Atrium for a festive performance of traditional Christmas carols. All are welcome to participate as part of the choir or as attendees. We look forward to celebrating the season together through song.

Code Blue Volunteers Needed. 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. Visit bit.ly/CodeBlueVolunteer to sign up! Contact JenniferMcArthur@bmpc.org to receive the training video and more information.

UPCOMING

Advent Harpsichord Series: Gabriel Benton. Tues., Dec. 17, 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.

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 Livestreamed. 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.

CARING AND SHARING

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

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, DECEMBER 15

- 7:45 a.m. Childcare (Birth-Kindergarten), Ed. Bldg., Rm. 101
- 8:00 a.m. **Worship with Communion, Chapel**
- 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, Gymnasium
- 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
- 11:30 a.m. Rainbow Reindeer Games, Gymnasium and Front Lawn
- 4:00 p.m. **Christmas Lessons and Carols Service, Sanctuary**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

- 7:00 p.m. Hunger Committee Meeting, Cannon Room

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

- 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

Calendar

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

- 9:30 a.m. Yoga206 Bone Boost, Gymnasium
- 10:00 a.m. Coffee Cup Bible Study, Cannon Room
- 4:00 p.m. Wee Christmas, Sanctuary
- 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
- 5:00 p.m. Candlelit Labyrinth Walk for Longest Night, Front Lawn
- 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner, Congregational Hall
- 5:45 p.m. Youth Chorale Rehearsal, Children & Youth Rehearsal Room
- 7:00 p.m. **Longest Night Worship Service, Sanctuary and Livestreamed**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

- 9:45 a.m. FIT4MOM, Gymnasium
- 11:00 a.m. Singing for Life Holiday Concert, Off Campus
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Rehearsal Room

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

- 9:45 a.m. FIT4MOM, Gymnasium

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

- 7:00 a.m. Saturday Morning Men's Connection Group, Converse House Parlor
- 2:00 p.m. **Diane Aureden Memorial Service, Chapel**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

- 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



BrynMawrPres



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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