



First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, December 29, 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 Two Carol Settings

In the Bleak Midwinter

O Jesus, So Sweet

Pamela Decker

Rebecca Groom te Velde

WELCOME

Rebecca Kirkpatrick

CALL TO WORSHIP

One Let us go, in heart and mind, to see what has come to pass.

Let us go with the shepherds:

All Let us go to find the Savior!

One Let us go with the wise ones:

All Let us go to find God's promise, born for us!

One Let us go with the poor and humble:

All Let us go to find our King, born in a lowly manger.

One Let us go with all the world, with all the peoples of the nations.

Come, let us worship; come, let us adore him:

All Christ the Lord!

Please stand, if able.

HYMN 113 Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

CALL TO CONFESSION AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All O God, in the beginning you spoke,
and creation was born, the object of your loving care.
In the fullness of time you spoke,
and the Word became flesh, Jesus, gift of your love.
We wonder at the miracle of creation;
we stand in awe before the mystery of the incarnation.**

**Forgive us earthbound creatures, feeble in faith,
empty of hope, lacking in love.**

**This year let the miracle and mystery of Christmas happen for us
again. We wait upon you with ready hearts, O God,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

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 115 Away in a Manger (verse 3)

MUELLER

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.

Proclamation of the Word

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rachel Pedersen

Following the Children's Moment, children return to their families in the Sanctuary.

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.

FIRST LESSON 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

(pg. 246 in pew Bible)

ANTHEM And There Were Shepherds

J.S. Bach

Siddhartha Misra, tenor; Mindy Rubinlicht, soprano

And there were shepherds in the same country, abiding in the field, keeping watch by night over their flock. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid. And the angel said to them, “be not afraid, behold, for I bring good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all the people. For unto you this day a Saviour is born, which is Christ, the Lord, in the city of David.” Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning; ye shepherds, shrink not with affright, but hear the angel’s warning. This child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be, the power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

SECOND LESSON Luke 2:41-52

Andy Greenhow

(pg. 59 in pew Bible)

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

SERMON *The Entangled Incarnation*

Andy Greenhow

Response to the Word

Please stand, if able.

HYMN 142 ‘Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

UNE JEUNE PUCELLE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rachel Pedersen

**All We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from
 Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being**

with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

~ From The Nicene Creed

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.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Torches

John Joubert

Torches, run with torches all the way to Bethlehem! Christ is born and now lies sleeping; Come and sing your song to him! Ah, Roro, my baby, Ah, Roro, my love; Sleep you well, my heart's own darling, while we sing you our Roro. Sing, my friends, and make you merry, Joy and mirth and joy again; Lo, he lives, the King of heaven, Now and evermore, Amen.

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 HUNDREDDTH

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

Rachel Pedersen

HYMN 136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

Andy Greenhow

POSTLUDE Carillon on "Joy to the World"

Mary Beth Bennett

"I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE."

Allen C. Brown - December 18, 2024

Ann B. Capers - December 20, 2024

Sallie L. Mentzer - December 21, 2024

Amy Ferguson - December 22, 2024

Worship & Music Notes

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Given to the glory of God and in celebration of the marriage of
Ludmila and Daniel Hallowell

PLAYING THE CARILLON

Rob Mygatt

BULLETIN COVER

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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

Carillon Tour. Sun., Dec. 29, 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary. Come see the instrument that welcomes you to worship and leads you out after services. Meet in the Choir Loft following the postlude to climb the tower stairs and see the bells. If you have keyboard skills and wish to take lessons with one of our carillonneurs, or if you want to become a BMPC carillonneur, contact ToriFisher@bmpc.org

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Confirmation Class Update. In this year of pastoral transitions, our Confirmation program is in full swing, with 18 students preparing to join the church this coming May. Classes this year are being taught by the Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick and take place during the 10:00 hour alongside all of our youth Sunday School classes. Please keep our students, their families, and their mentors in your prayers this season.

The Labyrinth Ministry. Tues., Jan. 7, 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Congregational Hall. All are invited to walk our Chartres canvas labyrinth. Quiet your mind, calm your anxieties, welcome insight and reduce stress.

Men's Discussion Group. Starting Jan. 8, 10 a.m., Converse House Parlor. All men are welcome to join this in-person study and discussion group that meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the program year. This winter we will read Lee Stroble's classic book *The Case for Christ*. Retracing his own spiritual journey from atheism to faith, Lee Strobel, former legal editor of the *Chicago Tribune*, cross-examines a dozen experts with doctorates from schools like Cambridge, Princeton, and Brandeis who are recognized authorities in their own fields. The group will be led by the Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill. To register and to find out how to purchase the book, contact KirbyLHill@bmpc.org

Sunday Morning Discussion Group. Starting Sun., Jan. 12, 8:30 a.m., Cannon Room and via Zoom. For thousands of years, people have asked the question, "What is God really like?" There have been many answers. We will examine twelve from the book *Finding God*, which explores various ways that the Jewish tradition has sought after and encountered God. For information about joining the class, receiving the Zoom link, and purchasing a book, contact Paul MacMurray at katrmac2@icloud.com

Filling The Well. Starting Sun. Jan. 12, 8:45 a.m., Children's Library, Ed. Bldg. This Sunday morning class for women will study pastor Eugenia Gamble's book *Tending the Wild Garden: Growing in the Fruits of the Spirit*. Through biblical traditions and personal reflections, Gamble explores the ways that we can cultivate traits such as kindness, gentleness, hope, and joy in our lives. The Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick leads this class. For more information and to reserve a copy of the book, contact RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org

UPCOMING

Strong Bones and Bone Health. Thurs., Jan. 9, 16 and 23, 1:00 p.m., Zoom. Maintaining bone health is critical to overall health as we age. Joanne P. Fagerstrom, PT, CFP, and owner of Mindful Physical Therapy, uses a holistic approach to bone health and exercise in treating osteopenia and osteoporosis patients. Ms. Fagerstrom will offer a virtual program focusing on bone health and exercise, with special attention to osteopenia and osteoporosis. Please bring hand-held weights (1-3 lbs. or a weight you're comfortable with). This free program includes recordings for participants to review and practice exercises at their convenience. Register with [Jennifer McArthur@bmpc.org](mailto:JenniferMcArthur@bmpc.org) to receive the Zoom link and additional details.

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

Code Blue 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 between 8:30p.m. to 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.

Deacons' Annual Blood Drive. Mon., Jan. 13, 1:00-6:00 p.m., Congregational Hall. Be a lifesaver! Volunteers are needed to donate blood at our Annual Deacons' Blood Drive. Your generous contribution can make a vital difference in someone's life. Register at bit.ly/2024-Blood-Drive today to give the gift of life. For more info., please contact MonicaDevane@bmpc.org or call 610-520-8823.

Calendar

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

- 8:45 a.m. Childcare (Birth-Kindergarten), Ed. Bldg., Rm. 101
9:00 a.m. Frida Kahlo and the Art of Portraiture, Gallery
10:00 a.m. **Worship with Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary and Livestreamed**
10:00 a.m. Worship Together Sunday (All Grades), Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Family Fellowship, Ed. Bldg. Hall
11:00 a.m. Atrium Cafe, Atrium
11:15 a.m. Carillon Tour, Sanctuary

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30

No events scheduled.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

Church offices close at noon.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

Campus closed. Happy New Year!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

- 9:45 a.m. FIT4MOM, Gymnasium
10:00 a.m. Senior Adult Council Meeting, Virtual

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

- 7:00 a.m. Saturday Morning Men's Connection Group, Converse House Parlor

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

- 10:00 a.m. **Worship with Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary and Livestreamed**
The Rev. Dr. Kirby Lawrence Hill 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