

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 5, 2021 | 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Second 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 outside the Sanctuary doors following the Worship Service. All of our programs, ministries, and opportunities for mission are open to everyone. Come join us!

COVID-19 GUIDELINES

Masks are required for both fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people inside church buildings. Masks are not required for outdoor spaces. Please maintain physical distance inside, and be mindful that we are an intergenerational community and that while COVID vaccines are available for children ages five to 11, some children may not have been vaccinated.

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 the following day.

CHILDCARE AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

Childcare is available on Sundays from 8:00 a.m. to noon 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 Rebecca Kellich 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

8:00 a.m., Ed. Bldg., Rm. 102

10:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary

Sunday School

Ages 2 to Grade 5
10:00 a.m., Ed. Bldg.

Youth Gathering & Confirmation Class

10:00 a.m., Foerderer House,
2nd Floor

Advent Workshop

11:00 a.m., Front Lawn

Christmas Angels

Drive-thru Drop Off
1:00 p.m., Education Building,
Fishers Road Driveway

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

Savior of the Nations, Come

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

Brian K. Ballard

ADVENT INTROIT (please remain seated)



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Janney Ryan and Cindy Pierce

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: On this second Sunday of Advent, we light this candle of peace.

All: We welcome the peace that comes from trusting that God is at work in our lives.

One: May this candle of peace bring light to the presence of God in our midst!

All: May our words and actions bear witness to the peace of God in the world!

One: Let us sing our hope for peace.

† HYMN 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

CALL TO CONFESSION

AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*in unison*)

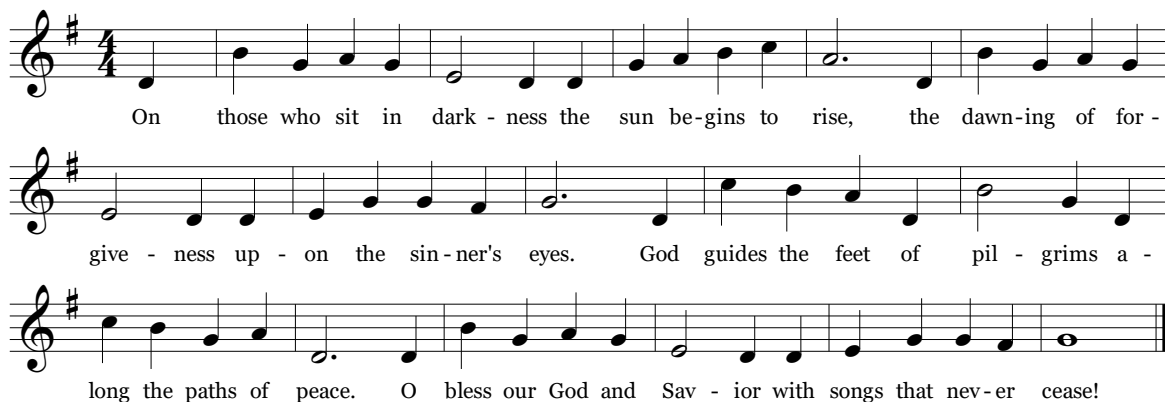
O God, who comes to us, in the wilderness you sent a messenger to prepare human hearts for the coming of Christ. We rejoice that through the centuries that message of hope has brought confidence and joy to your people. Forgive us for failing to discern your presence with us, for relying on the things of this world to fill our lives with meaning, and for failing to follow the risky paths of discipleship. Assure us again that you are with us, that you lead us toward goodness and mercy, and that our faith enables us to live lives of service with hopeful expectation.

A moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.

† Please stand, if able.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SUNG RESPONSE On Those Who Sit In Darkness



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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Brian K. Ballard

FIRST LESSON Malachi 3:1-4 (*p. 889 in pew Bible*)

ANTHEM

Carol of the Advent
Sanctuary Choir

David Hurd

People, look east, the time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table. People look east and sing today; Love the Guest is on the way. Furrows, be glad, though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there. Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish. People look east and sing today; Love the Rose is on the way. Birds, though ye long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled. Even the hour when wings are frozen He for fledging time has chosen. People look east and sing today; Love the Bird is on the way. Stars, keep the watch, when night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People look east and sing today; Love the Star is on the way. Angels announce with shouts of mirth Him who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People look east and sing today; Love the Lord is on the way.

SECOND LESSON Luke 3:1-6 (*pg. 60 in pew Bible*)

Agnes W. Norfleet

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Born To Set Thy People Free

Agnes W. Norfleet

Advent Series on Hope - Hope for a Better World

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(in unison)*

Rebecca Kirkpatrick

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.

~ from *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 Hark! A Herald Voice Is Calling

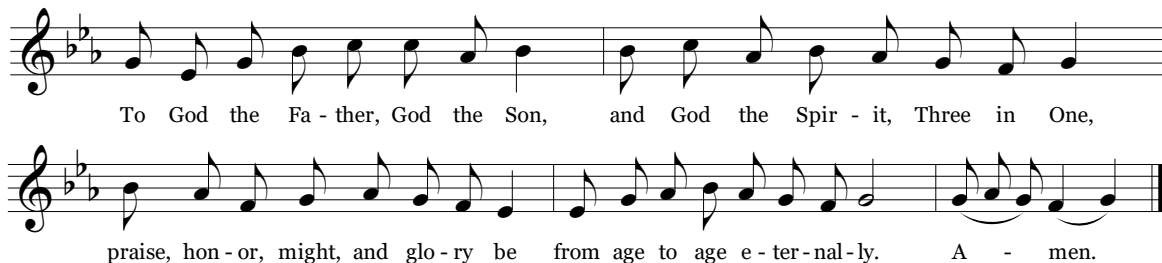
Ola Gjeilo

Sanctuary Choir

Hark! a herald voice is calling: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say; "Cast away the dreams of darkness, O ye children of the day!" Startled at the solemn warning, let the earthbound soul arise; Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies. Lo! the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heaven; Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven. So when next he comes in glory, and earth's final hour draws near, may he then as our defender on the clouds of Heaven appear. Honor, glory, virtue, merit, to the Father and the Son, with the coeternal Spirit, while unending ages run. Amen.

† **DOXOLOGY**

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM



To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it, Three in One,
praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

† **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Rebecca Kirkpatrick

† **HYMN 100** My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

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

POSTLUDE Trio on "Savior of the Nations, Come" J.S. Bach

WORSHIP NOTES

PLAYING THE CARILLON

Jonathan Jones

BULLETIN COVER

Presentation in the Temple © 2011 John August Swanson | Eyekons

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Announcements

REGATHERING TASKFORCE UPDATE. While our mask policy remains in place, the green seating stickers in the Sanctuary pews have been removed. Worshippers should continue to social distance, and as a reminder, there is always room toward the front! In addition, we will soon reintroduce the friendship pads back into the pews to help us engage with one another and know the names of those who worship alongside us.

LAST CHANCE FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS. Contributions may be given in three categories for listing in the Christmas Eve bulletin: “In memory of,” “In honor of,” or “In celebration of (marriage, retirement, birth, baptism).” Forms are available in the narthex or online at www.bmpc.org/flower-donations. Monies received are used year-round for our floral decorations and the Deacons’ Flower Ministry. The deadline is today. SarahMiciek@bmpc.org.

Today

ADVENT GIFT MARKET. In-person shopping in the Narthex today and each Sunday through Dec. 19. All are invited to participate in this creative and meaningful gift-giving program. Orders for gifts, inserts and greeting cards may be placed via the AGM website: www.BrynMawrAGM.com; by mailing/dropping off the order form enclosed in this year’s catalog to the church office; or at the AGM table in the Narthex. Filled orders may be picked up from a bin labeled “Advent Gift Market” outside the BMPC Chapel door. Donors will be notified when orders are ready, usually 1-2 days after receipt of the order. When requested, insert cards may be downloaded and printed from your home computer. Marian Chitester, mmcthistle@verizon.net.

CHRISTMAS ANGELS. Gift cards and unwrapped gifts may be delivered during the Drive-thru Drop Off today from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the Education Building’s circular driveway on Fishers Road. Gift cards also may be dropped off in the church’s secure mailbox at the entrance facing the Radnor Street parking lot. You may purchase gifts for a specific child through SignUp Genius: https://bit.ly/BMPC_Xmas_Angels_2021; order from Gemma’s Amazon Wish List: <https://bit.ly/GemmaNeeds>; or buy a general gift for a child. Betty Wu, BMPCAngels@gmail.com.

ADVENT WORKSHOP. Today, 11:00 a.m., Ed. Bldg. Lawn. This year we will help prepare for our outdoor Christmas Eve Nativity. Join us to make costumes, build sets, and create decorations to tell the story of Jesus’ birth. Hot chocolate and cookies will be available.

SERVE REFRESHMENTS WITH THE WELCOME CHURCH. Join the BMPC Outreach Council and our mission partner The Welcome Church today in offering hospitality and refreshments for its weekly outdoor worship service at Aviator Park on the Ben Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia. Carpools leave BMPC at 1:45 p.m. and return by 5:00 p.m.

This Week

ADVENT STORY PATH LABYRINTH. Walking a labyrinth during Advent provides a meaningful way to journey to Bethlehem. The small labyrinth is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Chapel. An Advent Labyrinth Journey booklet is available.

REPOSE YOGA. Tuesdays, 9:00-10:15 a.m., Congregational Hall, and via Zoom. This mixed level yoga class uses evidence-based movement and breath exercises to strengthen, stretch and feel better! Suggested donation of \$10 supports the BMPC Hunger Committee. In-person students are required to be vaccinated for COVID-19 and wear masks. A virtual option is available. Contact instructor Karen Gagnier, 610-952-0622 or karengagnier22@gmail.com.

TAI CHI CLASSES. Improve your balance, regain serenity, join friends! Class meets every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. in Congregational Hall, and via Zoom. For information and to sign up, contact Rich McKenzie, teacher at BMPC for 16 years; rmcktaichi@yahoo.com or 610-873-0604.

ADVENT TUESDAY NOON RECITALS. Tues., Dec. 7, 12:00 p.m., Sanctuary. Join us during the season of Advent for the return of our Tuesday concert series! These concerts may be attended either in person (masks and social distancing required) or via livestream: <https://www.bmpc.org/livestream>. On Dec. 7 we welcome students from the Nelly Berman School of Music: Alyssa Gabrilovich, piano, and the Mirage Trio (Miro Raj, violin; Apollo Murray, cello; and Sasha Murray, piano).

DANCE FOR PARKINSON'S DISEASE (PD). Tuesdays through Dec. 15, 1:00 p.m., Congregational Hall. Two professional dance instructors integrate dance movements to engage the minds and bodies of persons with PD and their care partners, creating an enjoyable social environment for artistic expression. Persons with PD pay \$5.00 per class; care partners attend for free. Masks and proof of vaccination required. Contact instructor Sharon Friedler for more information: 215-563-5701.

QUIET PRAYER IN ADVENT. Wednesdays, Dec. 8 and 15, 7:00 - 7:45 p.m., via Zoom. A virtual quiet time for contemplative guided prayer will be offered weekly. Amidst the busyness of the season and week, this prayer session will include Scripture readings, space for reflection, and a time of communal silence. The guided portions of the evenings will be recorded and available on the Caring Ministries webpage. Members of our congregation will lead the sessions. KikiMcKendrick@bmpc.org.

Next Sunday

RAINBOW REINDEER GAMES. Sun., Dec. 12, 11:15 a.m., Foerderer House. Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to join us for silly games, laughs, and fellowship at our second annual Rainbow Reindeer Games! We will have pizza for lunch in Foerderer House and then move to the front lawn for all the fun activities. JackLiskey@bmpc.org.

JOY ABOUND - SINGING CITY AT THE HOLIDAYS. Sun., Dec. 12, 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary. BMPC hosts Singing City in its return to live performances with a jazz-infused concert to ring in the holidays. The choir is joined by Pat Bianchi, one of the finest jazz organists in America, and his trio. The concert features works by Adolphus Hailstork, André Thomas, Roland Carter, Jacob Narverud, Rosephanye Powell, Brian Mann, G.F. Handel, Kim André Arnesen, and more. Tickets are available through Singing City's online box office: <https://bit.ly/joy-abounds-concert>. Church members may enter BMPC as the promo code to receive a \$5 discount on tickets.

Upcoming

A WEE CHRISTMAS. Tues., Dec. 21, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary and livestreamed. Designed for children ages 2 - 5 and their families, this special retelling of the Christmas story allows our youngest members to hear and participate in the story of Jesus' birth. MaryRichards@bmpc.org.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE. Tues., Dec. 21, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary. This special worship service is for anyone who finds joy and celebration difficult to experience during the Christmas season. Scripture readings, the singing of carols, a brief meditation by the Rev. Brian K. Ballard, and a time of prayer to express our yearnings for healing and wholeness are intended to lead us through the long darkness. This service will be livestreamed on the church website and BMPC's Facebook page and YouTube channel. A labyrinth on the Education Building Lawn invites walkers following the service, weather permitting.

Caring and Sharing

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL REFUGEE EFFORTS. The BMPC Refugee Support Committee invites you to help resettle an Afghan refugee family on our church campus this fall. Volunteers are needed to welcome and assist a family who is moving into Foerderer House. To volunteer to help with a variety of needs such as education, job searching and long-term housing, sign up here: <https://bit.ly/refugee-volunteer-signup>. Furnishing and accessory donations may be made by contacting Bobbi Adair at bobbiadair@comcast.net.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING. Supporting past, present and future leaders! A Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s, this Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges that serve communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Look for offering envelopes in the pew holders on Dec. 12 and 19, or note “Christmas Joy” on the memo line of your check.

HOUSING NEEDED. We need your help with finding affordable housing close to public transportation for the asylee family that BMPC members have supported for over three years. This amazing mom works full time in a daycare school, where her three-year-old child is enrolled, and her older daughter attends kindergarten in Lower Merion. Contact Mary French at 610-247-7154.

Calendar

Sunday, December 5

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| 8:00 | a.m. | Childcare, Ed. Bldg., Rm. 102 |
| 8:30 | a.m. | Faith Under 5 Sunday School, Virtual
Filling the Well, Virtual
Sunday Morning Discussion Group, Virtual and Ed. Bldg., Rm 204 |
| 9:00 | a.m. | Sunday School for Grades 1 & 2, Virtual |
| 10:00 | a.m. | Worship, Sanctuary or Livestreamed Service on www.bmpc.org
Sunday School for ages 2 - 3, Ed. Bldg., Nursery
Sunday School for PreK & K, Ed. Bldg., Room 201
Sunday School for Grades 1 & 2, Ed. Bldg., Main Lobby
Sunday School for Grade 3, Ed. Bldg., Rm. 202 and Virtual
Sunday School for Grades 4 & 5, Ed. Bldg., Rm. 204 and Virtual
Confirmation Class, Foerderer House, 2nd Floor
Confirmation Caregivers, Congregational Hall
Youth Gathering (Middle School and High School), Foerderer House, 2nd Floor |
| 11:00 | a.m. | Advent Story Path Labyrinth Open Walk, Children’s Chapel
Advent Workshop, Front Lawn |
| 1:00 | p.m. | Christmas Angels Drive-thru Drop Off, Ed. Bldg., Fishers Road Driveway |

Monday, December 6

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| 9:00 | a.m. | Advent Story Path Labyrinth - Open Walk, Children’s Chapel |
| 7:00 | p.m. | Discover BMPC Class, Virtual |

Tuesday, December 7

8:30	a.m.	Tuesday Morning Study Group, Ed. Bldg., Rm. 204
9:00	a.m.	Advent Story Path Labyrinth - Open Walk, Children's Chapel Repose Yoga, Virtual or Congregational Hall
10:30	a.m.	Tai Chi, Virtual or Congregational Hall
12:00	p.m.	Tuesday, Noon Concert, Sanctuary or Virtual
1:00	p.m.	Dance for Parkinson's Disease, Congregational Hall
5:00	p.m.	Mid-Week Meetup, Virtual
6:00	p.m.	Tutoring Program, Ed. Bldg.
7:00	p.m.	Deacons' Meeting, Virtual

Wednesday, December 8

9:00	a.m.	Advent Story Path Labyrinth - Open Walk, Children's Chapel
10:00	a.m.	Coffee Cup Bible Study, Ed. Bldg., Rm. 204 Men's Study Group, Children's Library or Virtual
4:45	p.m.	Wednesdays Together, Ed. Bldg., Lobby
5:45	p.m.	Youth Chorale, Fine Arts Center
6:30	p.m.	Handbells, Fine Arts Center
7:00	p.m.	Quiet Prayer Wednesdays in Advent, Virtual Student Serve, Foerderer House, 2nd Floor

Thursday, December 9

9:00	a.m.	Advent Story Path Labyrinth - Open Walk, Children's Chapel
7:00	p.m.	Sanctuary Choir and Bryn Mawr Chamber Singers, Fine Arts Center or Virtual

Friday, December 10

9:00	a.m.	Advent Story Path Labyrinth - Open Walk, Children's Chapel
10:00	a.m.	Senior Adult Council, Virtual

Saturday, December 11

7:00	a.m.	Saturday Morning Men's Group, Ed Bldg., Rm. 204
8:00	a.m.	Casserole Blitz, Congregational Hall and Kitchen
9:00	a.m.	Advent Story Path Labyrinth - Open Walk, Children's Chapel

Sunday, December 12

10:00	a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary or Livestreamed Service on www.bmpc.org The Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet will preach.
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Worship Staff

Agnes W. Norfleet, Pastor

Brian K. Ballard, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care & Senior Adults

Leigh DeVries, Associate Pastor for Youth & Their Families

Rebecca Kirkpatrick, Associate Pastor for Adult Education & Mission

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



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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