



# 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 in the Atrium following the Worship Service. All of our programs, ministries and opportunities for mission are open to everyone. Come join us!

## 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](http://www.bmpc.org/livestream) For your convenience, the service also will be posted on our Worship Services page on Monday.

## CHILDCARE AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

Childcare is available on Sundays from 7:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for children ages six months and older. See Sunday School class information on this page. Please contact Pastor Rachel, [RachelPedersen@bmpc.org](mailto:RachelPedersen@bmpc.org) or Childcare Coordinator Erika Henry at [childcare@bmpc.org](mailto:childcare@bmpc.org) with any questions.

## WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

Subscribe to our BMPC eNews by visiting our website: [www.bmpc.org](http://www.bmpc.org)

## Today's Schedule

### Childcare (infant - age 5)

7:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Ed. Bldg., Rm. 101

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### Worship with Baptism & Sanctuary Choir

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

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### Sunday School Classes

#### Age 2 - PreK

10:00 a.m., Ed. Bldg.

#### Grades K - 5

10:00 a.m., Worship in Sanctuary

10:15 a.m., Ed. Bldg.

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### Youth Gathering

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

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### Atrium Café

11:00 a.m., Atrium

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### BMPC Members Art Exhibit

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.,

Art Gallery, Ministries Center

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### Rainbow Reindeer Games

11:00 a.m., Gymnasium

# GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

Saviour of the Nations

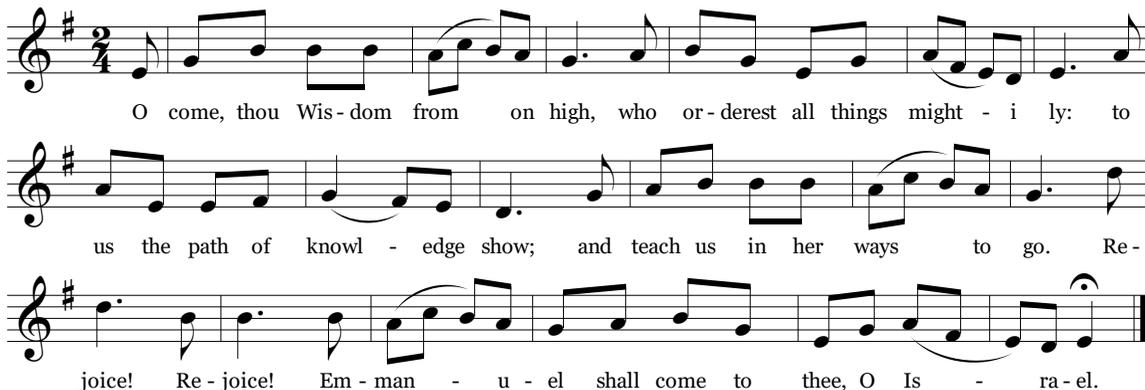
J. S. Bach

WELCOME

Rebecca Kirkpatrick

ADVENT INTROIT

VENI EMMANUEL



O come, thou Wis-dom from on high, who or-derest all things might - i ly: to  
us the path of knowl - edge show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-  
joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

CALL TO WORSHIP &

Mike McMullan & Rachel Hanscom

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: The Prophet Isaiah says: "The spirit of the Lord is upon me,

People: **To bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted."**

Leader: The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary who had found favor with God,

People: **And said her child would be called the Son of the Most High.**

Leader: He would fulfill the promises of Isaiah to comfort all who mourn,

People: **To love justice and cause righteousness to spring up in the earth.**

Leader: May this small but abiding flame of joy

People: **Give light to the world.**

Leader: Help us, O God, to follow joy down your path of knowledge,

People: **And teach us in her ways to go.**

† HYMN 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

**CALL TO CONFESSION  
AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(in unison)*

God, you are both mighty and tender;  
you approach from on high and dwell in our midst.  
You gather us in, feed us and bid us rest in your care.  
Still we fear the world around us  
and fail to relish in your help when we yearn for a Savior.  
Yet you continue to call us to bear the light of Christ  
in everything we do for family, friend, neighbor and stranger.  
Forgive us and restore us, show us the light of your face  
that we may be saved for the good work of the gospel.

*A moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.*

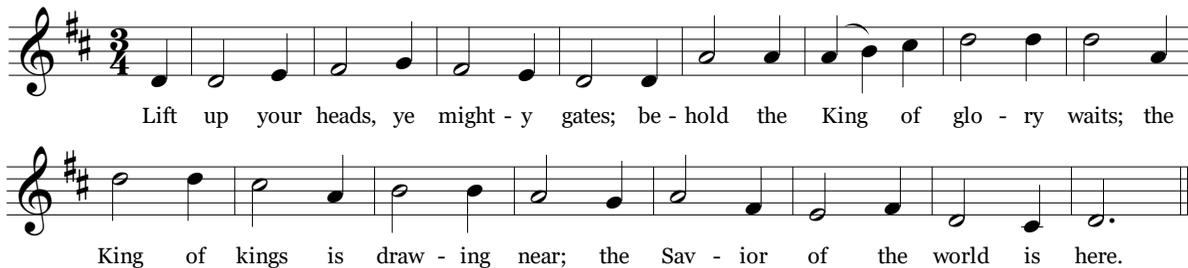
**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

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

**SUNG RESPONSE**

**Lift Up Your Heads**

**PUER NOBIS**



Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the King of glo - ry waits; the  
King of kings is draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.

# PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

## THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Rachel Pedersen

One: Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture these children by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of His church?

**All: We do.**

## BAPTISM HYMN 188

Jesus Loves Me!

JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rebecca Kirkpatrick

## FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (*pg. 691 in pew Bible*)

## ANTHEM

Lo, in the time appointed

Healey Willan

Lo, in the time appointed the Lord will come will come, the Lord will come; the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands: for the Lord God shall come into his everlasting kingdom; and upon the throne of David shall he reign forever. Alleluia.

## SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:26-38 (*pg. 56 in pew Bible*)

Agnes W. Norfleet

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

*Let it Be!*

Agnes W. Norfleet

Third in series, Advent's Action Plan

## † HYMN 109

Blest Be the God of Israel

MERLE'S TUNE

# RESPONSE TO THE WORD

## † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Kirby Lawrence Hill

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

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.

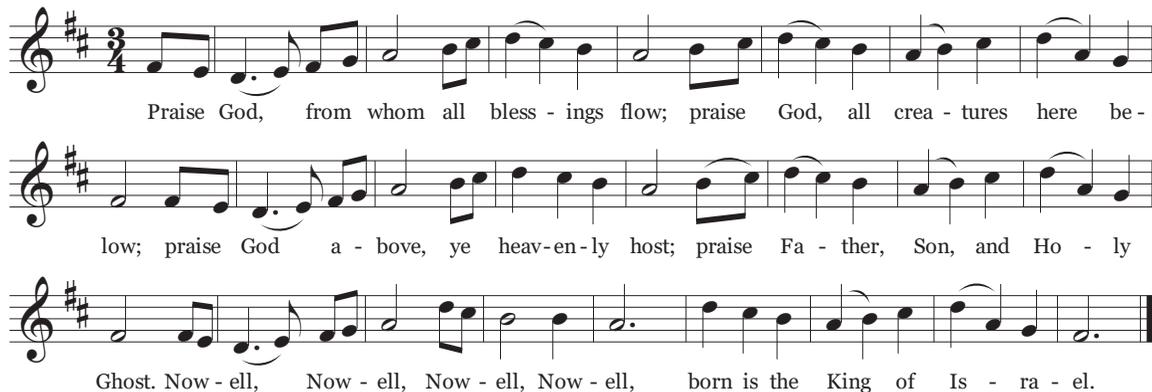
## INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**      Creator of the Stars of Night      Malcolm Archer

Creator of the stars of night, Thy people's everlasting light, Jesu, Redeemer, save us all, And hear thy servants when they call. Thou camest, bridegroom of the bride, As drew the evening tide, Proceeding from a virgin shrine, The Son of Man, yet all divine. At thy great name, exalted now, All knees must bend, all hearts must bow, And things in heav'n and earth shall own, That thou art Lord and King alone. God the Father, God the Son, and Spirit, Three in One, Laud, honour, might and glory be, From age to age eternally. Amen, Amen, Amen.

*Please fill in the Friendship Pad at the end of your pew;  
pass it down your row and back again.*

† **DOXOLOGY** Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow THE FIRST NOWELL



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all crea - tures here be -  
low; praise God a - bove, ye heav-en-ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly  
Ghost. Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

† **PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Kirby Lawrence Hill

† **HYMN 132** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice IN DULCI JUBILO

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

**POSTLUDE** Savior of the Nations Pamela Decker

## WORSHIP NOTES

### RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Maxwell Thomas Gerland

Son of Meredith & Scott Gerland

Zoe Pasion Walsh

Daughter of Erika & Barclay Walsh

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### PLAYING THE CARILLON

Rob Mygatt

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### BULLETIN COVER

John August Swanson | Nativity Detail

## **Season of Advent - Special Services**

**WEE CHRISTMAS.** Tues., Dec. 19, 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! [MaryRichards@bmpc.org](mailto:MaryRichards@bmpc.org).

**LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE.** Wed., Dec. 20, 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. A meditation by the Rev. Dr. Kirby Lawrence Hill will be accompanied by prayer, the singing of carols and lighting candles to lead us through darkness toward healing and wholeness. A labyrinth on the Education Building Lawn invites walkers following the service, weather permitting.

**CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE.** 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.** 8:30 p.m., Sanctuary and Livestreamed. The Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet will preach. Assorted congregational and choir carols will be sung, including two World Premieres of works by Kim André Arnesen, commissioned in celebration of BMPC's 150 anniversary year as well as festive arrangements for two trumpets by Richard Webster. Prelude begins at 8:10 p.m.

## **Announcements**

**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, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

**CODE BLUE SHELTER 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 from 8:30p.m. to 6:30 a.m. the nights the shelter is open. A training will take place today at 1:00 p.m. in Congregational Hall for anyone interested in learning more. To receive the sign up link, and if you have questions, please contact [RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org](mailto:RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org).

**BMPC MEMBERS ART EXHIBIT.** Ministries Center Art Gallery. Closes today. Come and view the artistry of our BMPC members! This exhibit features works in paint and ceramics. Some of the pieces are for sale and would make excellent Christmas gifts! The exhibit ends today. To purchase any of the works, please contact [mfa@bmpc.org](mailto:mfa@bmpc.org).

**ADVENT GIFT MARKET.** 11:00 a.m., Atrium. AGM representatives will be in the Atrium after worship to process orders. Online orders also may be placed via the AGM website: [www.brynmawragm.com](http://www.brynmawragm.com)

## **Today**

**RAINBOW REINDEER GAMES.** Today, 11:30 a.m., Gymnasium. All youth (grades 6-12) and fifth graders are invited to join in the fun, games, and color powder shenanigans we have planned for our Rainbow Reindeer Games this year! To register, visit <https://bit.ly/RRgames2023>

## **This Week**

**ADVENT HARPSICORD RECITALS.** Tuesday, Dec. 19, noon, Sanctuary. Featuring Edward Landin Senn and Jeffrey Brillhart, performing free 30-minute recitals on BMPC's William Dowd harpsichord.

## **Upcoming**

### **YOUTH INTERNATIONAL MISSION TRIP APPLICATION DEADLINE.**

Mon, Jan. 1, 5:00 p.m. Rising 9-12th graders (current 8-11th graders) are welcome to apply for a spot on the international mission trip to Peru, July 10-20, 2024. Applicants will be notified by February 1st at 5:00 p.m. if they have been accepted.

The application can be found on Realm, the youth ENews, or by emailing Pastor Leigh Devries at [ldevries@bmpc.org](mailto:ldevries@bmpc.org)

**DEACONS' ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE.** Mon., Jan. 22, 1:00-6:00 p.m., Congregational Hall. Volunteers needed to donate blood; register online:

<https://bit.ly/2024-Blood-Drive> Contact Monica Devane at 610-520-8823 or [MDevane@bmpc.org](mailto:MDevane@bmpc.org).

# **Calendar**

## **Sunday, December 17**

- 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
- Filling the Well, Children's Library, Ed. Bldg.
- 9:55 a.m. Sunday School Ages 2s, 3s, and Pre-K, Ed. Bldg.
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship with Baptism & Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary and Livestreamed Service on [www.bmpc.org](http://www.bmpc.org)**
- Youth Gathering, Gymnasium
- 10:15 a.m. Sunday School K-5th Grade, Ed. Bldg.
- 11:00 a.m. Family Fellowship, Ed. Bldg.
- Atrium Cafe, Atrium
- 11:30 a.m. Rainbow Reindeer Games, Gymnasium

## **Monday, December 18**

- 6:00 p.m. Middle School Mondays, Gymnasium
- 7:00 p.m. Hunger Committee Meeting, Cannon Room

## **Tuesday, December 19**

- 10:30 a.m. Tai Chi (Hybrid), Gymnasium
- 4:00 p.m. Wee Christmas, Sanctuary

## **Wednesday, December 20**

- 10:00 a.m. Coffee Cup Bible Study (Hybrid), Cannon Room
- 5:00 p.m. Longest Night Labyrinth Walk, Ed. Bldg, Front Lawn
- 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner, Congregational Hall
- 7:00 p.m. High School Student Serve, Gymnasium
- Longest Night Worship Service, Sanctuary

**Thursday, December 21**

11:00 a.m. Artist's Gathering, Fine Arts Kitchen  
7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Fine Arts Center

**Friday, December 22**

No Events Scheduled.

**Saturday, December 23**

7:00 a.m. Saturday Morning Men's Group, Converse House Parlor  
10:00 a.m. Searching For Still Water Bereavement Group,  
Witherspoon Parlor

**Sunday, December 24**

10:00 a.m. **Sunday Worship with Sanctuary Choir**  
**Sanctuary and Livestreamed Service on [www.bmpc.org](http://www.bmpc.org)**  
The Rev. Dr. Agnes Norfleet will preach.  
4:30 p.m. **Christmas Eve Family Service, Sanctuary**  
8:30 p.m. **Christmas Eve Worship Service with Communion, Sanctuary**

## **Worship Staff**

**Agnes W. Norfleet**, Pastor

**Leigh DeVries**, 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

**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**

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church  
625 Montgomery Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

610-525-2821 • [www.bmpc.org](http://www.bmpc.org)

[www.facebook.com/BrynMawrPres](https://www.facebook.com/BrynMawrPres)

[www.instagram.com/BrynMawrPres](https://www.instagram.com/BrynMawrPres)

[www.twitter.com/BrynMawrPres](https://www.twitter.com/BrynMawrPres)

[www.youtube.com/user/brynmawrpres](https://www.youtube.com/user/brynmawrpres)

24/7 Answering Service for Pastoral Emergencies:  
610-525-2821

The Middleton Center: 610-525-0766 •  
[info@middletoncenter.org](mailto:info@middletoncenter.org)

The Weekday School (Preschool): 610-525-2821, ext. 8840