

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 23, 2026

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary



Gathering of God's People

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

We invite you to prepare for worship in quiet reflection.

PRELUDE Psalm Prelude, Set 1, No. 2, (Ps 37:11)

Herbert Howells

James Kealey, organist

WELCOME

Melanie Hardison

Please stand, if able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 19:1-4

One The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

All **Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.**

One There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

All **yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.**

HYMN 403 Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

UNSER HERRSCHER

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves, a treble staff on top and a bass staff on the bottom, both in 4/4 time and B-flat major (two flats). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staves, with three verses provided. The first verse is '1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me'. The second verse is '2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so'. The third verse is '3 Speak, O Lord, and I will hear thee; let thy will be'. The music is simple and suitable for congregational singing.

1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so
3 Speak, O Lord, and I will hear thee; let thy will be

en - ter there, where my soul in joy - ful du - ty
un - to me; where we find thee and a - dore thee,
done in - deed; may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee,

waits for God who an - swers prayer; O how bless - ed
there a heaven on earth must be; to my heart O
while thou dost thy peo - ple feed. Here of life the

is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace.
en - ter thou; let it be thy tem - ple now.
foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

CALL TO CONFESSION AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All Lord God, you call us, but we do not always hear. Sometimes your word comes to us in unexpected ways, and we mistake your voice for something else. We confess that we have been distracted by the noise of the world, by our own ambitions, and by the demands of daily life, so that we have not truly listened to your still small voice. Forgive us for the times we have spoken more than we have listened, for the times we have ignored your guidance, and for the times we have failed to follow your ways. Help us to silence our own voices so that we may hear your Spirit speaking to us.

A moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One The peace of Christ be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Please stand, if able.

During the singing of the Gloria Patri, children are invited to come forward for the Children's Moment.

SUNG RESPONSE

GLORIA PATRI



Please be seated.

Proclamation of the Word

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rachel Pedersen

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Melanie Hardison

FIRST LESSON Numbers 12:1-9

(Old Testament pg. 130 in pew Bible)

While they were at Hazeroth, Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married (for he had indeed married a Cushite woman), and they said, "Has the Lord spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?" And the Lord heard

it. Now the man Moses was very humble, more so than anyone else on the face of the earth. Suddenly the Lord said to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, "Come out, you three, to the tent of meeting." So the three of them came out. Then the Lord came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the

entrance of the tent and called Aaron and Miriam, and they both came forward. And he said, “Hear my words: When there are prophets among you, I the Lord make myself known to them in visions; I speak to them in dreams. Not so with my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house. With him

I speak face to face—clearly, not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the Lord.

“Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?” And the anger of the Lord was kindled against them, and he departed.

SECOND LESSON Mark 1:9-11

(New Testament pg. 34 in pew Bible)

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the

One The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Spirit descending like a dove upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

John Willingham

SERMON *Speaking Lessons*

John Willingham

Response to the Word

Please stand, if able.

HYMN 175 Seek Ye First

LAFFERTY

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia,

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God
2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you;
3 You shall not live by bread a - lone,

al - le - lu - ia,

and seek, but its and by righ - teous - ness,
you shall find;
ev - ery word

al - le - lu - ia,

and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you.
 knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you.
 that pro - ceeds from the mouth of God.

al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rebecca Kirkpatrick

All Long ago, God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.

-Hebrews 1:1-3a

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

Rebecca Kirkpatrick

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM O, Make A Joyful Noise

Anon., arr. Mark Schweizer

O, make a joyful noise unto the Lord, O, make a joyful noise all you lands.

O, serve the Lord with gladness; Serve and come into God's presence with a song.

Know you the Lord is our God. Know you the Lord has made us and not we ourselves.

Come enter His gates with thanksgiving. And into His courts with praise. Alleluia!

Please stand, if able.

DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise God, all creatures here be-low; praise

God a-bove, ye heavenly host, praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

1 The Might - y God with pow - er speaks, and all the world o - beys;
2 God comes not with a si - lent form, but rid - ing on the winds;
3 The heavens de - clare your jus - tice, Lord, as end - less as the sky;

from dawn un - til the set - ting sun, God's won - der earth dis - plays.
be - fore God's face, the rag - ing storm its blast of thun - der sends.
a - gainst the taunts of dis - be - lief, our God will tes - ti - fy.

The per - fect beau - ty all a - round from Zi - on's height shines forth;
All hail the Judge, in bold ar - ray, whose prom - ise is to bless;
Re - ceive my heart - felt gift of thanks, as hon - or to your might;

and stars a - cross the fir - ma - ment so bright - ly beam their worth.
who sees our sins, yet al - so feels our thirst for righ - teous - ness.
re - fresh my faith with each new day; pro - tect me through the night.

Worship & Music Notes

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Florence Zeller.

PRELUDE

Today's prelude is inspired by Psalm 37:11: "But the meek shall inherit the earth and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace."

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Today's prayer of confession comes from The Pastor's Workshop.

PLAYING THE CARILLON

Nancy Lawrence Hill

BULLETIN COVER

Valente, Liz. Baptism of Jesus, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/59319 Original source: Liz Valente, [instagram.com/donalizvalente/](https://www.instagram.com/donalizvalente/)

WELCOME TO BRYN MAWR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church during this season after Pentecost, when we are reminded that the Holy Spirit continues to guide, sustain, and renew the church. In these summer weeks, we gather to worship, reflect, and grow together in faith, trusting that God is at work in every season of our lives.

Whether you are a longtime member, returning after time away, or visiting with us for the first time, we are glad you are here. Through worship, fellowship, and service, we seek to follow Christ with faithfulness and joy. May our time together today deepen your sense of God's presence and strengthen our shared calling as Christ's disciples in the world.



John M. Willingham
Interim 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 following the worship service. All of our programs, ministries, and opportunities for mission are open to everyone. Learn more at bmpc.org

T-COIL HEARING LOOP AVAILABLE

BMPC's Sanctuary and Congregational Hall are equipped with a T-Coil hearing loop system to enhance sound clarity for those with hearing aids or cochlear implants with a telecoil ("T" setting). Portable receiver units are also available in the Sanctuary upon request. We hope this technology enriches your worship experience!

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.

LIVESTREAMED CHURCH SERVICES

Our Sunday 10:00 a.m. service is livestreamed and can be viewed at www.bmpc.org/live or on our YouTube channel. A recording of the service will also be available on our Past Services website page and Vimeo channel starting Monday. If you are attending in person and prefer not to be on camera, please speak with an usher who will seat you in an area off camera.

Announcements

TODAY

Sanctuary Choir Open Auditions. Sun., Aug. 23 and Aug. 30, 11:15 a.m., Choir Loft. Interested in singing with BMPC's Sanctuary Choir? Open auditions are being held for new members. The Sanctuary Choir sings each Sunday during the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service from September through June, with weekly rehearsals on Thursday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Contact: JamesKealey@bmpc.org

UPCOMING & ONGOING

Summer Choir. Sundays, 9:00 a.m., Choir Loft. All singers ages 12+ are invited to join! Come any Sunday at 9:00 a.m. for a brief rehearsal, then sing at the 10:00 a.m. service. We sing one anthem, hymns, and a closing response — no robes, no sign-up, no long-term commitment.

Child & Youth Protection Training. Sun., Aug. 30, 11:30 a.m., Ed. Bldg., Rm. 204 & Wed., Sept. 2, 7:00 p.m., Cannon Room. Child & Youth Protection Training is required for all volunteers working with children and youth. Register at bit.ly/CYPTrainingBMPC Contact: MaryRichards@bmpc.org

Youth Night at Rita's. Wed., Sept. 2, 5:30 p.m., Rita's in Bryn Mawr. All youth are invited to gather for frozen treats, conversation, and fellowship as we reconnect after the summer and look ahead to a new school year together.

This is a relaxed opportunity to spend time with friends, meet new people, and enjoy one last taste of summer. Come as you are and bring a friend. Contact: AndyGreenhow@bmpc.org

Religion and Public Life. Wed., Sept. 9, 6:00 p.m., Congregational Hall. Concerned about the rise of White Christian Nationalism? Join the first gathering of a conversation group, sponsored by the BMPC Peacemaking Committee, on Religion and Public Life, to share resources and build community. At this first gathering, we will discuss Tim Alberta's book, *The Kingdom, the Power and the Glory*. Contact RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org to join the conversation and pick up a copy of the book.

BMPC Dads' Bible Study. Every other Friday beginning Sept. 11, 6:30 a.m., Cannon Room, entering from the Radnor Street parking lot. Join us as we launch the BMPC Dads' Bible Study! This group is designed to be a place of fellowship and study for fathers with children at home. You don't need to be a Biblical scholar, but only someone seeking community and support in this busy and fulfilling chapter of life. We will begin by focusing on the parables of Jesus. Come start your morning with us! Sign up at bit.ly/BMPCDadsBibleStudy Contact: Josh Hirt at Jmhirt@gmail.com

Rally Day and Ministry Fair. Sun., Sept. 13, 11:00 a.m., Ministries Center. Celebrate the start of a new program year at Rally Day! After 10:00 a.m. worship, join us in the Ministries Center for a morning of food, fellowship, and fun for all ages. Rally Day is a perfect opportunity to invite a friend and introduce them to the vibrant life of BMPC. Whether you're new or returning, all are welcome — come and see!

Wednesday Night Dinner. Starting Sept. 16, 5:30 p.m., Congregational Hall. Come gather for Wednesday Night Dinner — a weekly opportunity to enjoy a warm, catered meal and connect with others in the BMPC community. To celebrate the start of a new program year, all Wednesday Night Dinners in September will be offered on a free-will offering basis. Join us for dinner, fellowship, and community. We can't wait to welcome you back! Whether you've been coming for years or are joining us for the first time, September is the perfect time to experience Wednesday Night Dinner.

4th–7th-Grade Fellowship. Wednesdays beginning Sept. 16, 7:00 p.m., Gym Classroom. This is a new weekly gathering for 4th–7th graders to build community, explore our faith, serve our neighbors, and have a lot of fun. Students are invited to come early and eat dinner together at Wednesday Night Dinner in Congregational Hall or participate in the Chorister or Sr. Chorister programs running earlier in the evening. Register at bit.ly/4th7thGradeWednesdays Contact: MaryRichards@bmpc.org

Student Serve Kickoff. Wednesdays beginning Sept. 16, 7:00 p.m., Youth Lounge. A weekly gathering for all youth in grades 8–12. This time is dedicated to fellowship, games, and Bible study, providing a space for students to actively engage in their faith formation. We share the highs and lows of our week and strengthen our community through fun and meaningful activities. Before the gathering, youth are invited to Wednesday Night Dinner in Congregational Hall at 6:00 p.m. Contact: AndyGreenhow@bmpc.org

Church Officer Nominations. Please submit your recommendations to the 2026 Nominating Committee by Sun., Sept. 20, for Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and Nominating Committee Members-at-Large via the nominating form: bit.ly/BMPCNominations Paper copies of the form are available in the Narthex and at the Reception Desk in the Ministries Center. Candidates must be members for at least two years, faithfully participate in the worship and program life of the church, and regularly contribute to the church.

Youth Kickoff. Sun., Sept. 20, 10:00 a.m., Gymnasium. Families with youth in grades 6–12 will learn about upcoming programs this academic year, meet youth volunteers, and enjoy fellowship with other youth families throughout the church. Sunday morning programming for youth continues through May. Contact: AndyGreenhow@bmpc.org

Doing Good Together Service Day. Mon., Sept. 21, 9:00 a.m., BMPC Campus & off-site. On Yom Kippur, help neighbors near and far during a day of service for 1st–7th Graders.

1st–3rd Graders will stay on campus from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 4th–7th Graders will go off-site to work with our mission partners from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Registration required by Mon., Sept. 14: bit.ly/DGTService2026
Contact: MaryRichards@bmpc.org

CARING AND SHARING

Honoring the Lives Touched by Suicide.

Thurs., Sept. 10, Chapel. Join us in honoring the lives of those lost to suicide and supporting all who have been impacted by suicide loss. The chapel will be open 8:00 a.m.–6:15 p.m. for anyone who wishes to spend time in quiet reflection, prayer, remembrance, or hope. At 6:15 p.m., we will gather for a brief service to remember those we have lost, hold space for grief and healing, and reaffirm our commitment to compassion, connection, and mental health awareness. All are welcome as we come together in remembrance, support, and hope.

New Life Care Initiative Kickoff. Sun., Sept. 13, 11:15 a.m., Ministries Center. BMPC's New Life Care Initiative, a cross-ministry collaboration, is collecting infant formula, diapers, postpartum supplies, and new and gently used baby supplies and small equipment to support families in need. Bring your donations to the Caring Ministries table on Rally Day! Through partnerships with local nonprofit organizations, these donations will help provide essential items to parents, grandparents, and caregivers in our community. If you're unable to attend Rally Day, donations may also be dropped off at the church front desk. Contact: ColleenCatania@bmpc.org or JenniferMcArthur@bmpc.org

Finding Grace While Grieving: Prayers, Contemplations, and Companions on the Way. Starting Tues., Sept. 15, 10:30 a.m., virtual. Led by Parish Social Worker Kathryn West, this will be a monthly opportunity to connect with others experiencing loss and grief. We'll incorporate prayers, readings and poetry to gain some understanding and insight into how grief affects us as individuals (body, mind and spirit) and in a larger cultural context. Sharing welcome but not required. To participate or for more information, email KathrynWest@bmpc.org or call 610-520-8833.

Habitat for Humanity Workday. Fri., Sept. 18, 8:30 a.m., off-site. Looking for a meaningful way to volunteer? Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia works alongside volunteers toward a vision of a city where everyone has a decent place to live. Habitat is proud to introduce the Pope Leo Village campaign. Inspired by Pope Leo XIV's commitment to justice and service, this interfaith, multi-city movement will unite people of all identities and backgrounds to build 26 new homes for families in Philadelphia. Email RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org to register. Limited spots available!

Nourishing Families in Our Community. A gift of \$200 can provide a month of nutritional support for a family through one of our hunger ministry partners. Your generosity helps ensure that families have reliable access to healthy food throughout the year. Give at onrealm.org/bmpc/give/hunger or through the pew envelopes.

Calendar

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

- 7:45 a.m. Childcare (infant–age 5), Ed. Bldg., Rm. 101
- 8:00 a.m. **Worship with Communion, Chapel**
- 8:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Discussion Group, Cannon Room
- 9:00 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Choir Loft
- 10:00 a.m. Worship with Families (K–12), Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship, Sanctuary and Livestreamed**
- 11:15 a.m. Lemonade on the Lawn, Front Lawn
- 11:15 a.m. Sunday School Teacher Training, Ed. Bldg., Rm. 204
- 11:15 a.m. Safety & Security Task Force Meeting, Cannon Room
- 11:15 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Open Auditions, Choir Loft

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

- 6:30 p.m. Nominating Committee Meeting, Cannon Room
- 7:30 p.m. Fit4Mom, Gymnasium

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

- 10:30 a.m. Tai Chi (hybrid), Gymnasium

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

No events scheduled

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

- 6:00 p.m. Choir Leadership Meeting, off-campus

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

No events scheduled

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

- 8:00 a.m. **Worship with Communion, Chapel**
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship, Sanctuary and Livestreamed**
The Rev. Melanie Hardison 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!



Sanctuary Flower Donations. Openings are available throughout the year 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. For more information, contact SusanThorkelson@mac.com



CONNECT WITH US



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Worship Staff

John Willingham, Interim Senior Pastor

Andy Greenhow, Associate Pastor for Youth & Their Families

Melanie Hardison, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care

Rebecca Kirkpatrick, Associate Pastor for Adult Education & Mission

Rachel Pedersen, Associate Pastor for Children & Family Ministry

James Kealey, Director of Music & Fine Arts

Mitchell Miller, Assistant Director of Music & Fine Arts

Daniel Carroll, Organ Scholar