

**Sunday, December 27, 2020**  
**First Sunday of Christmas**

**WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

Brian K. Ballard

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING PRAYER** (*in unison*)

Saving God, the prophet Anna and righteous Simeon  
sang your praise, and proclaimed Jesus our Lord  
to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.  
Let us who seek redemption prepare our hearts,  
that we may believe the good news,  
receive the light of salvation,  
and live according to your Word made flesh. Amen.

**HYMN** 145

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Luke 2:22-40

Franklyn C. Pottorff

**SERMON**

*It's a Start*

Franklyn C. Pottorff

**ANTHEM**

Geistliches Wiegenlied  
Misoon Ghim, mezzo-soprano  
Yoshihiko Nakano, viola  
Jeffrey Brillhart, piano

Johannes Brahms

You who hover around these palms in night and wind, you holy angels, silence the tree-tops!  
My child is sleeping. You palms of Bethlehem in the raging wind, why do you bluster so angrily  
today! O roar not so! Be still, lean calmly and gently over us; Silence the tree-tops! My child is  
sleeping. The heavenly babe suffers distress, oh, how weary He has grown with the sorrows of  
this world. Ah, now that in sleep his pains are gently eased, silence the treetops! My child is  
sleeping. Fierce cold blows down on us, with what shall I cover my little child's limbs? O all you  
angels, who wing your way on the winds, silence the tree-tops! My child is sleeping.

**CALL TO OFFERING**

Brian K. Ballard

**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.

**HYMN** 136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

**BENEDICTION**

Franklyn C. Pottorff

**POSTLUDE**

Improvisation

Jeffrey Brillhart

## Announcements

**CHANGE TO CHURCH OFFICE HOURS.** Due to the rise in COVID-19 cases, the church has a skeletal weekday staff on site from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. only. The staff is equipped to work from home. The church office will close at noon on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, and the campus will be closed Christmas and New Year's Day. We have suspended opening the Chapel for prayer. Please call or e-mail if you need to reach a pastor or staff member. For pastoral emergencies, call 610-525-2821.

**WELCOMING THE NEW YEAR WITH PRAYER.** Wed., Dec. 31, all day. The Caring Ministries Team has put together a series of virtual prayer stations to help lead you through New Year's Eve. Each station focuses on a different theme: lament, remembering, silence, light, gratitude, and intention. These stations guide the way to the start of 2021 and a new calendar year. You can participate online at [www.bmpc.org/2021](http://www.bmpc.org/2021).

## This Week

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

## Upcoming

**WHITE FRAGILITY: WHY IT'S SO HARD FOR WHITE PEOPLE TO TALK ABOUT RACE.** Sundays at 11:15 a.m. starting Jan. 10, via Zoom conference call. Join BMPC members Courtenay Willcox and Amy Ballard in a six-week discussion of Robin DiAngelo's bestselling book on the work of anti-racism and how we as white folks can rethink our own privilege and equip ourselves to listen and learn from others. Whether you are just getting started in this work, or simply looking for an encouraging and yet challenging place to practice having conversations on race and privilege, this is the place for you. More information is available on the [BMPC website](#). Registration is required for this group, and books will be provided. [Sign up here](#).

**RACISM: POWER, PRIVILEGE, POISON AND PROMISING POSSIBILITIES.** Sun., Jan. 24, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m., and Sundays, Jan. 31 - Feb. 14, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m., via Zoom conference call. This workshop, led by Anita Friday, anti-racism educator and activist, will explore America's relationship with racism by examining its history, laws and institutional practices. Participants will be invited to explore their personal experiences with questions of ethnicity and race. In addition, during the workshop, participants learn about institutional practices that have shaped how various citizens are able to participate in the nation, how racism has affected Black people and how to define and distinguish white supremacy and white privilege, i.e. ethnically-based inequalities. Finally, tools for dismantling racism and methods for creating a more promising future will be shared. Cost: \$50. For more details, visit the [workshop page](#) on the BMPC website. [Register for the workshop here](#).