

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 12, 2021 | 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Third 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 Monday.

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

Rainbow Reindeer Games

11:15 a.m., Foerderer House

Singing City Concert

3:00 p.m., Sanctuary

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

“Plein jeu and Cromhorne en Taille”
from *Suite du 4em ton sur le Magnificat*

Jean-Adam Guilain

WELCOME

Franklyn C. Pottorff

ADVENT INTROIT (*Please remain seated.*)

Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Joyce Malott, Janet Haas,
Christina and Elisabeth Haas

One: Rejoice and exult with all your heart;

All: The Lord has taken away the judgments against us.

One: We will not fear or let our hands grow weak.

All: The Lord is in our midst and rejoices with us in gladness.

One: On this third Sunday of Advent we light this candle of joy.

All: Our joy and gladness strengthen us for mission and service.

One: May this candle of joy give light to the world!

All: May our words and actions declare God's mighty deeds spreading joy!

One: Let us sing our joy in the coming of Christ.

† HYMN 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

GENEVAN 42

CALL TO CONFESSION

AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*in unison*)

God of grace in days gone by and hope for years to come, we praise you for your light which dawns upon us, illumining our path forward. Forgive us for failing to accept your love for us, and for the ways we withhold our love from others. Give us grace to follow Jesus, and the courage to see the face of Christ in all who suffer, to be hands to the helpless, food for the hungry, and rescue for the oppressed. Humble us, that we may find our strength in you. Kindle in us love for all you love, that we may join you in your work of mercy, redemption, and joy.

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

Franklyn C. Pottorff

FIRST LESSON Zephaniah 3:14-20 (*p. 877 in pew Bible*)

ANTHEM

Springs in the Desert
Sanctuary Choir

Arthur Jennings

Say to them that are of a fearful heart. Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come and save you. The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. For in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams flow in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the way of holiness; the redeemed shall walk there: And the ransomed of the Lord shall return with songs and everlasting joy: and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

SECOND LESSON Luke 3:7-18 (*pg. 60 in pew Bible*)

Agnes W. Norfleet

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

From our Fears and Sins Release Us
Advent Series on Hope – Hope for Community

Agnes W. Norfleet

† HYMN 144

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(in unison)*

Brian K. Ballard

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*

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Franklyn C. Pottorff

PASTORAL PRAYER

Brian K. Ballard

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

Behold, Emmanuel
Sanctuary Choir

Diane Loomer

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son. And his name be called Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel, and free enslaved Israel, who cries in exile, deprived of the Son of God. Rejoice, Israel, Emmanuel will be born for you. O come, thou branch of Jesse, draw the quarry from the lion's claw, from the dread caverns of the grave, from nether hell thy people save. Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, Israel. Come, rising bright, to meet us. Dispell the night fog and the harsh darkness of the night. Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to us, o Israel. Come, Emmanuel, and free enslaved Israel. Behold, Emmanuel.

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

† Please stand, if able.

† 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

Brian K. Ballard

† HYMN 134

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

† BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

Agnes W. Norfleet

POSTLUDE

Savior of the Nations, Come

Pamela Decker



“I am the resurrection and the life.”

Howard West ~ December 1, 2021

WORSHIP NOTES

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Eva Lacey Lee and Mary E. Lee

PLAYING THE CARILLON

Wade FitzGerald

BULLETIN COVER

A Visit © 2011 John August Swanson | Eyekons

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Josh and Katie Hirt

Gerald and Amy Ferguson

Reinhard Schweitzer-Stenner

Announcements

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE LIVE NATIVITY. 1:00-3:30 p.m., Education Building Lawn. Actors and readers, along with live animals, will reenact key moments from the Christmas story as you walk through our Live Nativity on the church's front lawn. Families are encouraged to sign up for a time slot to help with scheduling participants throughout the afternoon: <https://signup.com/go/CLoEVnN>. A prerecorded Christmas Eve Service also will be posted on the BMPC website.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS. 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary and livestreamed. Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols with the Rev. Dr. Agnes W. Norfleet. This service will be livestreamed on the church website (www.bmpc.org/livestream) and BMPC's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/brynmawrpres) and YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/brynmawrpres).

Today

ADVENT GIFT MARKET. In-person shopping in the Narthex today and next Sunday. 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.

RAINBOW REINDEER GAMES. Today, 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. Today, 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.

This Week

ADVENT STORY PATH LABYRINTH. Walking a labyrinth during Advent provides a meaningful way to journey to Bethlehem. The small labyrinth is open in the Chapel 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. 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. 14, 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. 14 we welcome Anna Kislitsyna and Torsten Fras on BMPC's Robert Hauptfuhrer Memorial Harpsichord.

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. Wed., Dec. 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 the following week. Members of our congregation will lead the sessions. Contact Kiki McKendrick for the Zoom link: KikiMcKendrick@bmpc.org.

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. Families are encouraged to sign up for a time slot to help distribute participants: <https://signup.com/go/CLoEVnN>. 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 support the Afghan refugee family who moved into Foerderer House on Dec. 1. The committee is hard at work helping the family settle in, register for schools, and navigate the community. If you are interested in helping through donations or one-time volunteer opportunities such as driving, making meals or babysitting, you can use this link to sign up: <https://bit.ly/support-sepah>

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 today and next Sunday, 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 12

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 Youth Gathering (Middle School and High School), Foerderer House, 2nd Floor
11:00	a.m.	Advent Story Path Labyrinth - Open Walk, Children's Chapel
11:15	a.m.	Rainbow Reindeer Games, Foerderer House
11:30	a.m.	Nominating Committee Meeting, Foerderer House Patio
3:00	p.m.	Singing City Concert, Sanctuary

Monday, December 13

9:00	a.m.	Advent Story Path Labyrinth - Open Walk, Children's Chapel
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Tuesday, December 14

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.	Advent Tuesday Noon Concert, Sanctuary and Livestream
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.	Forever in My Heart Support Group, Virtual Session Meeting, Virtual

Wednesday, December 15

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
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 Trustees' Meeting, Virtual

Thursday, December 16

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

Friday, December 17

9:00	a.m.	Advent Story Path Labyrinth - Open Walk, Children's Chapel
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Saturday, December 18

7:00	a.m.	Saturday Morning Men's Group, Ed. Bldg., Rm. 204
9:00	a.m.	Advent Story Path Labyrinth - Open Walk, Children's Chapel

Sunday, December 19

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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www.youtube.com/user/brynmawrpres

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