



Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church



The Fourth Sunday After Christmas
January 22, 2023
10:30 a.m.

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

We are glad you have joined us for worship this morning. We are a caring community of friends who come from a variety of backgrounds to seek God in this place. We are united by our faith in Christ, our love of learning, our appreciation of music and worship, our passion for service and our desire to deepen our spiritual lives. We believe you will find Bradley Hills a safe place to ask the deep questions of life and a community that embraces each spiritual journey. Bradley Hills is a welcoming witness to the love of Jesus Christ. We believe that diversity in our membership - different ages, genders, ethnicities, abilities, races, sexual orientations, ideological and theological beliefs and experiences - is an important strength. We come from across the nation, from different denominational backgrounds and from around the world. We are all God's children, united by God's love. Our history is connected to the care and nurture of children and to our supporting each other as we seek God. We encourage you to explore our bulletin and website, to include your email on the fellowship pads and to take home a welcome folder found just outside the Sanctuary. We hope we have a chance to greet you following worship or that you'll contact us.

Many blessings,

Pastor David, the BHPC Staff, and Congregation
David@bradleyhillschurch.org

We are currently a mask optional community. All are welcome to attend in-person at our 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services or stream online at our 10:30 a.m. service. Childcare is available for infants and toddlers ages 3 and under. Children ages 4 and older are invited to participate in Children's Church following the Children's Message or stay with their families for worship.

GETTING CONNECTED AND EXPLORING MEMBERSHIP



BHPC is excited to welcome you to our growing community.

Pastor David will be available after worship or during the week to meet with families or individuals interested in connecting more at BHPC or exploring membership. Just email david@bradleyhillschurch.org to set up a time.

Membership classes will be offered on **January 29 at 11:40 a.m. in Covenant Hall and on Zoom.**

New members will be received next on **February 12.**

GATHERING TOGETHER

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

CARILLON PEAL

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

GATHERING MUSIC

Be Joyful

Lee Afdahl

Bradley Ringers

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Denise Diaab

One: When the pressures in the world threaten us, when our bodies or spirits turn
against us,

All: **There is One who seeks us,**

One: One who meets us,

All: **One who heals us,**

One: One whose love washes over us,

All: **One who gives our lives meaning.**

One: The One is the Lord, our God!

All: **Come, let us worship God.**

*HYMN

O God Beyond All Praising

Thaxted



1. O God, be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to -
2. The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly
3. Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we



day and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-
die, its frag-ile bloom sur-ren-der to you, the Lord most
bring, that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our



pay; for we can on-ly won-der at ev-'ry gift you
high; but hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is
King; and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or



send, at bless-ings with-out num-ber and
sown— though small in mor-tal stat-ure, to
ill, we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and



mer-cies with-out end: we lift our hearts be-
heav-en's gar-den grown: for Christ the man from
rise to praise you still: to mar-vel at your



fore you and wait up-on your word, we
heav-en from death has set us free, and
beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways, and



hon-or and a-dore you, our great and might-y Lord.
we through him are giv-en the fi-nal vic-to-ry.
make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

Elder Linda Kauskay

Celebration of BHPC Solar Panels

CONFESSING AND PRAISING

Said in unison.

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

Gracious God, you are amazing in your creation and we adore you. Yet, Lord, too often we bury your gifts within us. We neglect the love inside us, love you have given us to strengthen your church and your world. Help us, Lord, to recognize that you came to relate to us and to relieve us of our sin. So tend to our hearts with patience. Strengthen us, to serve you with thanksgiving. Open us, God, to trust you as we confess...

Silence for personal confession

KYRIE

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

One: We pray.

All: Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: Friends, believe the good news.

All: In Christ we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE & INVITATION TO CHILDREN

Children are invited, with the permission of their parents, to come forward and sit on the Chancel steps for the Children's Message.

O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer

Stuttgart

O my soul, bless your Redeemer; all within me bless God's name;
Bless the Savior, and forget not all God's mercies to proclaim.

EXPERIENCING GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

DCE Matt Nabinger

Children ages 3 to 5th grade are invited to Church School following the Children's Message. Parents may pick up their children at the education doors beside the nursery after the worship service.

REFLECTING GOD'S LOVE FOR CHILDREN

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.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ecclesiastes 1:1-13

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Work

Melissa Dunphy

Commissioned by the Donald Sinclair Sutherland Endowment for the Bradley Hills

Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir

Matthew Robertson, conductor

You have been told that life is darkness,
and in your weariness
you echo what was said by the weary.

And I say that life is indeed darkness
save when there is urge,
And all urge is blind
save when there is knowledge.
And all knowledge is vain
save when there is work,

and all work is empty
save when there is love;

And when you work with love
you bind yourself to yourself,
and to one another,
and to God.

Work is love made visible

Adopted from "The Prophet" by Kahlil Gibran

SERMON

David Gray

Is Life Meaningless?

*HYMN 313

Come Down, O Love Divine

Down Ampney

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

RESPONSE IN FAITH - FROM CONFESSION OF 1983

Said in unison.

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

RESPONSE IN OFFERINGS - CALL FOR OFFERING

As we make our offerings to God, please add your name and your email and/or address to the fellowship pad, pass to the end of your row and pass it back so that we might greet each other in our rows by name following the service.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Hush! Somebody's callin' my name

*African American Spiritual
arr. Brazeal W. Dennard*

Refrain:

Hush, Hush, Somebody's callin' my name.

Oh, my Lord, oh, my Lord, what shall I do?
Refrain.

I'm so glad I got my religion in time.

Oh, my Lord, oh, my Lord, what shall I do?

I'm so glad that trouble don't last always.

Oh, my Lord, oh, my Lord, what shall I do?

Refrain.

Soon one mornin' death come creepin' in
my room.

Oh, my Lord, oh, my Lord, what shall I do?

Refrain.

*SUNG PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Doxology

Old Hundredth

The congregation may be seated.

RESPONSE IN PRAYER - CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

Response for Concerns:

One: O Lord,

All: Hear our prayers.

Response for Celebrations:

One: With thanksgiving,

All: We praise the Lord.

Said in unison.

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN 420

vs. 1, 2, 3, & 5

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM Rhondda

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

SENDING MUSIC

I. Allegro; Sonata in F Minor, Op. 2, No. 1

Ludwig van Beethoven

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Stay with us after today's worship for a brief congregational meeting in the Sanctuary and online for the purpose of electing two deacons. The nominees are Caroline Simpson & Yoshi Sei.

FAMILY CONNECTIONAL LUNCH

Families are welcome to join us in Memorial Hall for lunch after the Congregational Meeting to talk about ways we can support young families and children at BHPC.

MUSIC NOTES

Work was commissioned by the Donald Sinclair Sutherland Endowment for the Bradley Hills Presbyterian Chancel Choir and Matthew Robertson, conductor, and was premiered on March 24, 2019 at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, MD. The text is adapted from a chapter of the 1923 prose poetry book, "The Prophet," by Lebanese-American author Kahlil Gibran, who was influenced by Christianity, Islam, and Sufism, and addresses a path out of despair and meaninglessness through working with love; a message that has as much relevance to today's world as that of a century ago.

CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS

Prayers for those mourning the loss of loved ones:

- The family of Joan Brown whose celebration of life was held on January 19.
- The family of Emily Mills (daughter of Terry and Kathy Brady) whose celebration of life will be held at 1:00 pm in the sanctuary on January 29, followed by a reception in Memorial Hall.
- Liz Allen and her son Andrew as they grieve the loss of Andrew's close childhood friend Michael Christopher Matthes who passed away on January 8. Services for Michael will be scheduled at a later date.

Celebrations:

- We join the family of Maya Chock (Atley and Fam Chock's daughter, Lin Lin Chock's granddaughter) in celebrating Maya's baptism on January 15
- Congratulations to our preschool for being a Best of Bethesda Winner for 2023! BHPCNS was voted as the best preschool/day care by the voters of *Bethesda* magazine.

Concerns:

- Mary Ann Williams who is in the hospital
- John Schmiedigen, wife Nadia, daughters Emma and Ava, and mother Betty Jean.
- Those named and unnamed who are ill, hospitalized, injured, facing/recovering from surgery, being treated for cancer, and/or isolated from the church community including Herb Dorsey, Ed Everitt, , Nancy Taylor, and Mark Gruen
- Loved ones and friends of members of the BHPC community including Michael Abell (Laura Hall Abell's husband) ~ Gail (Ethan Coffin's grandmother) ~ Ed and Virginia (David's parents) ~ Liz (friend of Jana Coffey) ~ Karen (Amy's friend) ~ Judd (David's friend) ~ Dawn (friend of Jane De Angeli) ~ JoAnn (sister-in-law of Janelle MacLean) ~ Suzanne (friend of Mary Hickey) ~ Angelica (sister of Leo, BHPC sexton) ~ Alison (friend of Myla Williams) ~ Kay (Phyllis Sutherland's cousin) ~ and CC (friend of Liz Sobrino)
- Those in the Northeastern US affected by severe weather conditons
- Parents and children facing challenges
- An end to hate, discrimination, and intolerance in all its forms as we stand in solidarity with BJC and the Jewish community against anti-Semitism
- God's shalom for the people of war-torn countries including Ethiopia and Ukraine
- The women in Afghanistan who are not allowed to pursue higher education
- Migrants seeking asylum
- Those affected by addiction and mental illness

If you would like to join our prayer chain or share a prayer concern, contact David (david@bradleyhillchurch.org) or Denise (denise@bradleyhillchurch.org).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are so grateful for our wonderful sound and video ministry team: Bruce Liffiton, Jim Kettler, Min Lee, and Bruce Hunter.

We are also grateful to our **Flower Guild** for our beautiful flowers on the Chancel each Sunday.

PREVIEW OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

Preaching: David will be preaching on the question: **Is there nothing new under the sun?**, based on scripture lessons, Ecclesiastes 1 & 4. We will be recognizing the **Ordination & Installation of our New Officers.**

Adult Education: Retired Foreign Service Officer, Scott Butcher, will draw on experiences from his decades of work in U.S. diplomatic missions in southeast and southern Asia and at the State Department to share personal perspectives on U.S. foreign policy. He and countless others faced “the diplomat’s dilemma:” having to deal with the world as it is, not as we wish it to be, while maintaining hope that in the face of daunting challenges, the U.S. and other nations—friend and foe alike—can make progress in promoting the security and wellbeing of our citizens and for people around the globe.

[Click here to join the Zoom Meeting each Sunday](#)
Or you can dial in for audio only at 1-301-715-8592
Meeting ID: 815 0426 9624, Passcode: 454038

BHPC INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY



Worship - Pastor David will make a determination regarding worship services. Every effort will be made to hold worship as scheduled, but please be safe and use precaution for safe travels. We will notify the congregation of any changes in regular worship schedules by email. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office.

Church Office - BHPC follows the closings of Montgomery County Public Schools Administrative Offices. If the school offices are closed or open late, then the church office will follow suit. In adverse weather, please call the office before coming to the church to ensure that someone will be here to meet you.

Church Meetings/Activities - BHPC will once again follow the guidance of Montgomery County Public Schools. If schools close or cancel afternoon, evening, or weekend activities, scheduled BHPC meetings and activities will be cancelled. If conditions improve enough to allow evening meetings, a pastor or lay leader will contact you directly to advise on proceedings.

LIFE AT BRADLEY HILLS

Bible Study on Zoom - Join David for Bible Study on January 25 at 2:00 p.m. to discuss the upcoming scripture lessons.

Emily (Brady) Mills' Memorial Service - Terry & Kathy Brady invite all to attend the memorial service for their daughter, Emily Mills at **BHPC on Sunday, January 29 at 1:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**, followed by a reception in Memorial Hall.

Explore Membership - David will be hosting a Membership Class on **January 29 at 11:40 a.m. in Covenant Hall and on Zoom**. If you are interested in getting connected with BHPC or exploring membership, come to the class or **contact David**.

Worship Workshop for 2nd Graders: January 29, February 5, & February 12 | 9:15 a.m. in Lower Level Classroom 102 - 2nd graders and their parents are invited to this three session workshop, led by Corinne Silva & Rosanna Morrison, where children and parents learn together about the sacraments of Baptism and Communion, how our worship service is organized, the special place we worship, and how we praise God through song. Activities are hands-on and child-friendly. Please contact **Corinne** (434-249-7734) or **Rosanna** (301- 928-4110) to **RSVP** or if you have any questions.

BHPC Group Outing to the National Museum of African American History & Culture: Sunday February 5 after the 10:30 a.m. Worship - All are welcome to join the Racial Justice Coordinating Committee in an intergenerational outing to the NMAAHC on the National Mall. Participants will meet in the Library at 11:40 a.m. for a quick lunch (your choice of Panera at \$10/person or BYO), leave at 12:10 p.m. for the museum, and arrive around 1:15 p.m. for our timed entry group pass. Those who prefer not to walk from parking to the museum can be dropped off at the entrance. BHPC member, Myla Williams (public programs volunteer at the NMAAHC) will accompany the group. Tentative departure time from the museum is 4:30 p.m., based on participant preference. **Space is limited. Sign up deadline is January 31. Click here for more info or to sign up!** Questions? **Contact Myla Williams** by phone or email. (301)717-3304

Book Club Meeting- There will be a Book Club meeting in-person and on Zoom on **Sunday, February 5 at 3:00 p.m. in the Library**. We will be discussing our December & January book choices: **Anxious People: A Novel** by Frederik Backman & **Our Missing Hearts: A Novel** by Celeste Ng. Reading not required--come for the fellowship!

2023 FLOWER SIGN-UPS

The Flower Guild invites all to sign up for dedications for Sunday flowers. If you are interested in dedicating flowers in honor or in memory of someone, please use the **Sign-Up Genius** link or contact **Susan Vanderver** or **Bie Fox** for available dates. Each dedication costs \$65. All proceeds go to funding the Flower Guild and Sunday morning flower arrangements.



FLOWER DELIVERIES

The Deacons & Flower Guild are asking for volunteers to drive and deliver floral arrangements to congregational members who are homebound, need TLC, or simply in celebration of life's joys. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry of care and celebration, please use the **Sign-Up Genius** link or contact **Cliff Ty** or **Tamae Wong**.

SMART SACKS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Our successful program of providing supplemental food to families in need in Montgomery County needs more volunteers to help with set up on Sundays and delivery during the week. These volunteer positions would rotate an average of once a month. Please contact **Jim Kettler** or **Elaine Henderson** or talk to them in the lounge during the Smart Sacks assembly after 10:30 a.m. worship if you would like to volunteer!

2023 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2023 Annual Meeting of the BHPC congregation and corporation will take place on **Sunday, February 12 after the 10:30 a.m. worship in-person and online.** We will receive the 2023 budget, the annual report, and the financial report, hear lay ministry reports, consider pastors' terms of call, and any other business that is in order.



**Abundant
Blessings**

**Abundant
Gratitude**

**Abundant
Giving**

A MESSAGE FROM BHPC STEWARDSHIP

We wanted to say **THANK YOU!** to those who have pledged for the coming year. Matthew 6:3-4 tells us, “But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” Abundant giving! Abundant blessings! Abundant gratitude! Good stewardship lasts all year. Contact [Amy de Court](#) or fill out a pledge card from the pew rack and drop it in the offering plate.

In-Person Giving



6601 Bradley Blvd
Bethesda, MD 20817

Text Giving



Text “BHPC \$” with
amount to 73256

Mobile Giving



Download the Realm
Connect App

Online Giving



Access the [Bradley
Hills Giving Page](#)

BHPC NURSERY SCHOOL



Recently awarded the Best Preschool in Bethesda by Bethesda Magazine, BHPCNS is a play based preschool program for 2, 3, 4, and 5 year-olds. There is a strong emphasis on supporting each child’s social-emotional development in an age appropriate way. We are filling up fast for the 2023-2024 school year. For more information about our school or to arrange a tour, please call (301)365-2909 or [email us](#). You can also check out our website at [www.bhpcns.org!](#)

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

January 29 | Finding Meaning in Our Times

Preacher: David Gray | Ecclesiastes 1 & 4

“Is There Nothing New Under the Sun?”

Ordination & Installation of Officers

February 5

Preacher: DCE Matt Nabinger | Communion

February 12

Preacher: David Gray

Annual Meeting following 10:30 a.m. Worship

Mission Statement

To reflect God’s gracious love by following Christ’s example to welcome, nurture, heal and serve.

Vision Statement

A vibrant caring community that draws and energizes people to grow in faith, serving together to make every breath count.



Scan the QR Code to view the PDF version of the bulletin--click links, zoom in for a closer read, view resources and more! Need help accessing the PDF? [Email Elizabeth](mailto:Elizabeth@bradleyhillschurch.org), our Director of Communications & Administrative Ministries for support.



bradleyhillschurch.org

6601 Bradley Blvd. ▪ Bethesda, MD 20817 ▪ 301-365-2850