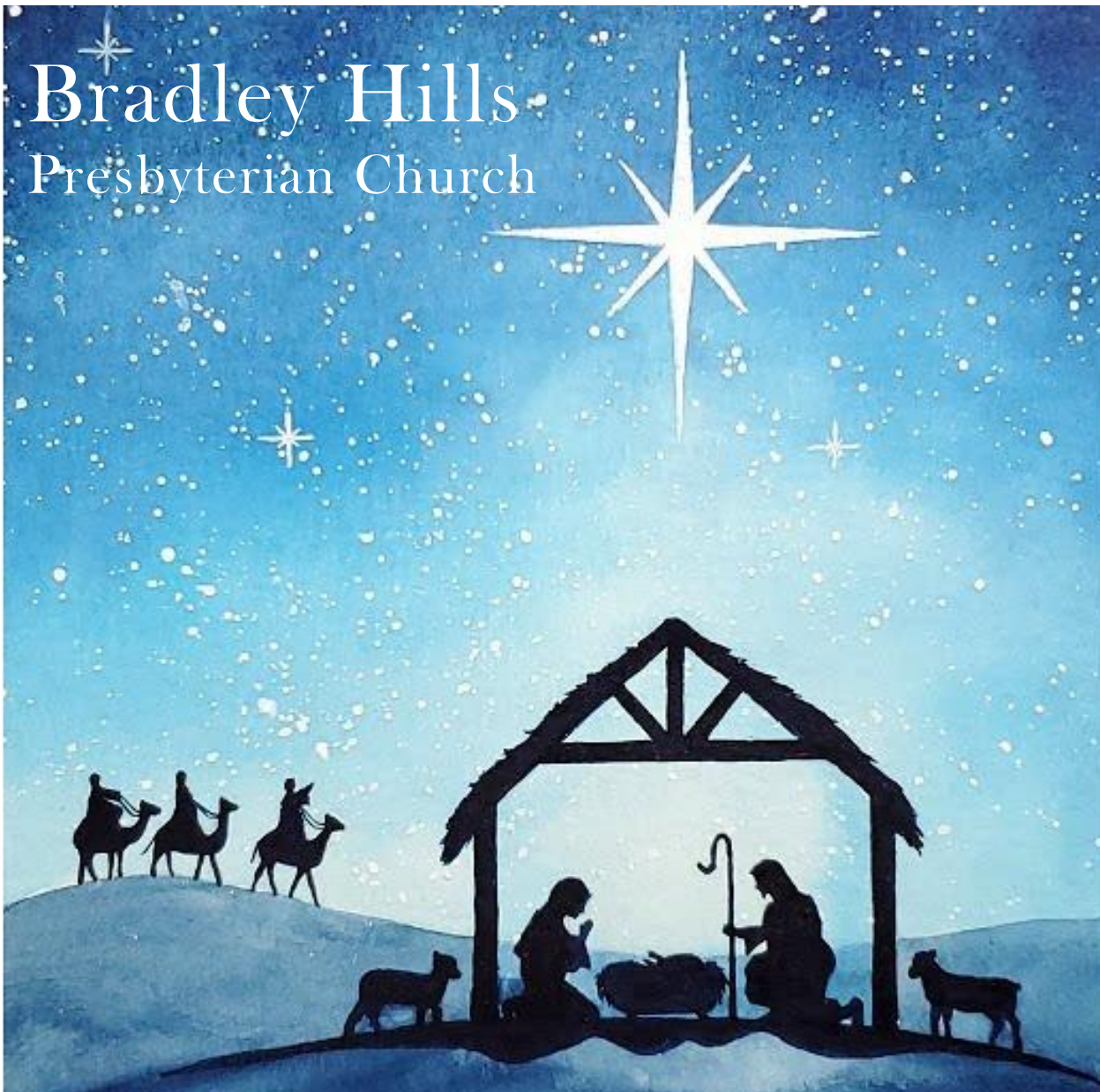


Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church



Christmas Eve Worship
December 24, 2023
6:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

A Special Welcome

Thank you for joining us for worship tonight!

We hope that the presence of the Holy Spirit and the warmth of Christ's love are gifts to you as we worship God together. **We encourage you to explore our bulletin, fill out a Visitor Card or the red fellowship pad at the end of your pew, and take home a welcome folder found just outside the Sanctuary.**

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 care and nurture of children and families, our love of learning, our appreciation of music and worship, our passion for service, and our desire to deepen our spiritual lives. Bradley Hills is a safe place to ask the deep questions of life and a community that embraces each spiritual journey.

We seek to be 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 a variety of denominational backgrounds and from around the world. We are all God's children, united by God's love.

Childcare is available for infants and toddlers ages 3 and under in our nursery. All children are welcome to grab an activity board and children's bulletins for the service. We are a mask optional community. We have masks available just outside the Sanctuary if you would like one.

We hope we have a chance to greet you and get to know you. There are a lot of exciting activities happening at BHPC that we would love for you to be a part of. If we can share any information about the church or be of support to you in any way, just let us know. We invite you to explore our website at www.bradleyhillchurch.org.

In Christ's hope,

David Gray, Senior Pastor | david@bradleyhillchurch.org

Get Connected | Explore 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 at david@bradleyhillchurch.org to set up a time.

New members will be received next in **late February/early March**. If you are interested in joining the winter new member class, please contact David.

GATHERING TOGETHER

CARILLON PEAL

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

PRELUDE (6:00 p.m.)

Love Came Down at Christmas

arr. Joe Utterback

PRELUDE (10:00 p.m.) - *Offered by the Chancel Choir and Brass Quintet*

I Wonder as I Wander

arr. John Rutter

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die,
For poor on'ry people like and like I,
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all,
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the king.

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die,
For poor on'ry people like you and like I,
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

Gesu Bambino

arr. Zach Smith

Good Christian Men Rejoice

arr. Tom Holtz

The Holly and the Ivy

arr. Zack Smith

In Bleak Midwinter

Rossetti/Host arr. Zach Smith

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

R. Willis, arr. Joe Parente

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

arr. Stephen McNeff

The First Noel

arr. Bill Holcombe

Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming

Michael Praetorius, arr. Christopher Dedrick

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Denise Diaab

One: The people who walked in darkness

All: Have seen a great light;

One: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness—

All: On them light has shined.

One: For unto us a child is born,

All: Unto us a son is given;

One: Authority rests upon His shoulders;

**All: And He shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.**

One: God's glorious light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.

All: O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

***HYMN 41**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste fideles

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem!

Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,

Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

WELCOME

Pastor David Gray

CONFESSING AND PRAISING

seated, in unison

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

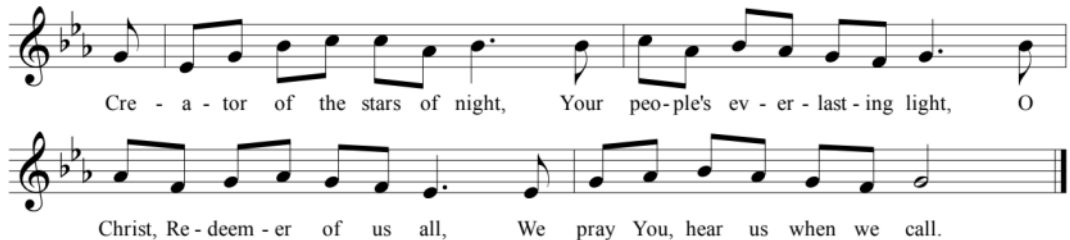
Great and glorious God, through Jesus Christ our Savior you have shown us that the blessed age of grace has appeared and the hoped-for time of salvation has come. Yet we cling to our doubts and fears. Draw us into your majesty and your story once again. Surprise us with your light and love as we come before the humble manger in awe, so that we might be your people, holy and whole. Hear us as we pray...

silent prayer

KYRIE

Creator of the Stars of Night

Veni Emmanuel



Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, Your peo-ple's ev - er - last - ing light, O
Christ, Re - deem - er of us all, We pray You, hear us when we call.

One: We pray.

All: Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: The Word becomes flesh and dwells among us.

All: The God of the old has become the God of the new.

One: Friends, believe the good news.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 40

v. 1

Joy to the World

Antioch

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

EXPERIENCING GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:1-20 (KJV)

Chancel Players Andrew Martel & Tracy Rankin (6:00 p.m.); Tracy Rankin & Bill Perry (10:00 p.m.)

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM (6:00 p.m.)

Light a Candle

Jonathan Woody

Light a candle in the darkness
And you pierce the gloom;
Light a candle in the shadows
And love fills a room;

Light a candle 'mid a sadness
And stars come to birth.
Light a candle Christmas Eve
And you mingle heaven and earth.

ANTHEM (10:00 p.m.)

What Sweeter Music

John Rutter

What sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King? Awake the voice! Awake the string!

Dark and dull night, fly hence away, and give the honor to this day,
That sees December turned to May. That sees December turned to May.

Why does the chilling winter's morn smile, like a field beset with corn?
Or smell like a meadow newly-shorn, thus, on the sudden? Come and see
The cause, why things thus fragrant be: 'Tis He is born, whose quickening birth
Gives life and luster, public mirth, to heaven, and the under-earth.

We see him come, and know him ours, who, with his sunshine and his showers,
Turns all the patient ground to flowers. Turns all the patient ground to flowers.
The darling of the world is come, and fit it is, we find a room
To welcome him. To welcome him. The nobler part of all the house here, is the heart.

Which we will give him; and bequeath this holly, and this ivy wreath,
To do him honor, who's our King, and Lord of all this reveling.

What sweeter music can we bring, then a carol for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King?

*Reimagining the Christmas Story****HYMN 44**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

- 1) O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.
- 2) For Christ is born of Mary;
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to all on earth.

- 3) How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him,
Still the dear Christ enters in.
- 4) O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD*Seated, in unison.***RESPONSE IN FAITH - AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe that Jesus was born of a woman as is every child, but born of God's power as was no other child. In the life and work of Jesus, God and people are united but not one, different but not separated. The coming of Jesus was in the coming of God. Through His birth, life, death, and resurrection, Jesus brings God and people together in the relationship God intended. Thanks be to God!

*Seated, in unison.***RESPONSE IN PRAYER - CHRISTMAS 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 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.

RESPONSE IN OFFERINGS - CALL FOR OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO THE CHILD

Please reflect on your blessings and how you might, during these times, present your offering to God in time, talent or treasure. Scan the QR code to make an offering or place your offering in the offering plate. You can also give on your phone by texting to 73256, then enter BHPC and press "send" and click on the link. As we make our offerings, guests are encouraged to fill out the Visitor Card or the fellowship pads in the pews; fellowship pads can be passed to the end of your row and back so that we might greet each other in our rows by name following the service.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM (6:00 p.m.)

In the Bleak Midwinter

Nathan Jones

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and Seraphim thronged the air;
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man I would do my part,
Yet what can I give him--give my heart.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (10:00 p.m.)

My Lord Has Come

Will Todd

Shepherds, called by angels,
Called by love and angels;
No place for them but a stable.
My Lord has come.

Sages, searching for stars,
Searching for love in heaven;
No place for them but a stable.
My Lord has come.

His love will hold me,
His love will cherish me,
Love will cradle me.

Lead me, lead me to see him,
Sages and shepherds and angels;
No place for me but a stable.
My Lord has come.

*DOXOLOGY - SUNG PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

SHARING IN THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD



From the Christ Candle, the Pastors will pass the flame to the ushers, and the ushers will pass the light to those seated on the aisles. As you light your candle, please dip your unlit wick toward the upright lighted candle of your neighbor. The light will spread to all as each worshipper lights the candle of the next person. The congregation will remain seated during the singing of Silent Night, standing and raising all candles up high during the last verse.

HYMN 60

Silent Night

Stille Nacht

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child! Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

(Please stand.)

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

*BENEDICTION

***SENDING HYMN 31**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King,
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time, behold Him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die.
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

***PASSING THE PEACE & JOY OF CHRIST**



*Merry
Christmas*

From BHPC

BHPC Holiday Office Hours

The church office will be **closed December 25, 26, & 28**
and will be **open December 27 & 29** from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Checks, letters, and notes can be dropped through the mail slot
of the church office door anytime.

Join Us For Worship

Sundays at 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. starting January 7!

Preview of Sunday, December 31 | New Year's Eve

One Service at 10:30 a.m. | in-person & online

Preaching: Pastor Denise Diaab | *The Time Has Come*

Preview of Sunday, January 7 | Epiphany Sunday

Worship at 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Preaching: Pastor David Gray | Communion | Matthew 2

Adult Education: *Missionary Travels of the Apostles* | Dianne Whitaker

A Note About Tonight's Sermon Message

Tonight, we are invited to use our gift of child-like wonder and reimagine the Christmas story as Luke 2 meets Charles Dickens. Let's imagine as the shepherds, one in particular, are visited by more angelic spirits than we might have realized. They meet the Ghost of Christmas Borrowed, who warns against borrowing trouble and for being aware when the shepherds go to Bethlehem to register for taxes, and later to meet the child. They meet the Ghost of Christmas Given, who encourages them to see all of life as a gracious gift. They meet the Ghost of Christmas Stöllen, who helps them see how Christmas joy can steal your heart. All to help us see the difference Christmas makes.

Music Notes

Light a Candle was written by Jonathan Woody in November 2020, during a global pandemic that upended the lives of everyone around the world. Inspired by a poem of Max Kapp, Woody tried to emulate Kapp's structure by using a consistent motive for each appearance of the words "Light a candle." The phrases "Love fills a room" and "you mingle heaven and earth" conjures the needs of a world grappling with loss and lack, and inspires a sense of joy, optimism and light.

My Lord Has Come, with text and music by contemporary British composer Will Todd, features a similar meditation on the circumstances of the birth of Jesus, painting a scene of peace and serenity. The music swells and erupts in its description of the love of Christ, as though the humble stable, and by extension, the Earth itself, cannot contain the love of God.

Get Involved in the Life at Bradley Hills

Worship

In-Person Worship

8:30 a.m. | Covenant Hall 10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary

Sermon Series on Ephesians | Beginning January 21

Online Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Education

Adult Education | Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

January 7 | *Missionary Travels of the Apostles* | Dianne Whitaker

January 14 | *A Broad Look at American Religion--A Closer Inspection of Protestant Christianity*
| Dr. Ryan Burge

Bible Study | Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. | January 3, 17, & 24

Mission

Smart Sacks | Sundays at 11:30 a.m. beginning December 31

Becky's House Meals | Cook one meal for 8 people--no continuous commitment required.

Families & Children

Childcare | Children 3 and under at 10:30 a.m. worship

Children's Ministries

Church School | Sundays at 10:45 a.m. after the Children's Message | Pre-K to 5th Grade

Worship Workshop | 2nd Graders learn about worship | January

Youth Ministries

Youth Group | Sundays at 12:00 p.m.

Youth Mission Trips | June & July 2024

Family Connectional Lunches & Events

Family Lunch & Scavenger Hunt | Sunday, January 21 at 11:30 a.m. in Memorial Hall

Music

Choirs for All Ages

Chancel Choir (all are invited) | Lantern Chorale (6th-12th Grade) | Alleluia Singers (K-5th Grade) | Cherub Choir (Ages 3 to 7) | Bradley Ringers (all are invited)

Bradley Hills Presents Concert Series 2024:

The Yale Whiffenpoofs | Sunday, March 10, 2024 | 5:00 p.m.

Filament: Bach & Buxtehude | Saturday, April 6, 2024 | 7:30 p.m.

JOIN US IN 2024

We are excited for what God has in store for Bradley Hills in the new year. We invite you to consider being a part of it.

Each Sunday, starting January 7, we offer worship services at 8:30 and 10:30am, along with childcare and church school, and adult education between our services.

We host a Synagogue and Mosque within our building and have many interfaith families here. Our impact in refugee resettlement, education and service is magnified through our interfaith witness.

Our church support makes a difference for a number of charities in the local area and globally. We have founded several impactful programs helping address food insecurity, poverty, education of women in Asia, inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community and racial, economic and social disparities in the DMV.

Our 3 choirs for children and excellent adult choir provide meaningful music.

We seek to pair worship and service each Sunday, and so after most Sunday worship services we offer a family-friendly service opportunity to put food together for those in need in our area. It helps instill the habit of service in children.

Our small groups and education programs help people find community, gain support and deepen their relationship with God.

If you'd like to get more involved, have ideas for activities or if we can walk alongside you and your family in any way, just let us know. We hope you'll join us in 2024. Merry Christmas. For more info:

www.bradleyhillschurch.org

(301)365-2850

david@bradleyhillschurch.org

Making a Financial Gift to the Church

As we wind up 2023, we have so much to celebrate as a church. Your faithfulness and generosity allows Bradley Hills to continue to thrive and change lives within and outside our church. The gifts of faithful friends like you make up the vast majority of the funds we use to support our worship, education programs, mission work, music and general operations.

As you think about your year-end giving, we appreciate your considering making a gift to the church. Or a pledge for 2024. As we think of the wise men bringing their best to the Christ child, there are many ways one can make a financial contribution to Bradley Hills:

- **Write a check or put cash** in the offering plate, bring it to the office, or mailing it to the church 6601 Bradley Blvd, Bethesda, MD 20817.
- **Make a secure gift through Realm**, our online giving program, by scanning the QR code on page 8 or going to the Give Now icon on the bradleyhillschurch.org website.
- **Text “BHPC” to 73256** and click on the link to make your gift.
- **Transfer securities** - this is a great way to donate appreciated securities to the church while avoiding capital gains taxes. For details on how to donate stock and securities to BHPC, email our Financial Director, Jan Spencer, Jan@bradleyhillschurch.org for information.

Tax deductible gifts for 2023 must be postmarked or received by the church on or before December 31, 2023. One can bring gifts to church or put through the mail slot in the church office door.

For questions, contact Jan Spencer at the church office 301-365-2850 or by e-mail Jan@bradleyhillschurch.org.

Thank you. Together we can accomplish wonderful things for this world which God comes to love at Christmas.

Alternative Giving 2023

Support Justice All Year & Around the World!

Alternative Giving is a program that BHPC supports yearly in an effort to make real, lasting, and measurable change in the world. Each of these local and international choices below are carefully vetted for bringing real change and for reaching groups that are often ignored or hidden. Volunteers will be available at the Alternative Giving table in Covenant Hall after the services to answer questions and take donations for the organization of your choice.



Scan this QR code to read about the 17 programs we are supporting this year.

Scan this QR code to select and give directly to the program of your choice.

Celebrations & Concerns: Please Pray With Us

We are grateful to the many faithful members of our choirs, Chancel Players, teachers, and caregivers, Chancel and Flower Guilds, Usher teams, A/V and Communion teams, who offered their talents to God to support worship this year. We are grateful for our wonderful brass ensemble and section leaders tonight.

We hold in God's healing presence the family of Bill & Gina Perry as they prepare to celebrate the life of Yung Suk Hindman (Gina's sister) on December 31 at 12:30 p.m. in Covenant Hall. We hold in God's healing presence those who are ill, hospitalized, injured, facing/recovering from surgery, being treated for illness, awaiting medical results, facing weighty decisions, receiving hospice care, and/or isolated from the church community.

We hold in God's healing presence the suffering people of our world, and the places where people are experiencing hurt and division, including: Peace for the people in the Holy Land, Taiwan, Ethiopia, Sudan, Ukraine, and Russia. Those affected by hate, discrimination, and intolerance in all its forms as we stand in solidarity with our Jewish, Muslim, and LGBTQ+ siblings, and those who live in hope for an end to gun violence. We pray for healing for the division in the United States.



*The Christmas Flowers are
Given to the Glory of God by...*

Terry & Kathy Brady, in memory of Emily.

Kim Brinkman, in memory of her parents, Jan and Herold Brinkman.

Bie & Steve Fox, in memory of Fu Mama and in honor of Yoko Wiles.

Janet Graff, in memory of Steve Graff & Betty Gordon.

David & Bridget Gray, in gratitude for BHPC and honor of their parents.

Jim & Karin Harrison, to the glory of God.

Laraine & John Hope, in memory of loved ones.

Carl & Joyce Hunt, in honor of our children and grandchildren.

Betty Lee, in memory of loved ones.

Cathie Lutter & Todd McCreight, in memory of our parents.

Cindy Matsiko, in honor of Edith's 80th birthday!

Leslie Morrison & Andrew Brodeur, in memory of Sherri Brodeur.

Rosanna Morrison & Family, in memory of Jean & Dick Morrison.

Norma Parker, in honor of her mom & dad.

Susan & Tim Vanderver, for the glory of God.

Judy & Richard Webster

Board of Deacons, honoring the Bradley Hills church family this Advent & Christmas Season.

Flowers can be taken home after the 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.