



For we are God's handiwork,
created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do.
-Ephesians 2:10



Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church
January 21, 2024
10:30 a.m. Worship

A Special Welcome

Thank you for joining us for worship today!

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.bradleyhillschurch.org.

In Christ's hope,

David Gray, Senior Pastor | david@bradleyhillschurch.org

Interested in joining the church? Email David to set up a time to talk.

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@bradleyhillschurch.org to set up a time.

New members will be received next in **late February/early March**.

Our next Exploring Membership class is on Sunday, February 4 at 11:45 a.m. in Covenant Hall and on Zoom. If you are interested in joining the winter new member class, please contact David.

GATHERING TOGETHER

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

Holy Manna

Bradley Ringers

Judy Phillips

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Denise Diaab

One: Let us come together as one, united in glory to God.

All: We come to worship and praise the God who calls us here.

One: Let's open our hearts to one another,

All: Just as Christ has opened his heart to us.

One: Let us worship God!

*HYMN

O God Beyond All Praising

1. O God beyond all prais - ing, we wor - ship you to -
2. Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we
day and sing the love a - maz - ing that
bring, that we who know your fa - vor may
songs can - not re - pay; for we can on - ly
serve you as our king; and whe - ther our to -
won - der at ev - ery gift you send, at
mor - rows be filled with good or ill, we'll
bless - ings with - out num - ber and mer - cies with - out
tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you
end: We lift our hearts be - fore you and
still: To mar - vel at your beau - ty and
wait up - on your Word, we hon - or and a -
glo - ry in your ways, and make a joy - ful
do - re you, our great and might - y Lord.
du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

One: We gather in this holy place,

All: That we might know and understand God better.

CONFESSING & PRAISING

Said in unison.

PRAYER OF ADORATION & CONFESSION

Lord Jesus, your word is a lamp unto our feet, a light unto our path. Yet sometimes it is a hard word for us to hear. You challenge our comfortable securities and our complacency. Lord, open our ears. Make us eager to hear your truth. Make us bold to hear your word and then to follow where it may lead in our everyday lives. Hear now our silent prayers...

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 Jesus 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.

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

St. Denio

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

EXPERIENCING GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rosanna Howard

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 worship.

REFLECTING GOD'S LOVE FOR CHILDREN

Go Now in Peace

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Go Now in Peace'. It consists of two staves. The top staff is labeled 'Instruments' and features a treble clef, a 2/2 time signature, and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody begins with a whole rest, followed by a repeat sign, and then a series of eighth and quarter notes. The bottom staff is for the vocal line, also in treble clef and 2/2 time. It begins with a quarter note, followed by a series of eighth and quarter notes, and ends with a whole note. The lyrics are: 'Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of God sur - round you ev - cry-where, ev - cry-where you may go.'

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ephesians 1:1-10

ANTHEM

Closing Chorale; *from Chichester Psalms*

Leonard Bernstein

Hineh mah tov,
Umah nayim,
Shevet ahim
Gam yahad.
Amen.

*Behold how good,
And how pleasant it is,
For brethren to dwell,
Together in unity.
Amen.*

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ephesians 2:4-10 NIV

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

David Gray

God's Handiwork

*HYMN 280

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

Amazing Grace

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

RESPONSE IN FAITH - RECOGNITION OF MATT NABINGER'S MINISTRY

RESPONSE IN OFFERINGS - CALL FOR OFFERING

Scan the QR code to make an offering or place your offering in the offering plate. 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

Christ is Our Cornerstone

David Thorne

Christ is our cornerstone,
On him alone we build.
The stone which the builders rejected
has become the Cornerstone.
Alleluia!

*SUNG OFFERING OF THANKSGIVING

Doxology

Old Hundredth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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

***SENDING HYMN 356**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Nettleton (355)

***CHARGE**

DCE Matt Nabinger

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

John Rutter

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**



Preview of January 28

Preaching: Pastor David Gray | From Ephesians 3

8:30 a.m. Worship in Covenant Hall

10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary & online

Ordination & Installation of New Officers

Adult Education | 9:15 a.m. in the Lounge & on Zoom

Topic: *Overview of the Geography & Archeology of the Holy Land*

Jim Rymarsuk, member of Bradley Hills and senior at Princeton Theological Seminary, will give us a tour across the breadth of the Holy Land “from Dan to Beer Sheva” (Jdg 20:1), highlighting the different regions along with some of their most significant archeological discoveries. The purpose of the survey is to provide physical context to our Bible readings to help us better understand the lives of biblical characters and the meaning of their stories. The interplay between the material remnants of the past and the sacred narratives of scripture offers a rich canvas for theological reflection. Through a greater understanding of the context of those who preceded us, we can gain insight into how best to live our own faith journeys in an embodied and tangible way.

Flower Dedication: Today’s flowers are given to the glory of God.



Recognition of Matt Nabinger January 21, 2024

Join us today after worship at 11:30 a.m. in Covenant Hall/
Gathering Space on his final Sunday during coffee hour as we
share gratitude and send best wishes to Matt for his next steps in
ministry.

FAMILY
SCAVENGER
HUNT

JANUARY 21 11:45AM - 12:45PM
STARTING IN MEMORIAL HALL

Use clues from the Bible to find prizes throughout the church
Pizza lunch provided! All ages welcome!
For questions, contact Matt (Matt@bradleyhillschurch.org)

Family Connections Scavenger Hunt - All Families Welcome! **Sunday, January 21 at 11:45 a.m. | Memorial Hall**

Come for a PIZZA LUNCH TODAY and then a Scavenger Hunt for parents and children to do together around the church. Clues with biblical cues will be offered (and answers for the parents).



Mission Forum
Put Your Heart Into Mission!
January 28 11:40 a.m. to 1 p.m.
in Covenant Hall

**OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF BHPC!
WE'RE LOOKING FOR NEW, SUSTAINABLE IDEAS FROM
YOU!**

Mission LM has **new funding available** and we need **your leadership and creativity!** The group will listen to each idea and take a short time for Q & A. **All attendees get to discuss and VOTE at 12:45 p.m.!**

Do you have a mission idea or opportunity? To submit a proposal, fill out the **Mission Forum Form** located in the document holder in the Narthex. If received before **Tuesday, January 24**, the form will be copied and made available to all at the forum.

Free lunch! Free childcare!

Questions? Contact Bonnie Holcomb, Elizabeth St. John, or anyone on the Mission LM.



Small Group Leaders Still Needed!
Contact Pastor Denise ASAP
**Lenten Small Groups will meet weekly for five-six sessions
beginning Thursday, February 15 through Thursday, March 27.**

Join a Lenten Small Group!
**Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look
at the Ten Commandments**

This year we will be using the **Horizons Bible Study** by Eugenia Anne Gamble, to consider how the commandments were understood in their earliest forms and how that understanding can unlock fresh insights in our lives today. Gather with familiar and new friends for fellowship and stimulating conversation. Everyone is welcome as we look at new ways to understand the Ten Commandments.

In-person and Zoom options available. Sign up by contacting Pastor Denise at denise@bradleyhillchurch.org.

Sign up by February 2.



Children's Ministry Survey

BHPC Children's Ministry would like your input as we continue to grow and expand our programming and ministry for our youngest congregants and their families! Please take a moment to scan the QR code to provide us with your thoughts and feedback! We are so grateful for the opportunity to minister to your families and we look forward to learning how we can best serve you.

Volunteers Needed: Becky's House Meals

On the second Monday of every month, volunteers from Bradley Hills provide dinner for the eight women living at Becky's House, a shelter operated by Interfaith Ministries. Becky's House is a long-term shelter for elderly disabled women who would otherwise be homeless. The shelter is in a residential neighborhood in Rockville. This is a great opportunity for an individual, family, or group of friends to help feed those who would otherwise be homeless. **Open dates in 2024 include: September 9th, October 14th, and December 9th.**

Scan the QR code to sign up or look for the sign up link in the weekly emails. Questions? Contact Jennifer Kline or Pastor Denise for more info.



Preparing for the February 18 Adult Education Hour

The Adult Education speaker on February 18 will be **Dr. Robert P. Jones**, bestselling author and president and founder of Public Religion Research Institute. He will discuss his recent book, New York Times bestseller *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy and the Path to a Shared American Future*. The book examines the legacy of racism in America that predates the arrival of enslaved Africans. To quote from the New York Times review (9/5/23), "Full of urgency and insight, his book is a compelling and necessary undertaking."

The Adult Education Lay Ministry and the Racial Justice Coordinating Committee encourage you to read Dr. Jones' book before February 18. It is available for purchase in hardback, Kindle, or audio CD at <https://www.amazon.com/Hidden-Roots-White-Supremacy-American/dp/166800951X>. Copy the link or scan the QR code. We are also making five copies of the book available on a rotating loan basis between now and February 18. Stop by the book table during Coffee Hour after the 10:30 worship service to sign out one of the books.



2024 Sign-Ups for Flower Deliveries & Dedications Available Now!

Scan the QR code to the right or contact Bie Fox or Caroline Simpson if you are available to **deliver flowers to congregational members** who are isolated from the community, need TLC, or simply in celebration of life's joys. We urge those who can to please help in this ministry of care. **Families, adults, and youth are welcome to participate in putting a smile on someone's face!**



Scan the QR code to the left or contact Elizabeth Bullock or the Flower Guild if you are **interested in dedicating flowers in honor or in memory of someone.** Each dedication costs \$65.00. All proceeds go to funding the Flower Guild and Sunday morning flower arrangements.

Stewardship 2024 | How to Make Your Pledge

Bring Your Pledge to
Church



Place it in the offering
plate or in Jan's mailbox

Mail Your Pledge Card



6601 Bradley Blvd.
Bethesda, MD 20817

Scan the QR Code



Make Your Pledge
Directly in Realm

Email the Director of
Financial Ministries



Jan Spencer
jan@bradleyhillchurch.org

Extra Stewardship materials are available in the Narthex document holder or can be mailed to you by reaching out to the church office at (301)365-2850. *Thank you for your support during this Stewardship season!*

A Note From Stewardship

The Bradley Hills Session works hard to care for our church family. They are making plans right now for the coming year. But they can't do it alone! They need your input for our mission in God's world to be successful. If you haven't already pledged for 2024, please consider giving to the building blocks of our future by contacting jan@bradleyhillchurch.org and making a commitment to Bradley Hills.

Did you know that you can **gift securities** (stocks, bonds, etc.)? Transferring securities to Bradley Hills' brokerage account is a great way to donate appreciated securities while potentially avoiding capital gains taxes. For more info on this, **give the office a call at (301)365-2850.**

2024 Annual Meeting

The 2024 Annual Meeting of the BHPC congregation and corporation will take place on **Sunday, February 11 after the 10:30 a.m. worship service in-person in the Sanctuary and online.** We will receive the 2024 budget and the financial report, hear lay ministry reports, consider pastors' terms of call, and any other business that is in order. Annual Reports will be available starting on February 4.

Celebrations & Concerns: Please Pray With Us

We hold in God's healing presence those who are experiencing grief and loss.

We give thanks to God for joys and celebrations:

- With thanksgiving we praise the Lord for Matt Nabinger's service as DCE and pray God's blessings as he answers the call to pastor Oakland Presbyterian Church.

We hold in God's healing presence those who are suffering or have other concerns:

- Those who are ill, hospitalized, injured, facing/recovering from surgery, being treated for cancer, serious or chronic illness, awaiting medical results, facing weighty decisions, receiving hospice care, and/or isolated from the church community.
- Those who are facing hardship and loss.
- Prayers for Pat Stocker and for her brother Bob's comfort and peace.
- Carol Starr and Hannah MacLean who continue to recover from recent surgeries.
- Eric
- Sharon Griffith

We hold in God's healing presence the suffering people of our world, and those who are experiencing hurt and division including:

- Peace for the people in the Middle East, 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.
- Those who live in hope for an end to gun violence.
- Healing for the division of the United States.
- Those suffering from mental illness.
- Those suffering from addiction.
- Those who are caregivers.
- Those who are traveling.

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

Our Staff & Partners in Ministry Directory

Ministers: All Members of the Church

Senior Pastor	David Gray	david@bradleyhillschurch.org
Associate Pastor	Denise Diaab	denise@bradleyhillschurch.org
Director of Music	Matthew Robertson	matthew@bradleyhillschurch.org
Director of Christian Education	Matt Nabinger	matt@bradleyhillschurch.org
Financial Manager	Jan Spencer	jan@bradleyhillschurch.org
Manager of Facilities	Farid Beltran	farid@bradleyhillschurch.org
Director of Communications & Administrative Ministries	Elizabeth Bullock	elizabeth@bradleyhillschurch.org
Coordinator for Spiritual Life	Gail Brown	polserbrown@hotmail.com
Nursery School Director	Liz Sobrino	lsobrino@bhpcns.org
Friends Club Director	Ken Silverstein	ken@friendsclubbethesda.org
Our Sextons - Juan Mendez Sr., Leonel Bruno, Juan Mendez Jr., & Jorge Miranda		
Our Child Caregivers - Nora Mendez, DelCarla Shorter, & Liz Allen		
Director of Music Emeritus - Donald S. Sutherland		
Our Section Leaders - Marie Marquis (soprano), Kaytlin Withers (alto), Kyle Tomlin (tenor), Steven Slupe (bass)		

2024 Convocation with Dr. Mark Labberton | Jan. 27 at 8:30 a.m.

BHPC's partner organization, the **Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington**, invites all to the 2024 Convocation with Mark Labberton, professor of preaching emeritus and former President of Fuller Theological Seminary. The topic will be:

**“The Character of God, the mission of God,
and the work of the people of God”
Linking Worship, Justice and Mission**

Mark Labberton is the Clifford L. Penner Presidential Chair Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Preaching at Fuller Seminary. He was ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and began what was to become three decades of pastoral ministry. Labberton has a strong history in missions, as he co-founded the Christian International Scholarship (now Scholar Leaders), he serves on the board of International Justice Mission and is Senior Fellow of The Trinity Forum. Labberton calls for the unbreakable link between worship, justice, and the Christian life. He has written numerous books and articles. **A virtual option will be available for participants.**

Get Involved This Week at BHPC

Smart Sacks in the Lounge | 11:30 a.m. A **family-friendly mission opportunity** that provides supplemental food to families in Montgomery County who are food deficient over the weekends.

Bible Study | Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. Join the pastors to **discuss upcoming scripture**. Group participants and listeners are both welcome.

Lantern Chorale Rehearsal | Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. For youth in grades 6 to 12. Come make a joyful noise, work as a team, and learn new and fun things about music.

Chancel Choir Rehearsal | Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. Do you like to sing? The Chancel Choir sings each Sunday at the 10:30 a.m. service. Join us on Thursdays for rehearsals.

Music Notes

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You” by John Rutter begins with the words of the title and is based upon a short and beautiful prayer set in poetic form. This benediction is found in Numbers 6:24-26, and is likely one of the oldest poems in the Bible. This piece was chosen to wish blessings on Matt Nabinger as he leaves Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church to start a new venture.

It was by the late 1940s that the FBI began to investigate the Jewish-American conductor, composer, and pianist Leonard Bernstein under suspicion of communism, anti-patriotic behavior, and pacifistic tendencies. In 1971 when Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis commissioned Bernstein to write a work for the opening of the Kennedy Center, Bernstein had largely shrugged off the label of ‘communist’ (largely by naming names and formally, yet secretly, renouncing his communist views). Yet, his anti-war and anti-nuclear views were perhaps even more ingrained after two decades of war and the Cuban missile crisis. With this in mind, it is especially surprising that Bernstein decided to set the Roman Catholic Mass for this auspicious commission and national event. But instead of a straightforward, purely musical setting of the Latin liturgy, he created a broadly eclectic theatrical event by placing the mass into a tense dialog with music and lyrics of the 20th century vernacular, thus exploring his perceived crisis in faith and cultural breakdown of the post-Kennedy era.

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

January 28

Preaching: Pastor David Gray | **Ordination & Installation of New Officers**
After Worship: Mission Forum

February 4

Preaching: Pastor David Gray | **Communion**

February 11

Preaching: Pastor David Gray | **Annual Meeting**

February 14 | Ash Wednesday Services at 1:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Preaching: Pastor Denise Diaab

February 18 | First Sunday of Lent

Preaching: Pastor David Gray | Matthew 1 | Chancel Players

Interested in Staying Up-to-Date on BHPC? Get Connected!

Sign up for our weekly email updates, *Weekly Expressions*, to stay connected and informed about BHPC. If you are interested, you can contact our Director of Communications & Administrative Ministries, **Elizabeth Bullock**, at **elizabeth@bradleyhillchurch.org**.