

Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church



Epiphany Sunday
January 7, 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.bradleyhillchurch.org.

In Christ's hope,

David Gray, Senior Pastor | david@bradleyhillchurch.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@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

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

GATHERING MUSIC

Prélude sur l'Introït de l'Épiphanie

Maurice Duruflé

CALL TO WORSHIP

DCE Matt Nabinger

One: Arise, shine, for your light has come.

All: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

One: The grace and glory of God has dawned in a new year upon all the world.

All: With healing and love for all, let us worship our God of grace and glory.

*HYMN 68

What Star Is This, with Beams so Bright

Puer Nobis Nascitur

WELCOME AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE SHARED

Pastor David Gray

One: We gather in this holy place,

All: That we might know and understand God better.

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

Elder Kate Bushman Smith

Upcoming Mission Forum

CONFESSING & PRAISING

Said in unison.

PRAYER OF ADORATION & CONFESSION

Guiding Light, who leads us on the bright path, who makes the way level before us, we confess our misunderstandings of the journey. We find it easy to see who doesn't belong on the path and miss seeing Christ's hand extended to all. We casually proceed without recognizing the persistent discipline and honest effort required. Restore our commitment to go the distance. Call us again to a deeper love and vital ministry. God, you are the beginning and the end, the journey and our home. Praise be to you...

Silence for personal confession.

KYRIE



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: 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.

The First Nowell

The First Nowell

And by the light of that same star, three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

EXPERIENCING GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

Away in a Manger

Mueller

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay,
Close by me forever, and love me always.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care
And fit them for heaven to live with thee there.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

David Gray

Our Three Gifts

*HYMN 53

What Child Is This

Greensleeves

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

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

The Journey

Simon Lole

The wise men left their country
To journey morn by morn,
With gold and frankincense and myrrh,
Because the Lord was born,
God sent a star to guide them,
And sent a dream to warn.

Lord I will give my love to Thee,
Than gold more costlier,
More sweet to Thee than frankincense,
More priz'd to Thee than myrrh,
Lord, make me dearer day by day,
By day holier.

My life is like their journey,
Their star is like God's book,
I must be like those good wise men
With heav'nward heart and look
But shall I give no gifts to God,
What precious gifts they took.

Nearer and nearer day by day,
'Til I my voice unite,
And sing my 'Glory, Glory'
with angels clad in white,
All 'Glory, Glory' giv'n to Thee,
Through all the angel height.

*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 FAITH - SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING OF THE CUP

One: The gifts of God given for all.

All: For all.

***SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS**

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Come And Taste

arr. Alice Parker

Come and taste along with me,
Consolations running free,
From my Father's worthy home,
Sweeter than the honey comb.

Refrain:

I'll praise God, and you praise God
And we'll all praise God together.
We'll praise the Lord for the work that
He has done
And we'll bless His Name for ever.

All that come with free goodwill
Make the banquet sweeter still
No I go to mercy's door

Asking for a little more.

Refrain.

Goodness running like a stream
Through the new Jerusalem;
By its constant breaking forth,
Sweetens earth and heaven both.

Refrain.

O return, ye sons of grace,
Turn and see God's smiling face.
Hark, he calls the wayward home,
Then from him no longer roam.

Refrain.

Said in unison.

RESPONSE IN PRAYER - 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 66

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Three Kings of Orient

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST



Preview of January 14 | Baptism of the Lord

8:30 a.m. Worship in Covenant Hall

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

Preaching: Pastor Denise Diaab | Mark 1:4-11

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

Topic: *A Broad Look at American Religion—A Closer Inspection of Protestant*

Christianity Dr. Ryan Burge, who is both an ordained minister and a college professor, stands as one of our country's leading experts on the intersection of politics and religion—and in particular on “the Nones,” that growing cohort of Americans who claim no affiliation with any particular faith tradition. A frequent guest on CNN, C-Span, and NBC, Dr. Burge is oft-quoted in stories appearing in a diverse collection of news outlets.

Music Note

The *Prélude sur l'Introît de l'Épiphanie* is based on a Gregorian chant. The composer chose the seasonal second-mode plainsong introit for the Feast of the Epiphany. The formal translation of the plainsong is: “Behold the Lord the ruler is come: and the Kingdom is in his hands and power, and dominion. Give to the King thy judgement O God: and to the King's son thy justice.”

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!*

Lenten Small Group Leaders Needed!

Contact Pastor Denise by January 14

Lenten Small Groups will meet weekly for five-six sessions beginning Thursday, February 15 through Thursday, March 27.



This year we will be using the Horizon Bible Study, *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*, by Eugenia Anne Gamble, to consider how the commandments were understood in their earliest forms and how that understanding can unlock fresh insights for our lives today. For example, “Thou shall not kill” can mean more than taking someone’s life with a gun. It can also apply to assassinating someone’s character or killing someone’s spirit. This promises to be a rich study with opportunities for stimulating discussion.

We hope to have group sessions that will be held in person and via Zoom. If you are interested in leading or co-leading one of the small groups of 8-10, **please contact Denise by January 14 at denise@bradleyhillchurch.org or 562-335-4506.**

Celebrations & Concerns: Please Pray With Us

We hold in God's healing presence those experiencing grief and loss including:

- The families of all those who died in the earthquake on the Noto Peninsula in Japan on January 1.

We give thanks to God for joys and celebrations including:

- The report that Peg Flowe is cancer free--with Thanksgiving we praise the Lord.

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 in the BHPC community who are recovering from Covid.
- Eric and Sharon Griffith.

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

- The people on the Noto Peninsula in Japan as they recover from the devastation caused by the earthquake on January 1.
- Peace for the people of the Holy Land, Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, 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 and healing for the division of the United States.
- Those suffering from mental illness, those suffering from addiction, and those who are caregivers.

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

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 go without. **Open dates in 2024 include: February 12th, April 8th, July 8th, September 9th, October 14th, November 11th, 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.



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)

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.



Notes

Use this section to write notes on the sermon, worship, or for prayerful reflection.

Upcoming Sermons

As 2024 begins, we realize the unique challenges of this year to come. The world is at war in several places. It's an election year. How do we find peace, unity, and common ground in a divided world?

This is a time when federal health officials, some who are members of our own congregation, tell us that loneliness is the greatest health issue facing Americans. Where do we find community in a time of isolation?

At a time when there is an absence of meaning in the world, where do we find purpose in life?

The next few months at BHPC, we'll look at Jesus' teachings on several of these issues through the lens of Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus and through the early parts of the Gospel of Matthew.

Studies at several major research institutions reveal that relationships seem to be a major key to happiness. Jesus' life helps us see that through relationships with God and other people, we can find blessings. There is no better sanctuary for common ground than to view Jesus at the center of what we seek. No better place to make friends, even if you live in another state, than through the church. No better place to see how God can work through us to bless others and give meaning than seeing how Jesus acted.

Let's see how the books of Ephesians and Matthew can prepare us for this unusual year. To see what might be possible for us. See you at church. In Christ's hope, David

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

January 14 | Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Preaching: Pastor Denise Diaab

January 21

Preaching: Pastor David Gray | Bradley Ringers

After Worship: Family Connections Scavenger Hunt

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

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**.