

AND JESUS INCREASED
IN WISDOM AND
STATURE, AND IN
FAVOUR WITH GOD
AND MAN.

LUKE 2:52 KJV



Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church
December 29, 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

Get Connected | Explore Membership

BHPC is excited to welcome you to our growing community. Pastor David will be available to meet with families or individuals interested in connecting more at BHPC or exploring membership. Just email David at 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

arr. by Christopher Uehlein

In Night's Deep Silence

CALL TO WORSHIP

Michelle Scott

One: We gather this morning ready to listen.

All: **Open our ears, Lord.**

One: We gather this morning ready to learn.

All: **Open our minds, Lord.**

One: We gather this morning ready to love.

All: **Open our hearts, Lord.**

One: We gather this morning ready to worship.

All: **Open our spirits to receive you, Lord.**

One: We gather to praise the Lord Almighty!

All: **I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

*HYMN 23

Gloria

Angels We Have Heard on High

WELCOME AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE SHARED

Pastor Denise Diaab

One: This is the day that the Lord has made.

All: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

CONFESSING & PRAISING

PRAYER OF ADORATION & CONFESSION

God of love, we long to hear your voice, but sometimes block our ears to the true words of love you speak into our lives. You offer words of love and acceptance, but we find reason to ignore them or withhold them from others. Be tolerant and forgive us in your love. For we yearn to find your perfect bond of unity in our relationships with one another and with the world. Hear our prayers....

Silence for personal confession

KYRIE



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.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel. Shall come to thee, O Israel!

EXPERIENCING GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

DCYFM Rosanna Howard

Children ages 3 to 5th grade are invited to Church School following the Children's Message. Parents may pick up their children upstairs in the education hallway at their classroom doors.

REFLECTING GOD'S LOVE FOR CHILDREN

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:41-52

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Denise Diaab

*HYMN 49

Irby

Once in Royal David's City

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

RESPONSE IN FAITH

God of the Incarnation, even as we celebrate the Love that was born at Christmas, we know that your love continues to grow far beyond Christmas Day. Even as parents watch tenderly and proudly as their children grow into adulthood, you hold us in your compassionate embrace throughout our lives. Guide us into mature faith, O God, that we might be like Jesus in our love, in our humility and wisdom, and in every word and deed. Shape us, inspire us, challenge us, and bless us to trust you and to always sing your praises. Amen.

By Laura Jaquith Bartlett from the Abingdon Worship Annual 2021 issue of the Abingdon Worship Annual.

RESPONSE IN OFFERINGS—INVITATION FOR PLEDGES, TITHES, & OFFERINGS

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

arr. by David Lasky

O Come, Little Children

SUNG OFFERING OF THANKSGIVING

*Doxology

Old Hundredth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God whom we adore.

RESPONSE IN PRAYER - CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

Response for Concerns:

One: Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayers.

Response for Celebrations:

One: With thanksgiving,

All: We praise the Lord.

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

*HYMN 40

Antioch

Joy to the World

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

SENDING MUSIC

arr. by Stewart Landon

Hark, the Glad Sound

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST



from Bradley Hills!

Preview of January 5

Join Us for Worship | 8:30 a.m. in Covenant Hall and 10:30 a.m. in-person and online
Preaching: Pastor David Gray | Epiphany

8:30 a.m. A more casual service in Covenant Hall

9:15 a.m. Adult Education in the Lounge and on Zoom. *Childcare included.*

10:30 a.m. Our traditional service with music from the Chancel Choir and Church School for our little ones through 5th grade.

11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

BHPC Holiday Office Hours

The church office will be **open December 31** from **9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Checks, letters, and notes can be dropped through the mail slot
of the church office door anytime.

PLEASE CONSIDER BEING A LENTEN SMALL GROUP LEADER

This year we will use A Different Kind of Fast (by Christine Valters Paintner) to “help us identify those patterns and habits that distract us from the fullness of life and open up space for the feast that awaits each of us.” As we seek to draw closer to God during Lent, we will explore how to create “retreat spaces” in our everyday lives through meetings with a small group where we fellowship, share our experiences, and learn/revisit practical contemplative practices.

This promises to be a rewarding Lenten experience.

Contact Pastor Denise by January 26 to volunteer or for more information.



Upcoming Adult Education

The Bradley Hills Adult Education Lay Ministry provides sessions each Sunday from 9:15–10:15 a.m. *Childcare is provided.*

January 5 - Prior to Dan Brown's novel, The Da Vinci Code, which suggests that Mary Magdalene was the wife of Jesus and carried Jesus' bloodline, Mary Magdalene was remembered primarily as the sinful woman (euphemism for prostitute) who was healed by Jesus and became one of his followers. Few people think of Mary Magdalene as the first witness to the resurrection of Jesus.

Based on the works of Cynthia Bourgeault and John Beverley Butcher, Associate Pastor Denise Diaab will examine Mary Magdalene's role as an "apostolic leader, teacher, and spiritual master" and her contribution to Christianity.

January 12 - The Living History and Beauty of Bradley Hills Sanctuary: Much of the modern 1960s design and spiritual symbolism of Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church is steeped in the designs of old Gothic cathedrals, medieval churches, and temples. Corky Hicky, Steve Fox, and Rosanna Morrison will open Bradley Hills' 70th-anniversary celebration with newly developed colorful videos, photos, and history that bring to life Christian spiritual symbolism in the sanctuary's design. This tour will include the background and interpretation of the more recent additions of the Sanctuary's Resurrection Window, Pentecost Window, Columbarium, Baptismal Font, Apostles cushions in the Chancel, and the liturgical banners that adorn the Sanctuary and help explain and interpret the Presbyterian Church's liturgical calendar.

January 19 and 26: Aging: Recognizing the Phases, Tasks, and Personality Factors that Contribute to Successful Aging. The Adult Aging Stage (starting at 55) is the longest developmental stage of our lives. Before the changes in the 20th century, we were lucky to live to 50, but with the medical advances curing many illnesses like pneumonia, we live to 80 plus and even longer in the Far East. The January 19 session will address longevity issues, the definition of aging, and its three developmental phases. Dr. Venus Masselam will help us recognize the tasks each phase requires for adaptation. The January 26 session will continue with this description and elaborate further on the personality factors that enable adaptation and physical and mental health while also recognizing the strengths and challenges brought by contemporary culture. Outdated notions continue to be considered based solely on chronological age rather than assessing the reality of one's physical, social, mental, and emotional well-being. Key factors such as relationships, retirement, and housing must be evaluated on one's physical, social, mental, and emotional well-being. Participants of all ages will benefit by attending these sessions and learning how to assess relationships, whether dealing with parents, spouses, or themselves.



Interested in past Adult Education recordings? Scan the QR code.

Join us in 2025!

We are so glad you have chosen to worship God at BHPC. We hope you will join us in 2025. My wife and I and our four kids are passionate about Bradley Hills. Its mission and service opportunities to help those in need. Its tradition of meaningful music, worship, education and spiritual growth. The ways this healthy community supports each other.

Next year is our 70th anniversary and you'll see all sorts of fun celebrations and activities. This community is a wonderful one for families. Our church has fellowship groups, kids' choirs to teach music, Vacation Bible School, summer trips for youth, a preschool and counselors on site. We have communities from several faith traditions here, and many interfaith families have found our community welcoming. My family have appreciated working on service projects for kids, like our Smart Sacks food distribution program, where children can learn about community service. The church offers classes for families on "how to pray with kids," "how to share the Bible with children," and on the meaning of baptism and communion, etc.

Perhaps you may be looking for a church home. A community in which to connect with other families, help your children learn religious traditions, develop an understanding of and relationship with God, and a fellowship to support you as you grow in faith.

If you'd like to learn more about BHPC, I'd welcome a chance to connect. Our main weekly worship service is Sundays at 10:30 am, in person in our sanctuary and on livestream, and we offer Sunday school for children at that time too.

For more information, or if you'd like to connect, or if there is any way I could be of support, my email is David@bradleyhillschurch.org.

Wishing you and your family a Happy New Year!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David". The script is cursive and fluid, with the 'D' being particularly large and stylized.

Alternative Giving

Now-December 31

Give the gift of giving this season to your friends, loved ones, and coworkers! BHPC Mission Coordination Lay Ministry will be offering 17 important and vetted charities and organizations that need your support.

Questions? Contact Elizabeth St. John at estjohn20903@gmail.com or Bonnie Holcomb at bkholcomb@gmail.com for more info.

*Learn more about our 2024
Alternative Giving by
scanning the QR code*



Making a Year-End Financial Gift to the Church

As we wind up 2024, we have so much to celebrate as a church. Your faithfulness and generosity allows Bradley Hills to continue to change lives within and outside our community. 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 2025. 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.
- **Going to the website** using the Give Now icon at bradleyhillchurch.org.
- **Make a secure gift through Realm**, our online giving program, by scanning the QR code below.
- **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@bradleyhillchurch.org for information.

Tax deductible gifts for 2024 must be postmarked or received by the church on or before December 31, 2024. 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@bradleyhillchurch.org.

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

*Make a secure gift
through Realm, by
scanning the QR code.*



Sign-Ups for Flower Deliveries and Dedications

When a member of the Flower Guild team creates an arrangement for the Sunday worship service, the deacons partner with the Flower Guild to deliver the flowers to share the natural beauty of creation with someone in the congregation. These people are either unable to attend the service in person, need a little TLC, or are celebrating life's joys. Deacons Caroline Simpson and Dee Llewellyn coordinate the delivery of the flowers to recipients. **If you are interested in doing this one Sunday, the deacons welcome you to scan the QR code, or contact Caroline Simpson at ccdale@gmail.com or Dee Llewellyn to at gidee@aol.com to select your Sunday.**



Scan the QR code to the left or contact Kristen Abbott 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.

Interfaith Works Partnership Monthly Dinners

For many years Bradley Hills has fed the hungry through a ministry with shelters for those who would otherwise be homeless.



We have partnered with Interfaith Works to provide dinner once a month to Becky's House, a shelter for eight women and Lon's House, a home for eight men both located in Rockville.

Signups for the early months of 2025, especially January are needed.

Questions, please contact Jennifer Kline - jennkline0329@gmail.com or 614-802-9537



Sign up to serve a meal at Becky's House in 2025.



Sign up to serve a meal at Lon's House in 2025.

Celebrations & Concerns: Please Pray With Us

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

- The family of Kathryn Hayes, who died on December 15.

We give thanks to God for joys and celebrations, including:

- Gratitude for the BHPC community and all the blessings of 2024.

We hold in God's healing presence those who suffer pain, ill health or other concerns including:

- Tom (Gretchen Gaines' nephew-in-law) who is recovering from surgery on December 19.
- Valri (Gretchen Gaines' sister-in-law) for health and wellbeing.
- Todd McCreight for health and wellbeing.
- Dick Tustian for health and wellbeing.
- Lavon (Phyllis Sutherland's sister) who is recovering from pneumonia.
- Anna for continued healing.
- Katherine Rigler for healing and full recovery from car accident in November.
- Yvonne Tohidloo (BHPC visitor) for healing and full recovery from recent surgery.
- Those facing challenging issues and/or difficult decisions.

We hold in God's healing presence the suffering people of our world, and all the places where people are experiencing hurt and division:

- Prayers for our present and incoming government leaders and for healing and unity for our country.
- The people in the Syria, Palestine, Israel, Taiwan, Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda, Haiti, Ukraine, and Russia.
- Those who live in hope for an end to gun violence.
- Those affected by hate, discrimination, and intolerance in all its forms as we stand in solidarity with our Jewish, Muslim, and LGBTQ+ siblings.
- Those suffering from mental illness and/or addiction.
- Those who are caregivers.

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

The students, families, and staff of
Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church Nursery School wish
the members of BHPC a joyous Christmas season and a
new year filled with peace and happiness. Thank you for
having BHPCNS as a mission of the Church.



Get Involved at Bradley Hills

Worship

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

8:30 a.m. Worship (**in-person**) | Covenant Hall

10:30 a.m. Worship (**in-person & online**) | Sanctuary

Adult Education & Small Groups

Adult Education | Sundays at 9:15 a.m. -10:15 a.m. in the Lounge or on Zoom

Bible Study | Wednesdays at 2 p.m. on Zoom | Discussion of upcoming scripture

Mission

Becky's House & Lon's House | Make a one-time meal for eight.

Feeding Families | Collaborating with Faith Presbyterian Church in Anacostia.

Smart Sacks | Pack sacks of food for families in need.

Alternative Giving | Through December 31.

Children, Youth, & Family Programs

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

Church School | Sundays at 10:45 a.m. after the Children's Message

Pre-K to Kindergarten | 1st to 2nd Grade | 3rd to 5th Grade

Youth Group | Sundays at 12:00 p.m. in the Youth Lounge

Music

Chancel Choir | Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Lantern Chorale | Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Choir Room

Alleluia Singers | Sundays at 11:45 a.m. in the Choir Room

Our Staff

Senior Pastor	David Gray	david@bradleyhillschurch.org
Associate Pastor	Denise Diaab	denise@bradleyhillschurch.org
Director of Music	Matthew Robertson	matthew@bradleyhillschurch.org
Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries	Rosanna Howard	rosanna@bradleyhillschurch.org
Director of Financial Ministries	Jan Spencer	jan@bradleyhillschurch.org
Facilities Manager	Farid Beltran	farid@bradleyhillschurch.org
Office Manager	Kristen Abbott	kristen@bradleyhillschurch.org
Coordinator of External Communication	Beth Beisel	beth@bradleyhillschurch.org
Coordinator for Spiritual Life	Gail Brown	polserbrown@hotmail.com
Pastoral Counselors	Samantha Steinfeld	samantha.steinfeld@imagocenterdc.com
	Tory Joseph	victoria.joseph@imagocenterdc.com
Nursery School Director	Liz Sobrino	lsobrino@bhpcns.org 301-365-2909
Friends Club Director	Ken Silverstein	ken@friendclubbethesda.org (301) 469-0070

Sextons - Juan Mendez, Leonel Bruno, Juan E. Mendez and Jorge Miranda

Child Caregivers - Nora Mendez, DelCarla Shorter and Liz Allen

Parish Associates - Wally Harman and Jong Mi Lee

Director of Music Emeritus - Donald S. Sutherland

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

Interested in staying connected and informed about BHPC? Contact our Office Manager at **kristen@bradleyhillschurch.org**, and ask her to add you to our weekly email list.

Worship Schedule

Services at 8:30 & 10:30 am

January 5 | Epiphany

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

January 12 | Baptism of the Lord Sunday | Start of 70th Celebration

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

January 19

Preaching: Pastor Denise Diaab

January 26 | Ordination of New Officers

Preaching: Pastor David Gray