



Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church
Baptism of the Lord Sunday
January 12, 2025
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.

A new member class will be held February 2, after worship and new members will join February 16. Classes will also be offered March 9 and March 16 after worship and new members will join March 23.

GATHERING TOGETHER

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

GATHERING MUSIC

Blessing

Douglas Wagner

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Denise Diaab

One: We are marked as God's beloved ones.

All: **The Spirit is present at our baptisms.**

One: God's love is God's free gift to us, always and forever.

All: **Even when we turn away from God,**

One: God's love never vanishes.

All: **Thanks be to God who is ever faithful. Let us worship God.**

*HYMN 356

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Nettleton

WELCOME AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE SHARED

Pastor David Gray

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

One: Lord and life-giving Spirit, who charged the waters with life
when first the world began:

All: **Make us dead to sin, but alive to you.**

One: O God, our provider, who gives thirsty people water from a rock:

All: **Make us dead to sin, but alive to you.**

One: Holy Spirit, who anointed Jesus with your power of life
no death could conquer:

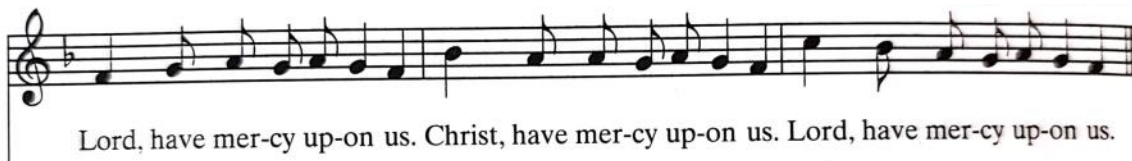
All: **Make us dead to sin, but alive to you.**

One: Lord Jesus Christ, who poured yourself out as a drink offering
on our behalf, filling us with your Spirit:

All: **Make us dead to sin, but alive to you.**

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.

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

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

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you
Hallelu, Hallelujah.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 3:13-17

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Philip W. J. Stopford

Do not be afraid

(b. 1977)

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by your name;
you are mine.
When you walk through the waters,
I'll be with you;
you will never sink beneath the waves.
When the fire is burning all around you,
you will never be consumed by the flames.

When the fear of loneliness is looming,
then remember I am at your side.
When you dwell in the exile of a stranger,
remember you are precious in my eyes.
You are mine, O my child,
I am your Father,
and I love you with a perfect love.

SERMON

Symbols of our Faith

David Gray

*HYMN 70

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

Caithness

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

RESPONSE IN FAITH - RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Let us enter into a time of silent meditation, contemplation, and then prayer.

(Said in unison)

Spirit of the Living God, hover once more over us as you did at creation, energizing us with life, that we might remember our baptism in Christ. May we become part of your living water, an open conduit of your Holy Spirit flooding all of creation with blessings of your abundant life. In this sign, symbol and seal of your gracious love, we ask that you might guide us to live out our faith as people connected to you through Christ and the Spirit. May we remember our baptism, and may the river of your love flow through us.

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

Sicut cervus

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina
(c. 1524-1596)

Sicut cervus desiderat ad fonts aquarum:
Ita desiderat anima mea ad te, Deus.

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks:
So longeth my soul after thee, O God.

* 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.

The congregation may be seated.

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.

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

Shall We Gather at the River

Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God?
Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

Ere we reach the shining river,
lay we every burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown.
Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

Soon we'll reach the shining river;
soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver
with the melody of peace.
Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Seated.

SENDING MUSIC

Toccata

David H. Hegarty

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Congregational Meeting | After the 10:30 a.m. Service

There will be a brief congregational meeting at 11:30 am in the sanctuary and online to elect nominee Melanie Mace as a deacon.

Flower Dedication | The flowers today are for Emily, from Terry and Kathy Brady and in honor of our former chair, Joy Panagides, from the members of the Flower Guild.

Preview of January 19

Join Us for Worship | 8:30 a.m. in Covenant Hall and 10:30 a.m. in-person and online

Preaching: Pastor Denise Diaab

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

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 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.

Dr. Venus Masselam is a new Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church member. She has been a member of the Washington School of Psychiatry faculty for 15 years and is currently a member of the New Washington School of Psychiatry faculty. She is a psychologist and a family therapist who began her more than 50-year career working with adolescents. She has worked with every developmental life stage and is distinguished for her work on Aging.

BONUS OPPORTUNITY: February 2 and 9
Register by January 26

Follow-up Conversations on Aging with Dr. Venus Masselam.

Dr. Masselam will lead two in-person small group sessions to continue the conversation on aging as a follow-up to her Adult Ed presentations:

February 2 | 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

February 9* | 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

BHPC Library | Lunch will be provided

Please check your calendar to confirm that you will be able to commit to attend both Adult Ed sessions (January 19 & 26) and both Small Group sessions (February 2 & 9).

Space is limited-please contact Carol Starr at carstarr@gmail.com to register no later than January 26.



**2/9 meeting will begin promptly following BHPC Annual Meeting*

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

**Interfaith Works Partnership
Monthly Dinners**

Sign Ups for 2025 Now Available!

Want to bring hope this year? Provide a simple meal for eight at Lon's House or Becky's House, incredible programs offering shelter to those in need right here in our community. The joy is immense — claim your spot before they're gone!



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.



Lenten Small Groups Register by February 9

As we gradually move into the new year, do you find yourself making promises and resolutions to do better in 2025: slowdown, get more rest, spend more quality time with family and friends, stop overspending and overcommitting? If you would you like to let go of those things that are robbing you of a more joyful life and embrace those things that nourish you physically, mentally, and spiritually, **Lenten small groups are for you!**

Whether the Lenten journey is brand new to you, or you're an annual pilgrim, I invite you to join us as we explore *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."

To learn more and register, scan the QR code!



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.

Schedule Change: Due to the winter weather this past week, there will be NO Smart Sacks following the service today.

Bradley Hills


Family SCAVENGER Hunt

Lunch included

SUNDAY JANUARY 26

MEET IN MEMORIAL HALL

NOON



Bradley Hills PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

✝ The Milestone Workshop

for Second Graders on Worship

Jan 26
Feb 2
Feb 9

9:15-10:15 am



A Year of

Celebration

Coming 2025

www.BradleyHillsChurch.org/70th



#CelebrateBHPC70

BHPC 70th Anniversary Celebration Schedule

Here are some of the activities we look forward to next year:

January 12 - Kickoff with Discussion of the Symbols of BHPC

February 23 - Former BHPC Pastor Susan Andrews preaching

April 6 - 50th anniversary recognition of the sanctuary organ

May 3 - 70th anniversary dinner celebration

May 4 - Barbara Brown Taylor preaching

September 21 - Welcome Back, Family focused, look to the future Sunday

Celebrations & Concerns: Please Pray With Us

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

- The family of Joy Panagides who died in California on January 6, 2025.
- The family of Kathryn Hayes whose Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be held in Covenant Hall on Monday, January 13 at 3:00 pm, followed by a reception.
- The family of Charles Saunders who died in mid-December.

We give thanks to God for joys and celebrations.

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

- Elizabeth St. John is recovering from surgery on January 9.
- Allyson McKinney Timms for healing and wellbeing.
- Todd McCreight for health and wellbeing.
- Dick Tustian for health and wellbeing.
- Anna for continued healing.
- Katherine Rigler for healing and full recovery.
- 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 all those affected by the wildfires in Southern California.
- Prayers for the family of President Jimmy Carter.
- 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).

We would like to thank Virginia Sircy for
providing the service music today.

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.

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

We are thankful to have Memorial Hall when the cold weather keeps us inside. Thank you BHPC for sharing this warm and open space with us to Play, Grow, and Run in.

BHPCNS registration process for our 2025-2026 school year has begun. Members of BHPC receive special registration consideration. To learn more about BHPCNS, our affordable rates, our registration process, and so much more, call us at 301-365-2909 or visit our website at www.bhpcns.org.



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 19

Preaching: Pastor Denise Diaab

January 26 | Ordination of New Officers

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

February 2 | Communion

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

February 9 | Annual Meeting

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

February 16

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

February 23

Preaching: Former BHPC Pastor Susan Andrews