

First Sunday of Advent



Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church
November 30, 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 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 to meet with families or individuals interested in connecting more at BHPC or exploring membership. Just email David to set up a time or connect with David after the service.

GATHERING TOGETHER

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

CARILLON PEAL

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

GATHERING MUSIC

Stephen Czarkowski

CALL TO WORSHIP - LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Family: Keep awake. Keep from spiritual snoozing through winter's gloom.

**All: Now is the time to be attentive to matters of the heart.
Advent has begun.**

Family: Keep looking. Don't let boredom be your attitude of choice.
Look inward for the Spirit.

**All: Now is the time to sort the vital from the trivial.
Advent has begun.**

Family: Keep watch. Be ready for the coming of God.

**All: So we light this candle in hope.
For Advent has begun.**

*HYMN 14

Savior of the Nations, Come

Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland

WELCOME AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE SHARED

Pastor David Gray

One: I lift my eyes to the hills, from where will my help come?

All: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

CONFESSING AND PRAISING

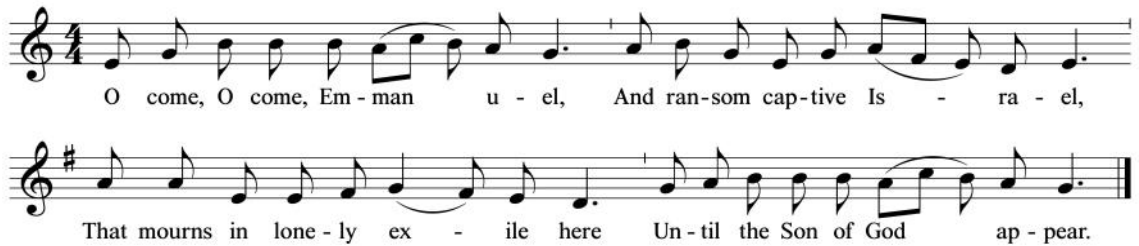
PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

Pastor Denise Diaab

Ever patient God, we are a people who live in thick darkness. **We stumble around, bombarded by news of division and pain. We easily lose our bearings. The pressures of life can overwhelm and paralyze us when we need to be at our best. Help us to be people who shine the light of your righteousness, hope, peace, joy, and love into the dark places of our lives and our world. Unlock the mystery and glory of the babe born in Bethlehem. Guide us with your star of wonder and turn our aimless wanderings into journeys of purpose as we confess.**

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.

Jesus came bringing us hope. (3x)
Hallelujah, forevermore

EXPERIENCING GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kids ages 3 years old to 4th grade are invited to Church School during the 10:30 a.m. service. Parents may pick up their children upstairs in the education hallway.

REFLECTING GOD'S LOVE FOR CHILDREN

People, look east and sing today; love the guest is on the way.
People, look east and sing today; love the star is on the way.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 24: 29-44

ANTHEM

Erunt signa in sole
Erunt signa in sole et luna et stellis et in terris pressura gentium prae confusione sonitus
maris et fluctuum.

Diego de las Muelas Berger

There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth distress of nations in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves.

- Psalm 145:15-16

SERMON

Seeing Through the Darkness

David Gray

*HYMN 20

Watchmen, Tell Us of the Night
North Transept and Pulpit side sing the Watchman part and Lectern side and Balcony sing Traveler part.

Aberystwyth

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

RESPONSE IN FAITH - FROM THE CONFESSION OF BELHAR

We believe in the triune God, who gathers, protects, and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ.

RESPONSE IN OFFERINGS

CALL FOR THE OFFERINGS

Scan the QR code to make an offering or place your offering in the offering plate or basket, make a pledge through Giving Now or under the Stewardship section of the website. 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

Lost In the Night

arr. Kyle Haugen

*SUNG OFFERING OF THANKSGIVING

Praise to God, the One who made us. Praise to Christ, the soon-born Son.

Praise the Spir - it ev - er with us. Praise the God-head, Three in One.

Clear a path! Pre-pare the way! Ad-vent leads to Christ-mas Day!

RESPONSE IN PRAYER - CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

Response for Concerns:

One: Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayers.

Response for Celebrations:

One: With thanksgiving,

All: We praise the Lord.

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

*HYMN 2

Come, Thou Long-Expected

Hyfrydol

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

SENDING MUSIC

Toccata on 'HYFRYDOL'

Gerald Near

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Preview of December 7

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

Second Sunday of Advent | Communion | Preaching: Pastor David Gray

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

Christmas AT BRADLEY HILLS

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

November 30
5:00-6:00 pm

Gather in Sanctuary



Outside tree lighting followed by hot cocoa and fellowship (inside).

Update on Capital Campaign | Thank you all for your input in September about a possible capital campaign for BHPC. Your attendance at first impression gatherings, your filling out surveys and your sharing ideas and comments were much appreciated. Based on very strong congregational support for going forward, our Session has voted to proceed with an effort to ensure the sustainability and impact of BHPC for the long term. We will follow up in the new year with details about the role each of us can play. Please pray for our beloved community as we approach our campaign launch on February 1, 2026.

Advent Candle Lighting | We begin worship during Advent with lighting of our Advent candles as the Call to Worship. If you and your family would like to participate and light candles during a Sunday in Advent, reach out to David at David@bradleyhillchurch.org.



Congregational Meeting on December 14 | There will be a brief congregational meeting after worship on Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary and online to elect our new class of elders and deacons. The Nominees for Elder are Tamae Wong, Sara Todd, Jeff McCreight, Matt Brown and Will Biggs as Youth Elder. The Nominees for Deacon are Betsy Scroggs, Venus Masselam, John Shea, Richard Harper, Mackenzie Owens and Eloise Scribner as Youth Deacons.

Christmas AT BRADLEY HILLS

FAMILY CONNECTIONS LUNCH & ADVENT WORKSHOP



December 7
Noon

Memorial Hall
All are welcome!

RSVP by
scanning the QR
code:



Christmas Brunch & Caroling

AT BRADLEY HILLS

Sunday, December 21st
11:30 AM in Memorial Hall

Please bring a main dish, side dish,
salad, or dessert to share!





Christmas Eve

AT BRADLEY HILLS

December 24, 2025

4:00 PM – Family Service & Children's Pageant

Join us as we lift our voices in familiar Christmas carols, hear a meaningful and hope-filled message from Pastor David Gray, and share in the beloved tradition of singing *Silent Night* by candlelight.

6:00 PM - Candlelight Service

Music from the choir section leaders.

10:00 PM – Candlelight Service

A musical prelude at 9:30 pm. Chancel Choir and Instrumentalists.



Alternative Giving | BHPC's tradition of Alternative Giving continues this Advent. The emphasis is on ways in which your support can help offset a small part of the damage caused by 2025's harsh, inhumane cuts. We invite you to view your gift as a way of TAKING ACTION.

You may fully participate in person on Sundays - through the end of the year.

TAKE ACTION in honor of friends, loved ones, co-workers and church staff.



Scan the QR code to learn more about the 2025 giving opportunities:



Christmas Flower Orders

Purchase your Christmas flowers this year to support the Flower Guild. Purchase a white poinsettia, red poinsettia, or Christmas cacti to help decorate the Sanctuary during our Christmas Eve services! Each plant costs \$20.

You can place your order on the sign-up sheets in the Narthex and Outer Office or place your order through Sign-Up Genius by scanning the QR code. Pay by cash, check (made payable to BHPC with "Christmas Flowers" in the memo), or through Realm.

The deadline for flower orders is Monday, December 8. You can pick up your plants after the 10:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve or the following Sunday, December 28.



Questions? Contact Bie Fox at smarterb@gmail.com or Judy Arndt at arndt_richard@yahoo.com.

Special Mission Request | The Interfaith Refugee Initiative is urgently looking for a volunteer math tutor for Gulan, a delightful 5th grader, daughter of Mubarak and Olfat, an Afghan family we have been supporting since 2017. *Please contact Brigitte Burgett at bkburgett@gmail.com if you can help.*

Sign Up to Provide a Meal | 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.

Sign-ups are now open for 2026.

Sign up to provide a meal at Becky's House:



Sign up to provide a meal at Lon's House:



Adult Education - December

December 7 | A Child is Born: Join Carol Starr and Jean Dudek as we share a special Advent perspective. Using resources from Amy Jill Levine (Distinguished Professor of New Testament, Rabbi Stanley M. Kessler Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace and University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies Emerita at Vanderbilt University), we will place the story of Jesus' birth within the context of other miraculous births in scripture, shedding light on important layers of meaning and rich interpretations that have otherwise been overlooked.

December 14 | Finding Hope Amidst Despair: There are textbook definitions of hope, notably "cherish a desire with anticipation," but we all tend to harbor very personal objects of hope. We are living in a period when hope is threatened. The members of our panel neither mint hope nor nurse its growth on trees, but will offer personal reflections on hope and be eager to hear some of yours. May we hope that you will attend? Panel members include Venus Masselam, Rob Bamberger, Michael Gibson, Susan Gibeson and they will encourage participation from the audience.

December 21 | Christmas at Bradley Hills: Sharing Wonders and Miracles of the Past and Hopes for the Future. Spread nostalgia, hope, and cheer! Join longtime and more recent members as we share highlights of past Christmas celebrations and services at Bradley Hills, along with hopes for this and future celebrations. Don't miss this opportunity to extend Christmas greetings to those within our community.

A Stewardship Note | Waiting for good things can be hard. We all remember how hard it is for children to wait for their hoped-for Christmas gifts. During this season of Advent, we are grateful for the gifts you have given the church throughout the year and for the gifts that you give now through the Angel Gift Tree. Imagine the joy of the children and senior citizens who receive those gifts!

Ways to Give at BHPC

Cash or Check Giving



6601 Bradley Blvd.
Bethesda, MD 20817

Text Giving



Text "BHPC"
to 73256

Mobile Giving



Download the
Realm Connect App

Realm Giving



Access the
Bradley Hills Giving page

www.BradleyHillsChurch.org

Click the **GIVE NOW** button

Olive Oil Ministry | The Olive Oil Ministry is an all volunteer ecumenical project of more than 25 congregations in the greater Washington, DC region, which supports the Palestinian agricultural sector. The sales of olive oil and related products generate income for Palestinian families in the West Bank and Gaza, promote peace and justice, and raise awareness of the struggles in Gaza and the West Bank.

Sale of olive oil and related products will be held in Covenant Hall each Sunday between the two services through 21 December. Two varieties of olive oil, one mild and one zesty, are offered as well as olive oil soap, olive or tomato tapenade, and packages of za'atar (a spice blend of dried herbs). Most of the olive oil and other products are produced by al-'Ard Agriproducts Company in Nablus, and many qualify for organic and/or fair-trade certifications.

Angel Gift Tree | Give a gift to a child or senior citizen. Names will be available on Nov 23 and Nov 30, in Covenant Hall. Sign up, get the wish list and gift tag, go shopping, wrap the gift, bring it to the sanctuary NO LATER THAN 10:30 on Sunday December 7. Have fun!



Gift recipients come from The Women's Collective, Dennis Avenue Health Center, and Patterson Elementary school. The Patterson children are from the neighborhood served by the Feeding Families program.

Celebrations & Concerns: Please Pray With Us

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

We give thanks to God for joys and celebrations.

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

- Those injured, having procedures of any kind, hospitalized, facing surgery, being treated for chronic illness, cancer, ALS, or Parkinson's, awaiting medical tests and/or results, receiving hospice care, and/or isolated from the community.
- Donald, Ed, Violet, Dick Tustian, Sharon Griffith, and Ben Flowe for health and well-being.

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

- All those experiencing food insecurity.
- We pray that those in authority lead with integrity considering the welfare of all the people.
- The future of the church.
- Peace in the Middle East that benefits all the people.
- The people of Gaza who are in dire need of food and humanitarian aid.
- The hope for an end to gun violence.
- The welfare of our country.
- Those affected by hate, discrimination, and intolerance in all its forms as we stand in solidarity with our Jewish, Muslim, and LGBTQ+ siblings.
- The people in Sudan, Palestine, South Korea, Syria, Israel, Taiwan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Haiti, Ukraine, and Russia.
- Those recovering from addiction and/or those suffering from mental illness.
- Those who are caregivers

Christmas Cookie Exchange

On **Sunday, December 14**, a beloved tradition returns! Bring some homemade Christmas cookies to share, and take home as many as you bring.

Please drop off your cookies in Covenant Hall from 9:45-10:15 a.m. Sunday morning. Include a label with your name, the name of the cookie, and if there are nuts in the recipe.

After worship, the cookies will be out for you to choose your selection to take home.

Sign up **by December 7** to participate!

Questions? Contact Joan Burns (joanwburns@gmail.com)/ Cathie Lutter(cathie.lutter@gmail.com)



Fall at Bradley Hills

Worship

Worship at 8:30 a.m. | In Covenant Hall

Worship at 10:30 a.m. | In the Sanctuary and online

Adult Education & Small Groups

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

Bible Study | Wednesdays at 2 p.m. on Zoom

Mission

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

Smart Sacks | Sundays at 11:30 a.m. in the Lounge

Feeding Families | Pack and distribute groceries in Anacostia

Children and 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

Baby and Me | Tuesdays at 9:15 a.m. in the Crib Room.

Youth Group | Sundays at Noon in the Youth Lounge

Desserts and Devotions | Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Kitchen

Confirmation Class | Select Sunday evenings at 5:00 p.m. in the Youth Lounge

Music

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

Alleluia Singers | Sunday from 11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Lantern Chorale | Thursday from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

70th Anniversary Ornaments | Exciting news - there are remaining commemorative 70th ornaments for purchase. These would make a beautiful Christmas tree decoration or stocking stuffer. Ornaments can be purchased for \$10 (cash or check) - proceeds going to the BHPC 70th fund.

Contact Kristen Abbott at kristen@bradleyhillchurch.org if interested.



Our Staff

Senior Pastor	David Gray	david@bradleyhillschurch.org
Associate Pastor	Denise Diaab	denise@bradleyhillschurch.org
Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries	Rosanna Howard	rosanna@bradleyhillschurch.org
Director of Financial Ministries	Jan Spencer	jan@bradleyhillschurch.org
Interim Director of Music	Paul Vasile	paul@bradleyhillschurch.org
Facilities Manager	Farid Beltran	farid@bradleyhillschurch.org
Office Manager	Kristen Abbott	kristen@bradleyhillschurch.org
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@friendsclubbethesda.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

Section Leaders—Marie Marquis (soprano), Brynn Farlow (tenor), Steven Slupe (bass)

Sign-Up for Flower Dedications



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.

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

8:30 a.m. (Covenant Hall) and 10:30 a.m. (Sanctuary)

December 7 | Second Sunday of Advent | Communion |
Preaching: Pastor David Gray

December 14 | Third Sunday of Advent | Lessons and Carols

December 17 | Blue Christmas

December 21 | Fourth Sunday of Advent | Preaching: Pastor Denise Diaab

December 24 | Christmas Eve Services | 4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m.
Preaching | Pastor David Gray

December 28 | One Service at 10:30 a.m. | Preaching: Han Setiawan



bradleyhillschurch.org
6601 Bradley Blvd. ▪ Bethesda, MD 20817 ▪ 301-365-2850
Office Hours: Tues. - Thurs. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Fri. 9 a.m. to 1