



Third Sunday of Advent



Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church
December 14, 2025
10:30 a.m. Worship
Lessons and Carols

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

People Look East

Luis Rivera, marimba
French Carol, arr. Paul Vasile

CALL TO WORSHIP - LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

One: We light this candle in hope.

All: Alleluia!

One: We light this candle in peace.

All: Amen!

One: We light this candle in joy!

All: Praise the Lord!

One: Rejoice!

All: For Jesus Christ, Mary's little child, is on his way.

*HYMN 49

Once in Royal David's City

Irby

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

In unison.


PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

Pastor Denise Diaab

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name, we pray...

Silence for personal confession.

KYRIE



O come, O come, Em-man u-el, And ran-som cap-tive Is-ra-el,
That mourns in lone-ly ex-ile here Un-til the Son of God ap-pear.

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 joy. (3x)
Hallelujah, forevermore

EXPERIENCING GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

DCYFM Rosanna Howard

Children (pre-k through fifth grade) are invited to exit the sanctuary for Church School. If this is your child's first time at Bradley Hills, please accompany them out to meet their teacher in the Gathering Space.

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.

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

LESSON 1

Genesis 1: 1- 5

Tracy Rankin and Dianne Whitaker

HYMN 4

Creator of the Stars of Night

Conditor Alme Siderum

LESSON 2

Genesis 3:1-15

Pat Stocker, Dianne Whitaker and Steve Burns

CAROL

This Is the Truth English Traditional Carol, arr. Ralph Vaughn Williams
 This is the truth sent from above,
 The truth of God, the God of love,
 Therefore don't turn me from your door,
 But hearken all both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate
 Is that God did man create;
 The next thing which to you I'll tell
 Woman was made with man to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,
 Till God the Lord did interpose;
 And so a promise soon did run
 That he would redeem us by his Son

And at that season of the year
 Our blest Redeemer did appear;
 He here did live, and here did preach,
 And many thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved,
 To show us how we must be saved;
 And if you want to know the way,
 Be pleased to hear what he did say.

LESSON 3

Isaiah 11:1-6

Steve Fox, Tracy Rankin and Patty Howie

HYMN 48

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

*Es Ist Ein' Ros***LESSON 4**

Isaiah 9:1-6

Pat Stocker, Dianne Whitaker, Steve Burns

CAROL

Ososō / Come, Thou Savior of the Nations
Ososo ososo, pyonghwa eui imgum
uriga hanmom iruge hasoso.

arr. Michael Burkhardt

Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.
 Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

(continued on following page.....)

Come now, O God of love, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

Promised One, make here your home.
Marvel now, O Heav'n and Earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

Come, Hope of unity, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

LESSON 5

Luke 1:26-38

Steve Fox and Patty Howie

HYMN 16

vs. 1-3

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Gabriel's Message

LESSON 6

Luke 1:39-55

Pat Stocker and Tracy Rankin

CAROL

Masters in This Hall

English Carol, arr. Jerrick Cavagnaro

Masters in this hall, hear ye news today
Brought from over sea, and ever I you pray:

Chorus:

Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell, sing we clear!

Holpen are all folk on earth, born is God's son so dear:

Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell, sing we loud!

God today hath poor folk raised and casted down the proud.

Going o'er the hills, through the milk-white snow,

Heard I ewes bleat While the wind did blow:

Chorus

Shepherds many a one sat among the sheep,

No man spake more word than they had been asleep:

Chorus

Quoth I, "Fellows mine, why this guise sit ye?"

Making but dull cheer, shepherds though ye be?"

"Shepherds should of right leap and dance and sing,

Thus to see ye sit, is a right strange thing":

Quoth these fellows then, "To Bethlem town we go,

To see a mighty lord lie in manger low":

"How name ye this lord, shepherds?" then said I,

"Very God," they said, "Come from Heaven high":

This is Christ the Lord, Masters be ye glad!
Christmas is come in, and no folk should be sad.
Chorus

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

RESPONSE IN OFFERINGS

CALL FOR THE OFFERINGS, TITHES AND PLEDGES

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

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy Caribbean carol, arr. Mack Wilberg
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy and they said that His name was Jesus.
He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.

The wise men saw where the baby was born and they said that His name was Jesus.
Oh, yes, believer! He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.

The angels sang when the baby was born and they said that His name was Jesus.
Oh, yes, believer! He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.

*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-prepare the way! Ad-vent leads to Christ - mas Day!

RESPONSE IN PRAYER

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 56**

The First Nowell

The First Nowell

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Congregational Meeting TODAY | There will be a brief congregational meeting after worship today, Sunday, December 14 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.

Preview of December 21

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent | 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, Bill Perry, Bruce Bello and the Lantern Choral, as well as Church School for our little ones through 5th grade.

11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

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@bradleyhillschurch.org.



Adult Education - December

December 21 | Christmas at Bradley Hills: Sharing Wonders and Miracles of the Past and Hopes for the Future. Start this Festive Day at Adult Education! 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.

December 28 | Adult Education will not be meeting as we enjoy the holiday season.

When: 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Where: Lounge

Childcare will be provided.

Join by Zoom:

Meeting ID: 872 5427 9672

Passcode: 505554





Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

AT BRADLEY HILLS

Wednesday, December 24

6:00 PM & 10:00 PM

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.

Each Service With Special Music

6:00 | Music from the Choir section leaders

10:00 | Musical prelude begins at 9:30 and continues with the Chancel Choir and Instrumentalists





Christmas Brunch

& Caroling



AT BRADLEY HILLS

Sunday, December 21st

11:30 AM in Memorial Hall

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We will need volunteers to help with food intake and clean up. Please email David if interested.

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



Christmas Eve

Family Service & Pageant

AT BRADLEY HILLS

Wednesday, December 24

4:00 PM

All are welcome to join in! No rehearsal necessary!

Bring your little one to Covenant Hall for a costume:
3:40 - 4:00pm.

Interested in a speaking part for your older child or youth? Let DCYFM Rosanna Howard know.





Blue Christmas



AT BRADLEY HILLS

December 17th

12:00 PM



7:30 PM

Blue Christmas is a service of healing and wholeness for those feeling loss, grief, or sadness during the holidays.

Join us in the Sanctuary for prayer, candle lighting, meditation, music, and word.



Can't make it in person? Join on Zoom!

Meeting ID: 894 2252 9623
Passcode: 395556



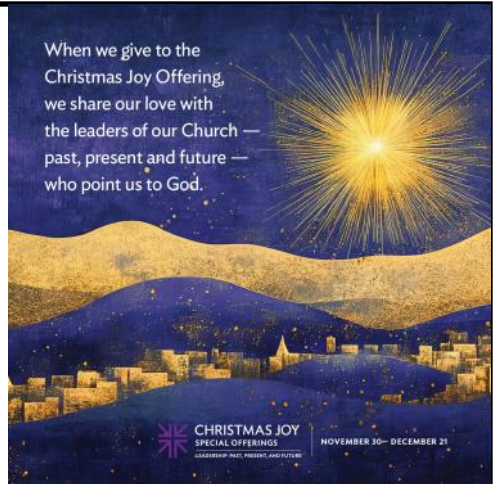
Christmas Joy Offering | December 14 & 21

There is so much to appreciate as we approach the arrival of the perfect gift, the very vulnerable baby Jesus. It is at those vulnerable moments that we are intended to care for each other and lift each other up. The Christmas Joy Offering is an opportunity for you to offer what you can to uplift fellow human beings at times of need.

This year's offering will provide support to aid:

1) church workers, their families, and retired ministers through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions as they face medical and other unexpected costs, and 2) students in Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color, as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts of service to the church and to the world.

We do not walk alone. Our gifts combine with gifts from thousands of congregations in The Presbyterian Church USA to do our part to repair the world and ensure that our siblings have the resources that they need to flourish. The Christmas Joy Offering will be accepted December 7, 14, and 21. Special offering envelopes will be in the pews. You may also make your contribution online and designate it for this offering. Thank you for choosing to walk alongside the vulnerable, in honor of our beloved Jesus Christ.



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 or stop by the Gathering Space following the 10:30 a.m. service - Bie Fox will be selling!



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.



Stop by Covenant Hall after the service to learn more!

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



Scan to give now:



Olive Oil Ministry | An all volunteer ecumenical project of more than 25 congregations in the greater 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.

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



Advent Devotions

Follow the light who will "guide our feet into the way of peace."

Every Monday – Friday
December 1 - 23rd
Noon – 12:15 p.m.
Zoom or Phone Dial-in

Please join us for a prayerful pause at noon during Advent. All are welcome.

For questions, contact Pastor Denise at denise@bradleyhillschurch.org.

Meeting ID: 894 2252 9623
Passcode: 395556

One tap mobile
+13017158592,,89422529623# US (Washington DC)



A Stewardship Note | This is the Sunday in Advent when we rejoice in the good news that the angel brought to Mary. May we always feel the joy of God's great gift to the world and respond with our own gifts to the Church. Thank you for all of your faithful giving .

Making a Year-End Financial Gift to the Church

As we wind up 2025, 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. As the wise men bring their best to the Christ child, there are many ways one can make a financial contribution to Bradley Hills:

Place a gift in the offering plate: Offering envelopes are available in the pews for your cash and check gifts.

- Mail or hand deliver a gift to the church: BHPC, 6601 Bradley Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20817
- Go to the church website (www.bradleyhillschurch.org) and use the Give Now icon to make a gift through Realm, our secure giving platform.
- Access our secure giving platform through the QR code or by texting 'BHPC' to 73256
- Transfer securities - donate appreciated securities to the church and avoid capital gains taxes. For details on how to donate stock and securities to BHPC, email our Financial Director, Jan Spencer, Jan@bradleyhillschurch.org for information.

Tax deductible gifts for 2025 must be postmarked or received by the church on or before December 31, 2025. 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 emailing Jan@bradleyhillschurch.org.

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

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.
- Mary Hickey, Peg Flowe, Donald, Graydon, 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 in the Pacific Northwest affected by flooding.
- 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 and Ukraine 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, Israel, 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.

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

Winter 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

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.

Inclement Weather Policy

Meetings: If Montgomery County Schools are closed or cancel afternoon/ evening / weekend activities, scheduled activities and meetings in the BHPC building are typically cancelled. Worship will be handled separately. If there is an adverse weather event, but conditions improve enough to allow for evening meetings, you will hear directly from the pastors or lay ministry leadership about those meetings. If you have any questions, please call the church office or email the pastors.

Church Offices: If Montgomery County Schools Administrative Offices are closed or open late, our church office will be closed or open late. If there is an adverse weather event, please call the church office first before coming in to ensure someone is here to meet you.

Worship: Pastor Gray will make a determination regarding worship services. Every effort will be made to hold worship as scheduled, but please use your judgment for safe traveling. We will attempt to update the church website if a change needs to be made, but calling the church office to check on worship is a good idea in case of bad weather.

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)

Flower Dedication | The flowers are dedicated to Marcia Hummers, from Ed Hummers.

Sign-Up for 2026 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 17 | Blue Christmas Service | Noon and 7:30 p.m.

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

January 4 | Epiphany | Communion | Preaching: Pastor David Gray

January 11 | Baptism of the Lord Sunday | Preaching: Pastor David Gray



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