

# Fourth Sunday of Advent



Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church  
December 21, 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](http://www.bradleyhillchurch.org)**

In Christ's hope,

David Gray, Senior Pastor | **[david@bradleyhillchurch.org](mailto: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

Variations on DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Alex Kovling, French horn  
Ronald Arnatt

### INTROIT

Jesus, the Son of Mary

Lantern Chorale and Chancel Choir  
Sam Batt Owens

Who is this that comes in royal splendor? Jesus the son of Mary.

Who is this that comes to save us? Jesus the son of Mary.

When is he coming to set us free? He's coming soon.

Who is coming to redeem us all? Jesus the son of Mary.

### CALL TO WORSHIP - LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Ming Tseng, Jeff McCreight, Thea, & Skye

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: We light this candle of love!

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

### \*HYMN 8

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

*Truro*

### 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

Thomas Vanderslice

Shepherd of Israel, God of hosts, we have turned away from you, neglecting the welfare of your creation, ignoring the plight of your people, trampling on the creatures and the plants you have made, taking from Earth what we cannot give back. We have not helped our neighbors in need, kept pace within our families, or tended the vine you have planted in our own lives. Forgive us and lead us to a more gracious life. In your compassion, turn us to your way. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us and we shall be saved.

*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, hear 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 love. (3x)  
Hallelujah, forevermore

# EXPERIENCING GOD'S WORD

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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.

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

Chancel Player Jean Dudek

One: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

Pastor Denise Diaab

## \*HYMN

When Joseph Came to Bethlehem

*sung to "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"*

When Joseph came to Bethlehem  
He sought a place to rest.  
They wandered round from street to street.  
The inns were packed with guests.  
At last they found a humble cave,  
A manger for a bed.  
And there creation's King of Kings  
Lay down his royal head.

Still Joseph comes to Bethlehem  
He greets us there this day  
He recognizes all our fears,  
Our doubts that lead astray.  
He tells again the angel's word  
The trust that set him right.  
Then leads us to his blessed son  
Where darkness blooms with light.  
- J. Barrie Shepherd, 2014

When Joseph came to Bethlehem  
He knelt by Mary's side.  
He held him fast, her little one,  
And soothed the newborn's cries.  
Then watched beside the stable door  
And welcomed great and small,  
The shepherds from their far-off fields,  
Three kings on camels tall.

# 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

This Child

Bill Perry, voice and piano  
Bill Perry, 2025


This child brings hope to a world that is hurting.  
He will show us the way if we only believe.  
We must trust and have faith in the grace of this blessing,  
for this child is love; his love's all that we need.

This child brings peace that can end senseless fighting.  
Our salvation is there in that manger, asleep.  
If we follow his teachings, we will lay down our arms,  
for this child is love; his love's all that we need.

Hope and peace and love are just words,  
but we can give those words meaning  
when we remember his birth.

This child brings joy to all hearts that are empty.  
He was born to forgive and to care when we grieve.  
When we're searching for an answer, we need nothing more,  
for this child is love; his love's all that we need.  
Yes, this child is love; his love's all that we need.

## \*SUNG OFFERING OF THANKSGIVING



Praise to God, the One who made us. Praise to Christ, the soon-born Son.  
Praise the Spirit ever with us. Praise the God-head, Three in One.  
Clear a path! Pre-prepare the way! Ad-vent leads to Christ-mas Day!

## PRAYER MEDITATION

Bruce Bello, trumpet

*Phrases of a beloved musical setting of The Lord's Prayer will be woven into our prayers this morning. You are invited to pray through the music and offer your petitions, as invited.*

*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

African-American Spiritual  
arr. André Thomas


Walk In the Light (Jesus, the Light of the World)  
*The congregation is invited to sing the refrain. The choir will sing the verses.*

Choir:

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
Jesus, the Light of the world;  
glory to the newborn King,  
Jesus, the Light of the world. **Refrain**

*Refrain - following page*

**Refrain (All):**



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy shine bright.  
Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je - sus, the Light of the world.

Choir:

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!  
Jesus, the Light of the world.  
hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Jesus, the Light of the world. **Refrain.**

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**SENDING MUSIC**

Christmas Day

Alex Kovling, French horn  
Gustav Holst, arr. Abernathy

**\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**Join us for Christmas  
Brunch and Caroling in  
Memorial Hall following  
the service!**



**Preview of December 28**

**Join Us for Worship | ONE SERVICE at 10:30 a.m. in-person and online**

First Sunday After Advent | Preaching - Han Setiawan

9:15 a.m. Adult Education WILL NOT meet

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 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.



# 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



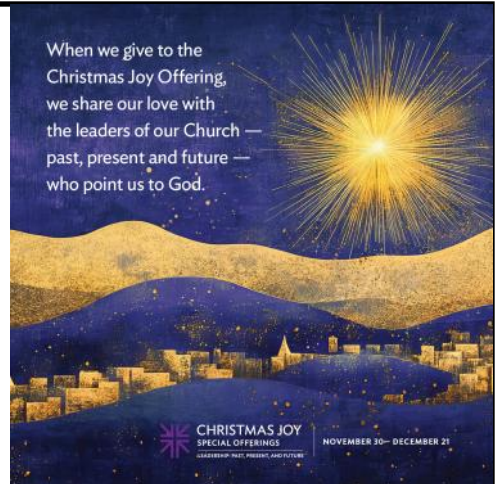
## Christmas Joy Offering | December 21

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](mailto:kristen@bradleyhillchurch.org) if interested.

**Christmas Flower Reminder** | If you ordered Christmas flowers, please remember to pay any remaining balance. Flowers can be picked up after the 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service on Wednesday or the following Sunday, December 28.

**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 December 21. 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.

**A Stewardship Note** | In our worship today we anticipate the joy and wonder of beholding the Christ Child. As we look forward to God's greatest gift, we thank you for all the gifts that you have given the church in the past year.

## **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](http://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 at [Jan@bradleyhillschurch.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 including:**

- The families of the students killed at Brown University.
- The families of the victims killed during Chanukah celebration in Australia.

### **We give thanks to God for joys and celebrations including:**

- The fellowship and delicious treats at the cookie exchange last Sunday; gratitude to all the bakers and to organizers Cathie Lutter and Joan Burns.
- The joy-filled worship service of lessons and carols celebrating pink candle "Gaudete" Sunday.

### **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, Kornelia Nagy-Koppan, Susan Slack, Peg Flowe, Graydon, 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 affected by the shooting at Brown University..
- All those affected by the mass shooting at a Chanukah celebration in Australia.
- Those affected by hate, discrimination, and intolerance in all its forms as we stand in solidarity with our Jewish, Muslim, and LGBTQ+ siblings.
- All those experiencing food insecurity.
- We pray that those in authority lead with integrity considering the welfare of all 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.
- 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.
- Those traveling.



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.

# 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 in memory of Sandy Jameson., from Joan Jameson.

### 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 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

January 18 | Preaching: Pastor Denise Diaab

January 25 | Preaching: Pastor David Gray

February 1 | Communion | Preaching: Pastor David Gray



[bradleyhillschurch.org](http://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