



Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church
December 28, 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

Die Hirten an der Krippe (In dulci jubilo), S. 186, No. 3

Franz Liszt

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: An angel spoke to Joseph in a dream: "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt."

All: Let us now go even unto Bethlehem to remember Christ the refugee among us.

One: Herod's fury fell upon the innocent, and Rachel, weeping for her children, refused to be comforted.

All: Let us now go even unto Bethlehem to join her cry with our own.

One: Yet even in exile and in sorrow, Immanuel - God is with us.

All: Let us now go even unto Bethlehem to worship Christ, our Savior.

*HYMN 43

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Forest Green

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

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



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.
Re-joice! Re-joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

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.

Angels We Have Heard on High (vs. 3)
Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

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

Follow, follow. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow the Star of Bethlehem. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 2:13-23

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

MUSICAL MEDITATION

The Coventry Carol (Lullay, Lullah)

SERMON

Bethlehem

Seminarian Han Setiawan

*HYMN

Jesus Entered Egypt

Glory to God, 145

Dm C Dm F Dm Gm Dm

1 Je - sus en - tered E - gypt flee - ing Her - od's hand,
2 Je - sus was a mi - grant liv - ing as a guest
3 Je - sus cross - es bor - ders with the wan - dering poor,

(C) (G) (Am) (C) (Dm)
F C Dm F Gm

liv - ing as an a - lien in a for - eign land.
with the friends and strang - ers who could of - fer rest.
search - ing for a ref - uge, for an o - pen door.

(G) (Em) (Am) (G) (D) (G)
C Am Dm C G C

Far from home and coun - try with his fam - i - ly,
Do we hold wealth light - ly so that we can share
Do our words and ac - tions an - swer Je - sus' plea:

(Am) (G) (Em) (Dm) (C) (G) (Am)
Dm C Am Gm F C Dm

was there room and wel - come for this ref - u - gee?
shel - ter with the home - less, and a - bun - dant care?
"Give the low - ly wel - come, and you wel - come me?"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

RESPONSE IN FAITH - MEDITATION

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

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her from Orgelbüchlein

J.S. Bach

*SUNG OFFERING OF THANKSGIVING

What Child Is This?

Greensleeves

*What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!*

RESPONSE IN PRAYER

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 28**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

In Dulci Jubilo

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

SENDING MUSIC

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

J.S. Bach

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Preview of January 4

**Join Us for Worship | 8:30 a.m. in Covenant Hall and 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary and
online**

Epiphany | Communion | Preaching - Pastor David Gray

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

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

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

Adult Education - January 2026

January 4 - Artificial Intelligence : Friend or Foe? Rob Gordon will help us explore the many roles that artificial intelligence plays now and promises to play the economy, defense, workforce, medicine, education, research, and our personal lives. Rob is the Senior Strategic Leader for AI and Digital Innovation at Document Storage Systems, a software product and integration company. He has extensive senior management and cross sector experience in the military, government, high tech, and non profit sectors. He served as Under Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy and received the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service.

January 11 - What will humans be good for as Artificial Intelligence spreads through societies? Lee Rainie, Director of Elon University's, Imagining the Digital Future Center, returns to Bradley Hills to discuss the impact of AI on personal spirituality and dignity as well on work and jobs. Lee speaks frequently on national networks and cable. His center's research includes the influence of AI on human emotional connections. Lee joined the Imagining the Digital Future Center as director in 2023 after 24 years of directing Pew Research Center's efforts to study the internet and technology.

January 18 - Martin Luther King Weekend: Robert (Robby) P. Jones, the president and founder of Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) returns to Bradley Hills. His visit two years ago provided direction to the work of our Racial Justice Coordinating Committee and the development of the Antiracism Policy, recently approved by the Session. Robby will update us on insights and recent data from PRRI's American Values Survey and ongoing analysis of public opinion in these challenging times. He is the author of the New York Times bestseller *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy and the Path to a Shared American Future* (published September 5, 2023), as well as *White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity*, which won a 2021 American Book Award. He's just finished writing a forthcoming book, *Backslide: Reclaiming a Faith and a Nation After the Christian Turn Against Democracy*, which will be published by St. Martin's Essentials next fall ahead of the midterm elections.

Suggested (though not required) audience preparation: learn how the 16th Annual Report of the PRRI uncovered surprising trends and attitudes about the current administration <https://contrarian.substack.com/p/most-americans-are-seeing-the-dangers>. Jones also writes a weekly newsletter for those dedicated to the work of truth-telling, repair, and healing from the legacy of white supremacy in American Christianity at www.whitetoolong.net.

January 25 – Artificial Intelligence and the Bible? Join us to examine how artificial intelligence can influence our understanding of the Bible. Dianne Whitaker and Clint Kelly return to the story of the Prodigal Son: Luke 15:11-32 and ask artificial intelligence to predict how the story plays out after a year has passed.

Join us in 2026!

We are so glad you have chosen to worship God at BHPC this Christmas. We hope you will join us in 2026 to explore the meaningful ministry of Bradley Hills. Its mission and service opportunities to help those in need. Its tradition of beautiful music, worship, education and spiritual growth. The ways this healthy community supports each other.

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. We have 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 others, 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, we'd welcome a chance to connect. Our largest 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 we can be of support, email David@bradleyhillchurch.org.

Wishing you and your family a happy new year.

In Christ,
The BHPC Team

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:



Scan to give now:



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:



Bradley Hills

Family SCAVENGER Hunt

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

MEET IN
MEMORIAL
HALL

NOON

Lunch Included



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.bradleyhillchurch.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@bradleyhillchurch.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@bradleyhillchurch.org.

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

A Stewardship Note | Your gifts of time, talent, and treasure have made it possible for us once again to celebrate God's greatest gift to humankind. Thank you for taking part in this joyous time together.

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, Susan Slack, 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:

- 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 the people.
- The future of the church.
- Peace in the Middle East and Ukraine.
- 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

Lenten Small Groups | February 19-April 5 | Daytime and Evening | In-person and Zoom groups

Grief Support Group | 3rd Thursday | 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

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

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 Choral | 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 in honor and with gratitude for all that
2025 brought, by Melissa Kallas and Ryan Cox.

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)

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
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