

CELEBRATION of WORSHIP

DECEMBER 18, 2011

Advent 4: "Let It Be"

* = Please stand, as you are able

GATHERING AROUND THE GOOD NEWS

Prelude

Murmurs in a Stable
Chancel Choir

Craig Courtney

***Call to Worship**

with Advent Candlelighting

adapted from Luke 1:46b-55: Mary's Magnificat

You are invited to respond with the words in **bold**.

All who worship in this house are considered to be ministers of the Good News.

First Advent candle is lit.

Minister My soul magnifies the Lord,
Ministers and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

Second Advent candle is lit.

Minister For God erases my anonymity,
Ministers so that all generations are blessed!

Third Advent candle is lit.

Minister God's strength strikes at the root of evil,
**Ministers God pushes the proud
from the pinnacles of power,
and lifts up the lowly – the little ones.**

Fourth Advent candle is lit.

Minister But those filled to the brim with opportunity,
Ministers God sends away.

ALL Let it be! Let it be! Let us worship God!

Processional Introit

African Alleluia

Benjamin Harlan



Welcome to Worship!

*Hymn of Praise

Song of Mary

verses 1-3

600

The lyricist Winter, a professor at Hartford Seminary when *The Hymnal* was published, is a member of the Medical Mission Sisters order. She revised this text to make the language more inclusive. The harmonizer Douglas, an Episcopal priest, was an authority on Gregorian chant as well as plainsong.

Call to Confession and Healing

Prayer of Confession and Healing

In Unison

**As with Mary of old, O God of all ages,
we stand perplexed at Christmas' door.**

**What you can and do conceive within us,
we balk and refuse to conceive in you.
The warmth of your Spirit-shadow frightens us.
We turn, instead, to the cold neon madness.**

**God, in your mercy: you throw open the door
of possibility before us!
Midst our rush to the well-lighted inn,
you bring new life to our darkest mangers.
Midst our tinsel sophistication,
you bring innocence – accepting and holy.**

**Glory be to you in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace, goodwill to all!**



Silent Reflection

*Hymn of Grace

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

2

A younger brother of the founder of Methodism, the lyricist Charles Wesley wrote more than 6000 hymns. Rowland Hugh Prichard, a Welshman, composed this before his 20th birthday. With one exception, the melody lies within the first five notes of the scale.

*Passing of the Peace of Christ

Minister The peace of the Lord be with you!
Ministers **And also with you!**





The Peace of Christ is passed openly among one another.
We return to our seats with the following ...

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God
appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel!



Welcoming of Guests and Community News

HEARING THE GOOD NEWS

Witness in Song: Anthem

Sing Noel, Sing Hallelujah

Michael Smith

Witness from Children Pageant: "The Pathway of Promise"

At the conclusion of the storytelling, children 4 years or less may be taken to the nursery.
Do know we enjoy having children of all ages worship with us ... even with
a little noise!

Witness in Word

Luke 1:26-38

Here I Am ... Let It Be



SEALING THE GOOD NEWS: HOLY COMMUNION

The Invitation to Our Servant Lord's Feast

***The Feast** The Narrative of the Bread and the Cup

The Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Communion Anthem **Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence**



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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Silent Reflection

OUR STATEMENT of WELCOME: Bethesda Presbyterian Church is a diverse congregation welcoming all persons to serve Christ as full and active participants in our faith community, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identification or any other personal attribute.

AVAILABLE for WORSHIP!

In need any of these? Our Ushers and Greeters can help!

- Children’s bulletins/activity sheets
- Large Print Bibles and Hymnals
- Hearing-Impaired Units



Our Servant Leaders in Worship this morning include ...

Ushers/Greeters	Laura Dunlap, Byron Sipe, Chingju Sheu
Acolyte	Sophie Falvey
Advent Candlelighters	Gau/Falvey family: Vicki, Dan, Sophie, Willa
Liturgist	Vicki Gau
Communion Elders	Carol Hall and Vicki Gau
Music Director	LeeAnna Xanthos-McQueen
Pastor	Rev. Charles Booker-Hirsch

Our Sunday Schedule ...

9:30 – 12:30 Child Care (Infants through age 4)	Room 209
11:00 – 12:00 Worship	Sanctuary
12:00 – 12:30 Refreshments	Fellowship Hall

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS ...

Mitten Tree in Fellowship Hall. You may notice a “stick tree” in Fellowship Hall. Each year the BPC Presbyterian Women ask for donations of mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, tights, socks, underwear for elementary aged children. They take these items to Title 1 schools in Montgomery County to be given to children whose parents income border between low and poverty income levels. There should be a box under the tree each Sunday if you would like to donate items.

LOOKING AHEAD ...

Sundays 9:45-10:45 Christian Education – for God’s Children All Ages! ...

Children & Youth: Advent (11/27-12/18): Christmas Pageant preparation for 12/18
Adults: (12/4-12/18): “Christmas Is Not Your Birthday” – Parlor

Advent Sundays

November 27 – December 18 Worship: Communion each Sunday

**December 18, 24, 25
Worship celebrations**

Our Christmas Joy Offering received!
See stapled insert

Saturday, December 24, 7:15p Christmas Eve “Lessons & Carols” service!

A dark-and-light reflective journey through the Christmas story
with scriptures, magnificent music, pastoral meditation

Sunday, December 25, 11:00a Christmas Day service!

Transept (Sanctuary wing)
informal – meditative, carol-sing, homily
a break for our fabulous choir
No Christian Education

Sunday, January 1, 11:00a

New Year’s Day service
No Christian Education

Sunday, January 8, 11:00a

Installation of Session Elders
Joseph Bunker (Class of 2012), Paul Dudek, Donna Stahr (Class of 2014)
Epiphany Sunday – Communion Served

Sunday, January 22, post-Worship

Annual Congregational Meeting
with Lunch – Fellowship Hall

Beginning 10a Saturdays in January

English as a Second Language tutoring
Fellowship Hall

Beginning in March

Del Ray Club (12 Step Clubhouse) moves to BPC



Dec 19 ~ Dot McDowell

Dec 21 ~ Kenneth Maryott

Dec 21 ~ Reia Tong

Dec 22 ~ Jack Richards

Dec 23 ~ Diana Hudson-Taylor

The Sanctuary Poinsettias Have Been Placed to the Glory of God

Donor

The Addo Family
Fran Bisselle

Joe Bunker
Jean & Paul Dudek
Laura Dunlap
Kay Funkhouser
Mira Hoover

Dorothy Yarrington Jawish
Stafford Kelly
Carl & Jane Maryott

Dot McDowell
Byron Sipe
Anne Woodhams

Donor

Marge Elliott
Kurt Tong
Washington Japanese Christian Church

In Memory of...

Shika Addo
Bob Bisselle, Andrew Hoover, Claude
Funkhouser
Sheila Bunker
Peter Tisne
Loved ones
Claude Funkhouser, Jr.
Andrew, John & Rowena Hoover; Bob
Bisselle, Blanche & Walter Patterson;
Claude Funkhouser
William K. Jawish
Phil & Esther Ann Kelly
Jean Maryott, Amy Maryott, Dylan
Shelton, Duncan & Morag Calder
Claude Funkhouser
His grandparents
Her husband, parents and
Grandson Jesse

In Honor of...

Her family
Peace Lovers everywhere
The BPC Congregation



NEW DATA REVEAL DETAILED PICTURE OF BETHESDA'S HOMELESS

Following a canvassing effort in November to document those living on the streets in the Bethesda area, local outreach group BETHESDA CARES recently met with the community to outline their findings. Bethesda Cares is sharing the data with policy makers to help inform their decision-making when it comes to housing the CHRONICALLY HOMELESS.

The registry effort is a part of the 100,000 HOMES CAMPAIGN, a nationwide effort aimed to house 100,000 of the most vulnerable homeless individuals by July of 2013. The campaign tasks communities with creating a by-name registry of homeless individuals in order to help service providers match them with resources and assist them into permanent housing.

In the canvassing effort, VOLUNTEERS TOOK TO THE STREETS--beginning at 4 a.m.--collecting information from the homeless about health problems, drug or alcohol abuse, mental illness, length of time out on the street, and whether or not the homeless individual is a veteran, said Bethesda Cares Outreach Specialist John Mendez. Out of the 54 people Bethesda Cares and its teams of volunteers contacted during the canvass, 40 were willing to participate in the survey – 32 men and eight women. Six were war veterans.

An electronic database of the information collected is underway, though it's not yet publicly available. Included in the data figures, of the 40 surveyed ...

- 19 reported having a mental health diagnosis
- 14 reported having participated in substance abuse treatment programs
- 20 reported sleeping most frequently on the street
- Two reported sleeping most frequently in a shelter
- Four reported having diabetes
- Seven reported having limited mobility
- Six reported having asthma
- Six reported having had frostbite
- 14 reported having been a victim of an attack

Bethesda Cares wants to use the data to help prioritize housing for the most medically vulnerable--those most at risk of dying on the street. "This will give us a more accurate understanding of the medically vulnerable indicators that contribute to long-term homelessness," said Susan Kirk, Bethesda Cares executive director. "The index will serve as a social services efficiency tool for prioritizing housing assistance and services. It's the smart way to do the right thing." -- Bethesda Patch, 11/14/11