

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Every December the Missions Committee presents mission opportunities for our congregation to support financially above our monthly giving. To give, select “Christmas Offering 2025” when giving online, or list “Christmas Offering” on the memo line of your check made payable to Proclamation Presbyterian Church. Any donation received will be split between these three missions proportionate to the need.

This year our Christmas Offering will support three ministries:

- GTI Hope, our ministry effort to unreached people groups in India. The Christmas offering will provide 10 new sewing machines for one of the groups in India that have already received literacy training and biblical instruction.
- An initiative led by one of our supported missionaries Anees Zaka in distributing food and medicine in Egypt this holiday season.
- A missionary requiring funding in a sensitive and undisclosed area.

VISITING WITH US?

Life’s greatest joy is found in fellowship with Jesus Christ and living for God’s glory. By proclaiming God’s truths of the bible, we hope to equip others to live, love, and speak for Christ. We would love to have you join us for worship.

Our Sunday worship schedule:

Sunday School for all ages 9:30 a.m.

In English 10:30 a.m.

In Korean 9:30 a.m. in the Beechwood Chapel

In Japanese 10:30 a.m. in room 044/046

Family Night at Proclamation is one way our families get connected, build friendships, and grow in their love for each other and the Lord. Dinner is provided and children and adults can attend Bible studies, music rehearsals, and other classes. Toddler childcare is offered. Family Night resumes January 7.

Our Wednesday Family Night Schedule:

4:45-6:45 p.m. Dinner

5:00-7:00 p.m. Children’s and youth music rehearsal

5:45-6:45 p.m. Soli Deo Gloria handbells rehearsal

7:00-8:30 p.m. Trail Life and Girls of Grace (K-5th grade)

Youth Group (6th-12th grade)

Chancel Choir rehearsal

Men’s and Women’s Bible Studies

ESL (English as a Second Language) class

For more information contact info@proclamation.org or visit our website: www.proclamation.org

CHRISTMAS HYMN DEVOTIONAL

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

by Charles Wesley

Charles Wesley’s *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* needs little introduction. It opens or closes most Christmas Eve services including the iconic Lessons and Carols service at Kings College, Oxford. It’s no surprise that many rank it among their three favorite Christmas hymns. Wesley infuses his poetry with theology and does not waste a phrase. Though his original stanzas have been modified slightly over time, the three stanzas that are sung worldwide attest to their lasting quality.

Just as iconic is its traditional tune MENDELSSOHN. Its melodic and rhythmic contour lend to singers’ burgeoning emotion. It begins with a low pitch (which is revisited only once), and from there the tune soars, peaking twice; it’s the melody’s first apotheosis that impels singers’ most robust delivery, and it’s that first peak of stanza 3 that coincides with this remarkable line: “Born to raise the sons of earth.” Why do assemblies sing this phrase with explosive power? In part, the word “raise” lends itself to raising one’s volume, and coinciding with the peak in the melody, it’s very satisfying to sing. But it’s not just that; the words “sons of earth” make this line remarkable.

The word earth is mundane, sublunary, and carnal. It draws our attention to who we are. We are from dust, like clay from the ground. Not only did Christ come as a son of earth, he became a son of earth to raise us from the dust. It’s a wonderful moment in the song and one of the most helpful lines of the entire poem, because it puts all our thanksgiving into context. Paradoxically, it’s a sentence clothed in humility, yet one we get to sing with our loudest voice. By singing, “born to raise the sons of the earth,” we proclaim, “This is who I am! Thank you for raising this piece of clay.”

When you start this hymn, as jubilant as you may begin, consider saving your last outpouring of emotion for the 3rd stanza that, akin to Mary’s nard pouring, you may put your last ounces of gratitude and praise into this line: “Born to raise the sons of earth.” What a great moment of worship. — *Ryan Kelly*



PROCLAMATION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

PROCLAMATION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

278 S. Bryn Mawr Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010 | (610) 520-9500 | proclamation.org

Christmas Eve
Wednesday, December 24th, 2025



CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24th, 2025
5:00 p.m.

Rev. Dr. John Currie, *preaching*
Rev. Jeremy Johnson, *assisting*

PRELUDE Caleb Thompson and Courtney Mitchell, *violin*
Ruth Thompson, *harp*

See, Amid the Winter's Snow
The Holly and the Ivy
arr. Kristen Campbell

In the Bleak Midwinter
arr. Ken Gist

WELCOME Rev. Dr. John Currie, *senior pastor*

CALL TO WORSHIP* Zephaniah 3:14-15

INVOCATION*

HYMN N^o 203* Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

SPECIAL MUSIC Praise Makers, Training Choir, and Covenant Choir
Courtney Mitchell, *violin*
Asaki Nakagawa, *piano*

The First Nowell
arr. Ruth Thompson

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.
They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. Nowell...
Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord, that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood mankind hath bought. Nowell...

HYMN N^o 227 On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

Stanza 1: Praise Makers, Training Choir, and Covenant Choir
*Stanza 2-4: All stand and sing

* Please stand.

Parents, after singing “O Come, All Ye Faithful,”
please pick up your child in the narthex.

SCRIPTURE READING Rev. Jeremy Johnson, *executive pastor*
Luke 2:1-20, *pg. 857*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HYMN N^o 208* O Come, All Ye Faithful

PRAYER FOR THE WORLD Rev. Jeremy Johnson, *executive pastor*

OFFERING Chancel Choir
Ruth Thompson, *harp*

What Child?
Paul W. Lohman

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!

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. *Refrain*

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king to own him. the King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. *Refrain*

HYMN N^o 216* Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

SERMON Rev. Dr. John Currie, *senior pastor*

Seeing Glory
Luke 2:1-21, *pg. 857*

SCRIPTURE READING Rev. Dr. John Currie, *senior pastor*
John 1:1-14, *pg. 886*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

CANDLE LIGHTING

To receive the light from a lighted candle, tip your unlighted candle toward the flame.
Hold your lighted candle upright as your neighbor lights their candle from yours.

HYMN N^o 210 Silent Night! Holy Night!
Gideon Whitehead, *classical guitar*, Ruth Thompson, *harp*
Caleb Thompson and Courtney Mitchell, *violin*

Silent Night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior, is born! Christ, the savior, is born!

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE Dr. Ryan Kelly, *organ*