

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Caroling to Our Neighbors • Today

Join our annual caroling event at the Radwyn Apartments, an outreach opportunity to our neighbors across the street. We will gather at Proclamation prior to the evening service at 3:45 p.m. and walk across the street to sing and invite the Radwyn community to attend our upcoming Christmas events and services. Contact Pastor Ken with questions (ken@proclamation.org).

Christmas Offering 2023

During the advent season, the Missions Committee will present two mission organizations for us to support financially above our monthly giving. This year we look to support MNA Metanoia Prison Ministry. Their purpose: Partnering with the church for the Discipleship, Mentoring and Reintegration of prisoners. We will also support the Harding Memorial Bible College in Yirgacheffe, Ethiopia. With their expanding attendance, the school is in need of a new building that would serve as a new dormitory, office, and large gathering space.

To give, you may do so by selecting “Christmas Offering 2023” while giving online, or in one of the designated Christmas Offering envelopes found in the pew racks. Simply drop that envelope with either cash or checks in the offering plate or give to any staff member. Any donation received will be split evenly between both missions.

Eagles Ministry • December 15

Our next gathering for senior saints is on Friday, 12/15, 10:00 a.m. - noon (in the fellowship hall). Come enjoy a time of fellowship and hear Nate Shannon, PhD and WTS professor of apologetics and systematic theology, speak on “The Gender Crisis” in our culture. Contact Bob Sidor with any questions (bob.sidor@gmail.com, 717-756-4520).

Concert: Born on Christmas Night • December 17

Proclamation’s Music Ministry presents a concert of celebratory and inspiring Christmas music by Charpentier, Chilcott, Rutter, Wilberg and others with Chamber Orchestra. The free concert will feature our Chancel Choir, Covenant Choir, and Soli Deo Gloria Ringers and begin at 5:00 p.m. It will not be livestreamed. Please invite family, friends, and neighbors!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service • December 24

Worship our Lord at this candlelight service with our church family. Join us Sunday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m. for our annual Christmas Eve service. Proclamation choir, strings, and organ will accompany the singing and worship of our Lord. Pastor Ben will be preaching.

CityTeam Chester • Christmas Donations

Here are some ways we suggest: Donating *non-perishable traditional Christmas meal items*. Put the non-perishable items in the CityTeam section of the donation room. Donate *toys and games*, put them unwrapped in the box located in our Education Building. Donate *wrapping paper, bows, and scotch tape*. You can *adopt a child’s wish list* and buy them gifts from their list (this will cost you at least \$65.00). Volunteer to *help pack food boxes, gifts, or deliver the items* to families on Dec. 16th. Incidentally, gifts and food items need to be here by Dec. 10th. *Monetary gifts* (any amount). Make checks payable to CityTeam (not Proclamation) and earmark Christmas and give them to Mike or Dominic or place in the offering plate. Any questions, see Mike or Dominic.

Dear PPC Family and Friends,

With grateful hearts, we say “Thank you” for blessing the children served by Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child shoebox project. Thanks to all who labored in different ways and contributed to this blessing. - *OCC Work Team*

ADVENT HYMN DEVOTIONAL

Week 2: It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Words by Edmund Sears

It Came upon the Midnight Clear starts like an old fairy tale. Just shy of saying “Once upon a time, long ago,” it practically says, “It came to pass, at midnight, long ago...” Paired with its lilting, circular melody and accompanying chromaticism, it is a sweet hymn. But despite Edmund Sears’ hazy, charming callback to millennia past with “once upon a time” language, he masterfully shifts focus midway to the present realities of a painful world with only four words separated by a parenthetical statement: “And ye...look now!” It is as if Sears knew you might be paying only half attention to the text. He asks you to consider one of two perspectives:

If you are weary, barely singing because of your exhaustion, or perhaps numbing your distress with thoughtless singing—he calls you to face your reality. “You, pay attention,” he says. “Don’t look for fleeting, earthly peace this holiday season. Look at your life, right now in worship as you sing, and confess, ‘My life’s load is crushing me. I am bent low. My progress is slow. Every step I take is painful.’ There is hope for you. The hope is so close you don’t realize—the prophets foretold your deliverance would come, and Christ’s kingdom is speeding toward you. Hope in that!” That’s a remarkable message, a punch to one’s solar plexus.

But can Sears land a double-punch? You see, you might not see yourself in this hymn’s text. It’s easy to sing it and think, “I remember a time I felt like that,” or “I know someone who is distressed,” or “I know there are people ‘out there’ to whom this applies.” And while we might sing it honestly, we believe it applies to others.

But Sears doesn’t let you off that easily. By putting these words in your mouth—“And ye...look now”—the author forces you into the role of the messenger. “Angel” means messenger; they are harbingers for the Lord. The author thus puts you in the position to spread the Lord’s message, given by him to the angels, given now to you to tell. He says, “You think this hymn is about someone else? No, it is about you—you are called to spread this peace.” Sing this with authority! If you sing it but don’t mean it, or don’t understand it, or don’t believe you ought to, then you bear false witness to your neighbor. How dare we say to someone, “You, I have good news to tell you” without any love or truth to give? Yet how glorious it is to have and know the truth, to experience the peace and rest in Jesus—and to have the privilege to share that with another?!

When you sing this hymn, let your voice and heart connect. Sing it with the utter confidence that you believe every word of it and have the richest of treasures—the gospel of eternal life—to bring to your neighbor who is struggling along the road, bent low, and crushed. If you can, look someone in the eye and bring wings full of peace to them. — *Ryan Kelly*

PROCLAMATION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



PROCLAMATION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

Sunday, December 10th, 2023



MORNING WORSHIP
SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 10th, 2023
10:30 a.m.

Rev. Ben Falconer, *preaching*
Rev. Ken Wendland, *assisting*

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.
I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*
— John 10:10

PRELUDE Dr. Ryan Kelly, *organ*

WELCOME Rev. Ben Falconer, *senior pastor*

MISSIONS MOMENT Trail Life

CHORAL INTROIT Chancel Choir
Lord Jesus Christ, We Implore You
Tom Council

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. And this is his name whereby he shall be called: The Lord our Righteousness. — *Jeremiah 23:5-6*

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP* Is. 25:6, 9; Ps. 13:5-6; Rev. 22:20

Leader: The LORD of hosts has made for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Congregation: My heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me. Even so: Come quickly, Lord Jesus.

INVOCATION*

HYMN N^o 156* O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

* Please stand.

DECLARATION OF FAITH Heidelberg Catechism, *q. 1*

Leader: What is our only comfort in life and death?

Congregation: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

HYMN N^o 194* O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

CONFESSION OF SIN Mark 1:4-5

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Titus 3:4-7

*At this time we would encourage you to record your attendance with us in the blue attendance pads.
Visitors, please consider filling out our connect card on the church app.*

OFFERTORY Chancel Choir
Sarah Seaman-Whitehead, *piano*

There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth (*Christus*)
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

There shall a star from Jacob come forth, and a scepter from Israel rise up, and dash in pieces princes and nations. How brightly beams the morning star, with sudden radiance from afar, with light and comfort glowing! Thy word, Jesus, inly feeds us, rightly leads us, life bestowing. Praise, O praise such love o’erflowing! — *Numbers 24:17, Psalm 2:9, Philip Nicolai*

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Malayna Cherry, Ron & Cay Evans, Cecelia Falconer, Kalina Goda, Hawa Harvey, Isaac & Kethryn Hollis, Carol Johnston, Maki Mitani, Rachel Moon, Mona Ni, Walt & Sarah Niebauer, Tom & Damaris Otremba, Kevin Otterbine, Porter Roberts, Elliot Shannon, Mia Shannon, Milan Sharma, Kerrick Sullivan, Fred Tawadros, Sabina Tichindeleanu, Aaron & Allison Wyderka

- Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?
- Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
- Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
- Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
- Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

BAPTISM Maki Mitani

SCRIPTURE READING* Dave Moneymaker, *elder*
Luke 1:26-38, *pg. 855*

*We offer a Children’s Church curriculum designed for pre-readers ages 4-6 in Room 147.
Children are welcome to participate at this time in Room 147.*

HYMN N^o 221* Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming

PASTORAL PRAYER

SERMON Rev. Ben Falconer, *senior pastor*
Joseph’s Change of Circumstance
Genesis 41:37-57, *pg. 35*

HYMN N^o 200* It Came upon the Midnight Clear

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE Dr. Ryan Kelly, *organ*



*After the service, take a moment to greet those around you; especially those you may not know.
We want to welcome everyone with the love of Christ and the grace of the Spirit, in the name of the Lord.*

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Dave Moneymaker will be available to pray with you
at the front right of the sanctuary.

Carole Tolbert and Joyce Wik will be available to pray with women
at the front left of the sanctuary.

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Join us tonight at 5:00 p.m. for our Evening Service with Hymn Sing
Instructions Regarding Elders
1 Timothy 5:17-25