

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Orchestra in Worship

We welcome our Orchestra leading worship music this morning. Those who play an orchestral instrument (9th grade-adult) are welcome to play with the ensemble once a month on Sunday mornings; contact Ryan Kelly, ryan@proclamation.org, if interested. Pre-high school instrumental musicians are invited to play for Dr. Kelly and consider playing as part of a future Sunday p.m. worship service.

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!

Children’s Ministry Update

Nursery and toddlers will be open today, but closed the following two Sundays. Scripture memory and Children’s church will be closed today, and the following two Sundays. All will resume on January 7.

Wednesday Schedule Change

With the exception of music rehearsals, all Wednesday night activities are on hiatus until January 10. Music rehearsals for children and adults will take place on Dec. 20.

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.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service • December 24

Worship our Lord at this 5:00 p.m. candlelight service with choir and strings, singing and prayer, and Pastor Ben’s message, *He Speaks to Us Now by His Son*.

Men’s Retreat 2024 • January 12-13, 2024

Brothers, come and join us for our Men’s Retreat over the weekend of MLK Day in 2024. We’ll be spending 2 days and 1 night together at Black Rock Retreat Center in Quarryville PA, thinking through the topic “What is Man?” with our guest speaker, Dr. David Garner. It’ll be a great time of fellowship and digging deep into God’s Word. Bring your dad, uncle(s), son(s), or friend(s) along! Flyers are available on the usher’s tables just outside the doors of the sanctuary. Register at <https://bit.ly/PPCMensRetreat2024>. Contact Elden Pan at (215) 403-1445 for more information.

The diaconal Compassion Committee provides counseling as well as financial and material assistance to those in need, in the spirit of Christ’s compassion to his people and the world. Committee members are Chris Cooper (chair), Jeff Firges, Lauren Leisner, Tina Simon, and Virginia Spykerman. Their contact information is in the church directory. If you need help or know someone who does, contact any member of the committee. If you are interested in serving on the committee, contact Chris Cooper. Financial contributions to the Compassion Fund may be made as a designated gift; please designate “Compassion Fund” on your check or with your online donation.

ADVENT HYMN DEVOTIONAL

Week 3: Arise, O God, and Shine

Words by William Horn

Throughout history, Christians observing Advent didn’t celebrate Christ’s coming as much as they considered John the Baptist’s message to *prepare* for Christ’s coming (Luke 3:1-16). John addresses God’s covenant people, identifies their need for Christ, tells them Christ is coming, and calls them to repent of their sins. This is precisely what we celebrate in Advent—we acknowledge our need for Christ, reflect on his promise to come again, repent of our sins, and petition him to fulfill his promises.

Even though the hymn *Arise, O God, and Shine* never speaks directly of Christ’s birth or second coming, it is a superb Advent hymn. Through it, we voice our desire for Christ’s kingdom to come and we resolve to live knowing that it will. God calls us to wholeheartedly invest ourselves in his advancing kingdom—to stay awake, to watch, to pray, to wrestle with sin—and this hymn is decidedly “wholehearted;” the singer prays an incredibly bold prayer, summoning the Lord and calling him to act according to his will.

We know we should pray according to God’s will, and it is his will that he should come again. It is his will that justice be done. It is his will that all nations see. It is his will that everything be accomplished in the fullness of time. And in this hymn, the singer calls on the Lord, saying, “Come. Bring your kingdom. Do this.” Oh yes, Christians, it is right to pray according to God’s will with great boldness.

The hymn proceeds with as much confidence as it began. There are no self-abasing qualifications; the singer never says, “Please” or “If I have found favor in your sight.” The number of verbs in the hymn’s four stanzas is remarkable. Perhaps the most moving line is this: “Assert thy cause and govern by thy holy laws.” The sentence is audacious! Not only did we address God to literally “get up,” we entreated him to start working! “Get up and do what you promised to do! Assert yourself; subdue your enemies. Bring justice. Govern. Your laws are holy; enforce them.” There are few hymns so daring in their language. The prayer evokes memories of Philippians 2:10-11; knowing that “at the name of Jesus, every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,” you are praying, “Lord, make that happen.”

It is a blessing and joy to access the throne of grace without fear. Knowing that we pray for what God has promised, we have the great freedom to do so passionately. What an incredible privilege it is to be able to pray this and to do it in song. — *Ryan Kelly*



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Check out our daily calendar on our website and app!

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 17th, 2023



MORNING WORSHIP
THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 17th, 2023
10:30 a.m.

Rev. Ben Falconer, *preaching*
Rev. Jeremy Johnson, *assisting*

For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret,
whereas worldly grief produces death.
— 2 Corinthians 7:10

PRELUDE Dr. Ryan Kelly, *organ*

WELCOME Rev. Ben Falconer, *senior pastor*

FINANCIAL ANNOUNCEMENT Matt Roberts

CHORAL INTROIT Chancel Choir
O People of Sion, Behold
James J. Chepponis

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the
Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP* Ps. 69:32, Ps. 30:11, Rev. 22:20

Leader: You who seek God, let your hearts revive. For the LORD
hears the needy and does not despise his own people.

Congregation: **You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you
have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness.
Even so: Come quickly, Lord Jesus.**

INVOCATION*

HYMN N^o 195* Joy to the World

* Please stand.

DECLARATION OF FAITH* Belgic Confession, *c. 10*

We believe that Jesus Christ, according to his divine nature, is the only
Son of God—eternally begotten, not made or created, for then he would
be a creature. He is one in essence with the Father; coeternal; the exact
image of the person of the Father and the “reflection of God’s glory,”
being like the Father in all things.

Jesus Christ is the Son of God not only from the time he assumed our
nature but from all eternity, the one who is called God, the Word, the
Son, and Jesus Christ already existed before creating all things. He is the
true eternal God, the Almighty, whom we invoke, worship, and serve.

HYMN N^o 442* Arise, O God, and Shine

CONFESSION OF SIN Malachi 3:3

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Acts 10:43

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
Addie DiGiacomo, *piano*

Rise, Shine!
arr. Marques L. A. Garrett and Tom Trenney

Rise an’ shine, for the light is a-comin’! Yes, my Lord says he’s comin’ by an’
by. This is the year of jubilee, (my Lord says he’s comin’ by an’ by) my Lord
has set his people free (my Lord says he’s comin’ by an’ by). Wet or dry, I
intend to try (my Lord says he’s comin’ by an’ by) to serve the Lord until I
die (my Lord says he’s comin’ by an’ by).

Rise an’ shine, for the light is a-comin’! Yes, my Lord says he’s comin’ by
an’ by. I intend to shout an’ never stop (my Lord says he’s comin’ by an’ by)
until I reach that mountaintop (my Lord says he’s comin’ by an’ by).

SCRIPTURE READING* Robert Null, *elder*

Luke 1:39-55, *pg. 856*

No Children’s church. Nursery and Toddler rooms are open.
Children’s church will resume January 7.

HYMN N^o 193* Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PASTORAL PRAYER

SERMON Rev. Ben Falconer, *senior pastor*
Joseph’s Brothers Go to Egypt
Genesis 42, *pg. 35*

HYMN N^o 211* God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

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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Robert Null will be available to pray with you
at the front right of the sanctuary.

Minda Garner and Kathy Gates 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 Christmas Concert: Born on Christmas Night

Our total contributions for the Crates for Ukraine project amounted to
\$2868.25. This was enough to purchase two crates of supplies which were joined
by 62 others (totaling about a ton) from churches in the area and delivered to
MTW’s distribution point in Chattanooga, TN on December 7th. Those crates
should now be being distributed to those in Ukraine who are in much need of
them; a very appropriate Christmas present.