

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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, Ethopia. 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.

Trail Life • December 9

Trail Life Troop 1776 will be exploring/hiking in Valley Forge National Historical Park. We will be working on compass reading and orienteering. The hike will consist of a 3.8-mile loop up and down Mt. Joy and Mt. Misery. This is open to all in the church. Please make sure you register through Trail Life Connect or see Sean Ellsworth and Steve Lengkeek for more details.

Caroling to Our Neighbors • December 10

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 serve 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).

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.

ADVENT HYMN DEVOTIONAL

During Advent and Christmastide, we are including a brief devotional over one of the service’s hymns. We hope that it helps you sing the hymn’s truths with greater honesty and fervency.

Week 1: Hail to the Lord’s Anointed

Words by James Montgomery

“He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth, and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.” Stanza 3’s opening is breathtaking but also thought provoking. Why does James Montgomery choose the words “fruitful earth?” Why doesn’t he write, “He shall come down like showers upon the barren earth,” or “rocky earth,” or “groaning earth?” Each image is reflected in Scripture, so why does Montgomery choose to call the earth “fruitful?” The answer hinges on the verb tense in stanza 3, “shall come.” Earlier, in stanzas 1 and 2, Montgomery writes, “he comes.” But in stanzas 3 and 4, he changes to “shall come.” Thus, in stanzas 1-2, Montgomery is saying, like Isaac Watts in *Joy to the World*—that Christ has and “is” come, but in stanzas 3-4 that he also will come to complete his saving work.

It might have made sense for Montgomery to use “barren earth” in stanza 3 if referring to those dead in their trespasses and sins, those stony hearts God would change to flesh. But he doesn’t focus on this in stanza 3. Instead, he refers to the future and what Christ will do when he comes again. And that’s where the “fruitful earth” imagery makes sense. Christ will come again in the fullness of time, when all the seeds sown are ready for harvest. He will claim his own, those born of the earth (for we are fruit of the land) into whom he breathed the breath of eternal life.

Close your eyes and imagine a vista—not a barren one, but a lush vista full of glorious vegetation in every color and variety. Now imagine a life-giving soaking of rain on that land. The hymn writer likens this heaven-given vitality to the love, joy, and hope that springs up in those with whom God is pleased. Another hymn, *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*, speaks of the joys that “none but his loved ones know,” and *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* speaks similarly, saying “Solid joys and lasting treasure none but Zion’s children know.” These are the sentiments Montgomery imparts in this hymn: While God showers physical rain on both the just and the unjust, he pours a special, spiritual fountain over his fruit, his chosen ones—a fountain that brings forth love, joy, and hope in the garden of souls that he tends. — *Ryan Kelly*



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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 3rd, 2023



MORNING WORSHIP
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 3rd, 2023
10:30 a.m.

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

PRELUDE Dr. Ryan Kelly, *organ*

WELCOME Rev. Ben Falconer, *senior pastor*

CHORAL INTROIT Chancel Choir
Behold, the Days Come
Max Reger

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* Ps. 102:19-22, Ps. 25:1, Rev. 22:20

Leader: From heaven the LORD looked at the earth, to hear the groans of the prisoners, to set free those who were doomed to die. Declare in Zion the name of the LORD, and in Jerusalem his praise, and worship the LORD.

Congregation: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust. Even so: Come quickly, Lord Jesus.

INVOCATION*

HYMN N° 196* Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

RESPONSIVE READING OF THE LAW* Exodus 20:1-17

Leader: And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

Congregation: “You shall have no other gods before me. “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

* Please stand.

Leader: You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Congregation: “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

Leader: “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates.

Congregation: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Leader: “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

Congregation: “You shall not murder.

Leader: “You shall not commit adultery.

Congregation: “You shall not steal.

Leader: “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Congregation: “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON 1 Timothy 1:15

*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
Gary Foster, *trumpet*

Savior of the Nations, Come
arr. Evelyn Larter

Savior of the nations, come; show the glory of the Son! Ev’ry people,
stand in awe; praise the perfect Son of God.

Not of human seed, or worth, but of God’s own mystic breath, fruit of
Mary’s womb began when God breathed the Word, his Son.

God the Father’s precious Son girds himself in flesh to run; riding out,
returning home as the Savior who has come.

Praise to God here everyone. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy
Ghost adore; praise them now and evermore!

— *Ambrose of Milan, attr.*

SCRIPTURE READING* Mike Harnish, *elder*

Psalm 80, *pg. 491*

*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° 197* Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People

PASTORAL PRAYER

SERMON Rev. Ben Falconer, *senior pastor*
Pharaoh’s Dreams
Genesis 41:1-36, *pg. 34*

HYMN N° 515* How Lovely Shines the Morning Star!

COMMUNION Stephen Mitchell, *trombone*
What Child Is This?
arr. Ryan Kelly

*Communion elements are distributed in nested cups.
A gluten-free wafer is in the cup beneath the juice.*

HYMN N° 311* Hail to the Lord’s Anointed

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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Mike Harnish will be available to pray with you
at the front right of the sanctuary.

Minda Garner and Betsy Kotanchik 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 Prayer Service
The Enrollment of Widows
1 Timothy 5:9-16