

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Offering 2023 • Last Day to Donate

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. December 31 will be the final date to donate.

Christmas Decorations Clean Up • January 3

Before we know it, it’ll be time to take down the Christmas decorations and begin a new year. Please join us to pack up the Christmas decorations on Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. in the narthex. Please email virginia@proclamation.org to let her know you are coming and she’ll be sure to have some snacks to keep you going! All ages can help, so if you’ve been looking for a family service project, this is a good one!

Children’s Ministry Update

The nursery and toddler rooms will be closed today. Scripture memory and Children’s church will also be closed. All will resume on January 7.

Wednesday Schedule Change

All Wednesday night activities are on hiatus until January 10.

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, Susan Wambua, 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.

CHRISTMAS HYMN DEVOTIONAL

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Words by James Montgomery

Some hymns look simple at first glance, but on deeper reflection provoke some probing questions. *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* is one of those. At first, it looks like a rather typical Christmas carol, one in which the singer recounts the history of the nativity as described in the Gospels. Luke’s account of the angels and shepherds is included, as is Matthew’s account of the Magi.

But examine the text more closely. You are not singing about shepherds and wise men. You are singing *to* shepherds and wise men. That makes things far curiously; in the context of a hymnal designed for worship, why would we be singing to people long dead?

While James Montgomery is using the Christmas narrative as a framework for his hymn, we are not actually singing to dead people; rather, we are singing to those who mirror the shepherds and sages. In the case of the reference to shepherds, we sing to those whose lives are dominated by their vocation, to those who toil amid spiritual darkness. To them, we proclaim that there is a light that changes everything. To them, we echo the voice of Jesus who told his disciples to leave their boats to follow him (Mt. 4:18-22). To them, we say, “Come and worship.”

What are we to make then of the line, “Sages, leave your contemplations?” Here we see an all-too-familiar representation of those who claim to be spiritual people and spend their life ever “searching” and on a “faith journey.” They recall the Apostle Paul’s warnings about those who are seemingly “always learning” but who never come to a knowledge of the truth (2 Tim. 3:7). Montgomery does not belittle their intellect, and with his poetic, pastoral voice, we call to these philosophers, these morally conscious and sensitive people. To them, we say, “Stop.” To them, we say, “You have a moral conscience, but your true desire can only be met by a holy God.” To them, we say, “Come and worship Christ.” — *Ryan Kelly*

SESSION ELDERS

BEN FALCONER, *moderator* JEFF KIESEL
DAVE MONEYSMAKER, *clerk* ROBERT NULL
MIKE HARNISH PAT TOLBERT
JEREMY JOHNSON KEN WENDLAND
DAVID JOSEPHSON PAUL WIK

DEACONS

RON VOTTO, *chair* ANDY LEISNER
DAN BAKER MIKE MARTIN
CHRIS COOPER HIRO NAKAGAWA
JOSH CUOZZO MATT ROBERTS
JEFF FIRGES



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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 31st, 2023



MORNING WORSHIP

December 31st, 2023
10:30 a.m.

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

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.
— *Philippians 1:21*

PRELUDE
Stephen Mitchell, *trombone*
Go, Tell It on the Mountain
Angels We Have Heard on High
arr. Ryan Kelly

WELCOME
Rev. Ben Falconer, *senior pastor*

CALL TO WORSHIP*
Psalm 14:7

INVOCATION*

HYMN N° 218*
Angels, from the Realms of Glory

DECLARATION OF FAITH*
Nicene Creed
We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten
of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of
very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by
whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down
from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he
suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the
Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of
the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living
and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.
And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds
from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in
one holy catholic* and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for
the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and
the life of the world to come. Amen. **Universal*

* Please stand.

HYMN N° 208*
O Come, All Ye Faithful

CONFESSION OF SIN
Hebrews 3:13-15

ASSURANCE OF PARDON
John 6:40

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
Noelle Kelly, *soprano*
Nunc dimittis
Daniel Knaggs

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, salvation which thou hast prepared
before the face of all people; to be a light to lighten the gentiles and to be
the glory of thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to
the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen. — *Luke 2:29-32*

SCRIPTURE READING*
Jerry Kunze, *elder*
1 Corinthians 15:50-58, *pg. 962*

No Children's church. Nursery and Toddler rooms are closed.
All will resume January 7.

HYMN N° 199*
See, amid the Winter's Snow

PASTORAL PRAYER

SERMON
Rev. Jeremy Johnson, *associate pastor*
Living in the Light of Eternity
2 Corinthians 5:1-10, *pg. 966*

HYMN N° 209*
Christians, Awake, Salute the Happy Morn

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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Jerry Kunze will be available to pray with you
at the front right of the sanctuary.

Betsy Kotanchik and Brenda Sbraccia will be available to pray with women
at the front left of the sanctuary.

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No Evening Service

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Join us next Sunday at 10:30 a.m. for our Morning Service
Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt, *Part 2*
Genesis 43