

Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 11:00 a.m.



BLACK MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

Please silence all communication devices. This sanctuary incorporates a hearing assistance loop; to engage this system, set hearing aids to the "t-coil" setting. † indicates to stand, if you are able. The congregation is invited to join in where the liturgy is marked in bold.

GATHERING MUSIC

selections from *Curious Scots Tunes*
by James Oswald (1710-1769)

Reel Baroque Trio

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Katherine Robinson

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

more selections by Oswald

† CALL TO WORSHIP AND ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Stephen & Ellen Phillips Smith

after Third candle is lit...

Loving God, we open ourselves to you,
trusting that this is how you made us:
you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives.
Show us the creative power of hope.
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.
Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,
That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

† HYMN NO. 94

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

SUO GAN



ALL Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.
CHOIR Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.
ALL Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:
Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.
come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of pro - mise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
 Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.
 In the lon - ly, in the stran - ger, in the out - cast, hid from view:



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
 Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
 child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

CALL TO CONFESSION

David Carter Florence

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy,
 a million times a day we have the opportunity to be gracious,
 to assume the best in others,
 to give the benefit of the doubt.
 A million times a day we could choose the better way,
 but so often we don't.
 Fear and greed surface.
 Assumptions and insecurities take the wheel.
 Comparison and critique lead the charge.
 Forgive us for forgetting that we are descendants of Joseph.
 Forgive us for forgetting that grace and mercy are in our blood.
 Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you.
 Give us the courage to love even bigger than before,
 and the wisdom to choose a better way. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, live this good news!
 In Jesus Christ, we are transformed by grace.

†RESPONSE NO. 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

Stanza three sung by Cantor, all sing refrain:

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you! And also with you.

LISTENING FOR THE WORD

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 35:1-10 Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON A Joy that Cannot be Contained

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

†HYMN NO. 108

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who offers second chances
and does not hold grudges.
We believe in a God who opens the door to new life
and leaves the porch light on for us when we get lost.
We believe in a God who believes in us —
believes that we can make a difference,
that we can choose grace over comparison,
love over hate, peace over war.
And so we strive to live our lives in love.
We strive to listen as Joseph listened,
and to be the people that God calls us to be.
It's all that easy, and it's all that hard.
This we believe. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.

THE OFFERING

Offertory

O Come, Redeemer of the Earth

Brian L. Hanson

†Doxology

In the Bleak Midwinter

*What can I give him? Poor as I am
If I were a shepherd I would give a lamb
If I were a wise man I would do my part
But what I can I give him. Give him my heart*

†Prayer of Dedication

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

†HYMN NO. 134

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rejoice in God always, and again I say, rejoice
For God has created you with the capacity for joy.
**We will find what makes us joyful,
And make that our gift to the world.**
Trust in God's good will for all of creation
and open yourself to God's gentle, transforming love.
**We will welcome new possibilities in our lives.
We will offer ourselves to God's goodness.
We will go forth in hope, and peace, and joy.**

†CHORAL BENEDICTION

Just a Little Further to Go (refrain)

POSTLUDE

Leyden and Skene Lyra-viol

Manuscripts Anonymous 17th c.

Welcome and thanks to Rosalind Buda, Gail Schroeder, and Kelly Brzozowski for today's special music.

COVER ART: *Wilderness Blossom* by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman, inspired by Isaiah 35:1-10 | digital painting

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Our hearts and prayers are with family and friends of Jim Richardson who entered God's Church Triumphant on December 6. A memorial service was held yesterday in the sanctuary.

Leslie Applewhite fell and broke her foot
Congratulations to Art De Jong on the birth of his great-granddaughter, Juliette
Katie Duvall and family following the death of her grandmother
Jerone Herring recovering from heart procedure
Family and friends of Jean Holder who died on November 25
Kitty Kelly recovering at home from a knee replacement
Hugh Mayronne recovering in Louisiana
Lyn Nygren at Mission, prayer for healing
Gene & Connie Schimpf's daughter recovering from surgery
Nancy Sprinkle recovering at The Laurels of Summit Ridge after a fall
Anne Straughan recovering from back surgery
Pat Tuttle recovering from reverse shoulder replacement surgery

Our PC(USA) Mission Co-workers: John McCall in Taiwan;
Dan & Elizabeth Turk in Madagascar; Outreach Foundation: Frank Dimmock;
Seminary Students: Emily Beaver, Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia;
Levi Bannerman, Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia;
Susie Burns, Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina;
Our partner Presbytery and partner church, Ebenezer, in Guatemala

Please remember in prayer these people with ongoing concerns:

Mike Barker, Chad Carlton, Paul Carreiro, Jane Collins, Leila Cox, Art De Jong,
Jackie Gibbs, Ellen Gibson, Kevin Griffin, Becky Hughes, Eleanor Landers, Rachael Lee,
Hugh Mayronne, Mark McDaniel, Mary McElrath, Polly Miller, NeGrete Family,
Becky Peterson, Elissa Pusser, Margaret Rada, Betty Rand, Jim Richardson, Penny Sampson,
Charles Sandy, Callie Shaffer, Joe Standaert, Katherine Stanley, Bill Straughan, Paul Willison

Connect with us on our website: bmpcnc.org

Visitors: let us know of your interest or questions about BMPC.

Members: share prayer requests, pastoral concerns, or updated contact information.

We look forward to hearing from you.

WORK AND WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH

Welcome Table Jen, Cory, and Harrison Partlow • Greeters Perry Sprawls, Margaret Fouse

Bus Dave McClintock • Ushers Kitty Fouche, Jenny Paz

Sunday, December 11

Third Sunday of Advent

- 9:00 a.m. FirstLight Worship
- 10:00 a.m. Discovery Class
- 10:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 10:00 a.m. Family Worship
- 10:20 a.m. Making Ornaments
- 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Soup & Caroling
- 6:00 p.m. Advent Vespers

Monday, December 12

- 1:15 p.m. Earth Care Book Study
- 6:00 p.m. Joint Officers Meeting

Tuesday, December 13

- 11:00 a.m. Worship Planning
- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Prophets Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 14

- 9:00 a.m. Contemplative Journey
- 11:30 a.m. Old Fellers Lunch
- 4:30 p.m. Kids Play Practice
- 5:30 p.m. Youth
- 6:30 p.m. Bounty & Soul Tai Chi
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 15

- 3:00 p.m. Book Group with Ina H
- 5:00 p.m. Karate with Tanner Pickett

Friday, December 16

- 5:30 p.m. Youth Christmas Party

Alternative Gifting

From Generation to Generation... we teach our children the joy of giving and serving in Christ's name. Take time to shop Alternative Gifting in person in the narthex and online until January 9. Bring your children to the narthex table with their own money and we will explain where that money can go. Any size donation is perfect... and will be a perfect fit. Contact Jessi Stitt or Patti Pyle with your questions. This is a lovely way to keep Christ in Christmas.

Poinsettias

To purchase a poinsettia during Advent, provide the information below. Please make your \$10 check payable to BMPC, adding "poinsettia" on the memo line. You may take your poinsettia to keep after December 24.

your name

in honor of or **in memory of** (*circle one*)

Our Church's Vision – Embodying the Love of Christ

Inspiring through Worship and Faith Formation • Nurturing through Fellowship
Equipping to Serve • Welcoming to All

Session

Mike Ballard, clerk

Class of 2022

Ellen Begley (personnel)
Austin Brown (finance)
Daniel Wiggs (property)
Cheryl Wilson (hospitality & welcome)

Class of 2023

Alison Banzhoff (faith formation)
Gay Ferguson (congregational life)
Margo Smith (strategic planning)
Tommy Wilkinson (mission)

Class of 2024

Alan Belsches (property)
Bill Gilliland (personnel)
Ken Kelly (faith formation)
Ellen Phillips Smith (worship)

Deacons

Class of 2022

Susan & Ernie Banzhoff
Kay & Jim Layman
Susan McElrath
Mary & Don McMahill
Martha Jane Petersen
Delores Spielman
Janine & Russ Spiller

Class of 2023

Karen Austin
Alex Carver & Joe Carreiro
Jayne & Ronald Vaughan
Margaret Fouse & Craig Cooley
Diane Ginther
Jeannie Maidment
Margie Stansell

Class of 2024

Annamarie & Bill Arens
Christy Carswell
Julie & Dale Culpepper
Melissa Kadau
Ellen McClintock
Anne Straughan
Ann Wiig

Ministers: Every Member Of The Congregation

Mary Katherine Robinson Pastor/Head of Staff
David Carter Florence Associate Pastor for Congregational Faith Formation
Bob Tuttle Parish Associate
Aaron Price Director of Music and Worship Arts
Alice Patton Director of Preschool Ministry
Brittany Williams Director of Congregational Life and Children's Ministry
Sam Webber Director of Operations
Jackie Kerr Director of Communications
Katie Duvall Youth Coordinator
Steve Kint Church Custodian



QR code
for giving



an Earth Care Congregation



BMPC Child Protection Policy
providing a safe environment for children & youth



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