



BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



La Adoración de los Pastores (El Greco) by Massa Solís

Nativity of the Lord: Christmas Day

December 25, 2022

Merry Christmas! Welcome to this special Brunch Church service to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord! Please help yourself to coffee and tea as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude

Lo, How A Rose

J. Brahms

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Egil Hovland

The Glory of the Father (excerpt)



Let us worship God!

Litany for Christmas and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Leader: The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

People: Glory to God in the highest!

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: Glory to God in the highest!

Leader: For a child has been born for us, a son has been given to us.

People: Glory to God in the highest!

Leader: He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

People: Glory to God in the highest!

Hymn 22

Henry Thomas Smart

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

2 Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light: [Refrain]

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star: [Refrain]

4 All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in one: [Refrain]

Prayer of Confession and Adoration

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light or always trusted good news to be good. Forgive our doubt and renew our hope, for you sent your only-begotten Son that we might have new life. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for your new life among us allows us to be your people. Amen.

Pardon

Isaiah 62:11-12

Hear the promise of the Lord: See, your salvation has come! You are a holy people, redeemed by God; sought out and not forsaken.

Scripture

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Music Offering

Scott Soper/ GREENSLEEVES

Child of The Poor/ What Child Is This

Kimberly Steininger, Flute

Courtney Steininger, Piano

You are invited to fill your plate during the Anthem. Please refrain from eating until the blessing of the meal.

Blessing of the Meal and Prayers of the People

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 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. Amen.

Presentation of the Theme

Courtney Steininger

How does Christ's light shine in your life?

Offering

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

All glory to you, great God, for the gift of the Christ-child. Let us praise your name with the singing angels, and let our gifts be used to tell the earth the good news and show the world your love. Amen.

Hymn 28

German Folk Tune

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today.
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

Blessing

Postlude

Thank you to the following people who so generously donated the beautiful flowers & greens in the sanctuary.

Bradley & Tate Atkinson

For Emma Grace Atkinson, miraculously born in August 2022.

The Bentzen Family

In deep gratitude for the blessings of home, health, family and friends.

Jana & Richard Bertkau

In memory of William, Frances and Elise Bertkau.

Bob & Hope Black

In loving memory of their parents, Margaret and Charles Hunter and Faye and Frank Black.

Bing & Marcy Carlson

To our wonderful family, the members we've loved being with recently and those we've lost.

Eleanor Cox

In memory of Lloyd Cox, Jr.

Peter & Kathy DiBiasi

In honor of the people of Ukraine.

Victor & Linda Fried

In honor of the BPC Quilters.

Marilyn Hermansen

In loving memory of Roy W. Hermansen.

The Mann Family

To our parents who have passed on, you are in our hearts forever and a day!
JD "Jack" Lee and Lillie Mae Lee & Theodore "Cookie" Mann and Patricia Brooks Mann.

Judy & Simon Newton

Dedicated to the wonderful, supportive volunteers who make the Mistletoe Mart
a success every year!

Jean Palmer

In memory of loved ones and especially Joe, my better half.

Courtney Steininger

To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Marie Naddeo Melville. Merry Christmas!

Andrew Strawcutter

With love and gratitude for Daddy, born on Christmas Day 1926.

Kirsten Tegtmeier & Carter Kramer

Happy 1st Christmas to our Niece, Emma! Love Aunt Kir and Uncle Carter.

Rick & Tracy Tegtmeier

In memory of Bette Lou and Bob Mann, Adele Tegtmeier,
& Brenda Kelly Cohn.

Kim & Jeff Touzeau

Flowers are given in celebration of our parents, Bing and Marcy Carlson, and
Don and Lorrie Touzeau, who have shared so many Christmas Eves with us in this
beautiful place. Merry Christmas!

Matt Valenti & Jeanne Collins

For our family.



Beyond Grateful

We would like to thank the following people for
their wonderful contributions to our
Christmas Eve services:

Richard Clymer & Brian Kanner, Trumpets
Don Hiller-Dupont, Joyful Noise Director
Abbott Fleur, Timpani
Hyemin Kang, Pianist
Henry Tate, Soloist

&

All of our wonderful choir members who make
beautiful music year-round!

Many thanks go out to Mary Lou Pappas for her help
and abundant talent in beautifying BPC with flowers
throughout the year and especially at Christmas Time.

We would also like to wish a happy birthday to our
very own, Reverend Carol!



Our Leadership

Session

Clerk of Session Brian Hiller-Dupont, President Michelle Gosh,
Linda Burpee, Jessica Cunningham, Danielle Gamar,
Maria Andrea Laverde,
Suzanne Millette, Sarah Ryan, & Bart Tyler
Moderator Reverend Carol Howard Merritt

Deacons

Chair Kim Lapple, Sarah Alley, Marcy Carlson,
Kathy DiBiasi, Michele Eames, Pat Ferguson, & Diane Palmento

Staff

The Reverend Carol Howard Merritt, Pastor
Courtney Steininger, Director of Christian Education & Youth
John Lettieri, Director of Music
Elyssa Michaels, Director of Congregational Life & Digital
Ministries
Jessica DeAlto, Office Manager
The Reverend Thomas A. Hughart, Pastor Emeritus

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