

WELCOME

Emma Bushong

CHRISTMAS MIRACLE OFFERING

Stephen Bryant

LIGHTING ADVENT WREATH CANDLE

Today we begin a new year in the church with the season of Advent.
We light candles to remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World,
a light that came many years ago to show us the ways of truth, justice, love, and peace.
Lord Jesus, as we await your coming,
we pray that we may show grace upon grace to our neighbors on this planet,
and pray that you show us new pathways to hope as the light in our world seems dim.

VOLUNTARY

Chartres Noël
Robbie Jones, organ

A. Guilmant

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Awake from your sleep: salvation is near!
The night is far gone; the day is at hand.
Heaven and earth will pass away,
but the word of God endures forever.
The day of the Lord is surely coming;
the promise of God will be fulfilled.
Let us worship God!¹

†HYMN

God Almighty, We Are Waiting (stanzas 1-3)

HYFRYDOL

†PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Matt Webb

Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all generations.
Renew in us hope, that we may be awake and alert as we watch for the glorious return of Jesus Christ,
our judge and Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.¹

(silent reflection)

†ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear the good news: Christ Jesus came into the world to bring light, hope, and forgiveness.
Believe and know that you are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

†PASSING THE PEACE

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalms 25:1-10

ANTHEM

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come
Sanctuary Choir

Paul Manz

*Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins,
who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.*

*Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God,
who was, and is, and is to come; sing holy, holy Lord.*

*Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
for Christ is coming, is coming soon; for Christ is coming soon!*

*E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;
they need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All!*

GOSPEL READING

†John 1:14, 16

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON**Finding Our Way to Grace and Hope**

Paul Purdue

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Heather Harriss, Matt Webb

Please register your attendance with the QR code.

You may give online by visiting belmontumc.org/give, texting BELMONT to 73256, scanning the giving QR code (back of bulletin), contacting Sara Christi (bookkeeper@belmontumc.org) to set up a bank draft, or mailing your offering to the church, Box 120098, Nashville, TN, 37212.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD - SHARING THE CUP

As we celebrate the gift of Holy Communion, everyone is invited.

Offering left at the Communion rail supports Christmas Miracle Offering.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Hymn No. 626

I Come with Joy

Hymn No. 617

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us.

Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit,

to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

†BENEDICTION

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Alleluia! Amen!

SONG OF SENDING

God Almighty, We Are Waiting (stanzas 4-5)

HYFRYDOL

†HANGING OF THE GREENS

**Greening God, life of every life, energy of creation, bless to us the tree of life, hold us in our loving.
Bless to us the hidden cross, hold us in our hurting.
Bless to us the gathering together, hold us in our connection through Jesus the one who is to come.
Amen.²**

†You are invited to stand as you are able.

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Louise and Glynn White by Raholanda White.

LEADERS IN WORSHIP

Robbie Jones, organist

Sanctuary Choir

Paul Purdue, Senior Pastor

Heather Harriss, Senior Associate Pastor

Emma Bushong, Director of Ministry with Young People

Liturgy written/selected by Matthew Webb.

¹from *The Book of Common Worship*, p. 176

²from *Dreamers and Stargazers: Creative Liturgies for Incarnational Worship* by Chris Thorpe.

Wreaths used to adorn Belmont UMC's exterior doors are given:

In memory of:

Rose Marie & Harry Bernard; May Reeves
Jim Bradford
Gordon Brown
Scott Grimes
David Hazlewood
Sarah Ann Kelso
Debbie Kolarich
Bebe & Merry Maney
Mae Dee Nevill
Jean Roderick
David Shumaker
Gil Shumaker
Larry Taylor
Daly Thompson, Jr.
Elizabeth & Thomas Thrower
Louise & Glynn White
Martha & Henry Wise
Our parents

In honor of:

GIFT class members
Matt, Robbie, Sanctuary Choir

By:

Michael Bernard
Susan Bradford
Carol Brown
Geise family
Sue & Arvin Luchs
Samantha & Jonah Robbins
Bob Kolarich & Jessica Kolarich
Melissa & Bill Eckert
Kathy & Pat Nevill
Kay & Dick Bowers
Shumaker family
Shumaker family
Betty Jane Taylor
Carolyn Primm
Mary Beth & Paul Franklyn
Raholanda White & family
Leigh Anne Wise
Sue & Arvin Luchs

By:

Jennifer & James Bagwell
Connie & Greg Bergquist

Memorials

CORI HEYM

Donors:

Susan Logan
Seekers Class

Looking for news and announcements? Our newsletter is now fully digital and features vibrant color photos, engaging graphics, and clickable links to additional resources and information. Additionally, this shift aligns with our commitment to environmental stewardship by significantly reducing our paper usage. Look for a newsletter QR code in the bulletin each week or email angie@belmontumc.org to subscribe and have the latest news and events delivered directly to your inbox!

Want more news and announcements?

Email angie@belmontumc.org to sign up for our weekly "Upcoming Events" and "Belmont News" emails.

Our staff is always ready to assist you!

Go to belmontumc.org/staff for contact information.

PROGRAM STAFF

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We believe every person is of sacred worth and created in God's image. We commit to Jesus' example of inclusive love, care, and intentional hospitality with persons of every race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, faith story, physical or mental ability, economic status, or political perspective.

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