

WELCOME

Heather Harriss

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

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
Jean Kohler, piano

arr. Cindy Berry

CENTERING PRAYER

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

†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 NO. 213

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

†PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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!

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 25:1-10

†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

Please register your attendance using the QR code.

You may give online at belmontumc.org/give, text BELMONT to 73256, scan the giving QR code, contact Sara Christi to set up a bank draft (bookkeeper@belmontumc.org), or mail your offering to the church, Box 120098, Nashville, TN, 37212.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The celebrant gives thanks, remembering God's acts of salvation, and concludes:

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The celebrant continues the thanksgiving.

The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled, and the celebrant concludes:

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,

we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice,

in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The celebrant invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding:

All honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

Away in a Manger

arr. Tom Gerou

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!

POSTLUDE

We Three Kings of Orient Are

arr. John H. Hopkins

†You are invited to stand as you are able.

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

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

In honor of:

GIFT class members
Matt, Robbie, Sanctuary Choir

By:

Jennifer & James Bagwell
Connie & Greg Bergquist

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.

Please scan here to give:



Please register your attendance here:



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