



December 7, 2025

balmoral presbyterian church

service of worship

2nd Sunday in Advent



11:00am

Chiming of the Hour

Bells of Balmoral

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Mark Howland

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

"Prelude in Minuet in G"

J. S. Bach

Elis Jones, pianist

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Diane Baker

***Call to Worship**

Robin Van Nortwick, Liturgist

Leader: This is the season of holy waiting.

People: We wait for the One on whom the Spirit of the Holy God rests.

Leader: We watch for the One who judges with righteousness and decides with equity.

People: We wait while the night begins to glow with the light of day.

Leader: Come let us walk in the light of God!

***Gathering Song 159**

"O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"

KINGSFOLD

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and welcoming God, have mercy on your people. We confess that we do not live as if we believe in your incarnation. We do not heed your word each day in all that we say and do. We do not treat our neighbors, families, and friends as beloved children whom you have made. In your mercy, forgive us, for we repent of our ways and look to your power to heal us and raise us up so that, at last you will gather us to you and give us peace.

(Time of silence to lift personal confessions)

Assurance of Pardon

***Congregational Response Hymn**

"Glory Be to the Father"

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost!

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever will be,

World without end. Amen. Amen.

Share the Peace of Christ

Musical Offering

"Celtic Advent Carol"

words: Michael Barrett

music: David Angerman and Michael Barrett

HEARING THE WORD

Children's Message

Invitation to Centering Silence

Be still. Prepare yourself to hear the Word of God.

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading Isaiah 11:1-10

Gospel Reading John 16:32-33

Sermon A Peaceful Kingdom Rev. Mark Howland

Silent Reflection *In the silence, attend to what the Spirit has given you.*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith** *Brief Statement of Faith (10.2)*

We trust in Jesus Christ,
 fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
 preaching good news to the poor
 and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
 and blessing the children,
healing the sick
 and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
 and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
 suffering the depths of human pain
 and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
 vindicating his sinless life,
 breaking the power of sin and evil,
 delivering us from death to life eternal.

Moment for Mission

Offering

Please place tithes and offerings in the brass plates. Children will collect quarters to provide funds to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund. Place Coins for a Cause in the glass jar near the sanctuary doors for our Food Pantry. Pass the Friendship Pads along the row, then pass it back down the row and greet those in your row after worship.

Offertory

"Prelude in B \flat Major"

Elis Jones

Elis Jones, pianist

*Hymn 710

"We Lift Our Voices"

OFFERING

**We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.
Lord use our voices; Lord use our hands; Lord use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering.
All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering; we are an offering.**

Prayer to Dedicate the Gifts

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy...

who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth
are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One
who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty...Christ is the bread of life:

People: When we eat this bread and drink this cup,

We proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,

Until you come in glory.

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us...almighty God, now
and forever.

People: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.

Amen.

Communion of God's People

We participate in Holy Communion by intinction. At the usher's invitation, please come forward down the center aisle, form a semi-circle in front of the pastor and ruling elder. The ruling elder will offer you the bread, take a piece and hold it. Pastor will then come to you with the chalice of grape juice, dip the bread in the chalice and eat the bread. When all in your group have received the elements, join hands and remain at the table together for silent prayer. Return to your seats via the outer aisles when the prayer has ended.

Prayer following Communion

*Sending Song 753

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace."

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

Charge and Blessing

*Benediction Response

"Lord Let Us Leave Now"

OLD ENGLISH TUNE

**Lord, let us leave now, filled with You anew,
and pledged to Your service in all that we do.
Though we have some questions, our faith in You is sure.
We know You are with us, Your way will endure.
Lord, let us leave now, filled with You anew,
and pledged to Your service in all that we do.**

Postlude

"Pastoral in B \flat Major"

Elis Jones

Elis Jones, pianist

- Permission to stream the music and print words and music in this worship service are obtained from ONE LICENSE A-732788 and CCLI License 1725833.
- All responsive readings are shown with normal type for the leader and the bold portions are read in unison by all.
- * indicates those who are able, please stand

REMEMBER to WEAR YOUR NAMETAGS!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ted Pearson {7}; Kay Dawson {21}; Carol Mitchell {23};
Mary Nell Easum {29}; Janice Carney {30}

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

(NO December anniversaries)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **WE THANK OUR WORSHIP LEADERS** for enhancing our worship this morning! Thank you to Elis Jones, pianist, and Robin Van Nortwick, Liturgist.
- **EARTH CARE TIPS for DECEMBER:** wash at least 1 load of laundry in cold water weekly
- **CREATION STATION:** BPC loves the children to be a part of our worship service. We invite families to allow children to join at our Creation Station which is located in the back of the sanctuary. We ask that a responsible adult sit in the back row in case a need arises.
- **CONTINUING EDUCATION:** Pastor Mark will be gone starting this afternoon and through December 11 for continuing education. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, contact Parish Associate, Elizabeth Dick at 314-330-0506. For all other needs while pastor is out of town, contact Clerk of Session, Jan Kaplan at 901-277-4267.
- **BOOK CLUB:** Our Balmoral Book Club will have a holiday potluck on Tuesday, Dec. 9 beginning at 11:30 a.m., (note change in time) at the home of Jane Schneider, 8487 Loftin Cove. Those attending are asked to bring a dish to share and a favorite poem. Please let Jane or Janice know if you can attend.
- **PENNIES for HUNGER is NOW COINS for a CAUSE:** The Outreach Team has changed the name of the collection in the glass jar on the table in the back of the sanctuary from Pennies for Hunger to Coins for a Cause. The reason for the change is that the Federal government recently decided to no longer mint pennies. The contributions will still be used to combat food insecurity.
- **CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: Prepare the Way** - Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and future leaders of the church. God has blessed the church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.
- **THE OUTREACH TEAM** has named this month's focus for the food pantry as canned chicken. This is an item that the Covenant Presbyterian Church of Germantown has identified as something their clients enjoy. Please bring your donations on Sunday, December 21. These can be in addition to other items you wish to bring to fill the wooden Christmas tree.

- **ADVENT GIVING OPPORTUNITIES:** The Outreach Team invites the congregation to make donations during Advent to both the Giving Tree and the Food Pantry Tree...
 - Please donate packaged underwear and coats for the First Presbyterian Church's clothing closet. These donations may be placed under the Christmas tree in the back of the sanctuary.
 - Please donate canned food items for the Covenant Presbyterian Church of Germantown's food pantry. These donations may be placed on the wooden Christmas tree on the north side of the sanctuary.

- **THE CHRISTMAS SHOPPE TOY DRIVE:** We are supporting The Christmas Shoppe at Covenant Presbyterian Church this year. The families who come to The Pantry can pick out one gift per child and it is wrapped while they wait. To donate an unwrapped toy for ages 0-18, please bring the toy to the church office or to Covenant Presbyterian Church of Germantown before Sunday, December 7. Please spend \$25-\$30 per toy. You may also volunteer to assist with the Shoppe on Thursday, December 11 at 8 am. More information is in the Beyond Our Walls weekly newsletter.

- **REPAIR FUND:** Remember to prayerfully consider what gift you might be able to give to our HVAC & Roof Repair Fund Replenishment. Make your donation today online or with a check marked "Repair Fund."

- **GIVING OPPORTUNITIES:** We are collecting much needed items for our community; Please don't forget to bring your donations for:
 - The Covenant Presbyterian Church of Germantown's Food Pantry. needs staples from our Food Cart!
 - Supplies for the Hospitality bags
 - Place used toothbrushes & empty toothpaste in the box in the Food Cart for recycling.

- **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES ON THE CALENDAR: (NOTE: ** indicates Presbytery event; ## indicates a community event; @@ indicates Private event)**
 - **TUESDAYS with TED** meets every Tuesday, 8:00am. at Cracker Barrel on Hacks Cross Rd.
 - **CHAIR YOGA** meets every Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30pm in Classroom B
 - **## AL-ANON** meets every Wednesday, 7:00pm in Classroom A
 - **BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL** meets every Wednesday at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary
 - **CHOIR REHEARSAL** meets every Wednesday at 7:00pm in the Choir Room
 - **WORSHIP TEAM MEETING, Sunday, December 7**, 11:00am in Classroom A
 - **PASTOR MARK on CONTINUING EDUCATION: Sunday, December 7** after noon through December 11
 - **BOOK CLUB CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON, Tuesday, December 9, 11:30 am (NOTE TIME CHANGE)** at the home of Jane Schneider, 8487 Lofton Cove in Cordova
 - **## HOLD ON! Meeting, Saturday, December 13**, 10:00am in the Sanctuary
 - **SUNDAY STUDIES, Sunday, December 14**, 9:30am in Classroom A
 - **WORSHIP, Sunday, December 14**, 11:00am
 - **LUNCH WITH MARK, Sunday, December 14**, 12:30pm in Classroom A
 - **WRITER'S CIRCLE, Monday, December 15**, 1:00pm in Classroom A
 - **PASTOR CLASS, Monday, December 15**, 6:00pm in Classroom A
 - **THURSDAY SMALL GROUP, Thursday, December 18**, 10:15am in Classroom A
 - **SUNDAY STUDIES, Sunday, December 21**, 9:30am in Classroom A
 - **WORSHIP, Sunday, December 21**, 11:00am
 - **SANDWICH-MAKING PROJECT, Sunday, December 21**, 12:00pm in Classroom A
 - **SESSION MEETING, Sunday, December 21**, 12:30pm, in Classroom A
 - **CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE, Wednesday, December 24**, 6:00pm
 - **MERRY CHRISTMAS - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED, Thursday, December 25**
 - **SUNDAY STUDIES, Sunday, December 28**, 9:30am in Classroom A
 - **WORSHIP, Sunday, December 28**, 11:00am
 - **COMMON CUP of JAZZ, Friday, January 2**, 6:00 Carpool from Balmoral parking lot, 6:30 Dinner (no charge, donations accepted), 7:00 Jazz at Liberation Community Church (694 South Bellevue)

OUR MISSION:

***We are an open community
who believes God is love and
who lives our belief through praise and service.***



website: www.balmoralpc.com
email: balmoral@balmoralpc.com
phone: 901-767-7510
address: 6413 Quince Road
Memphis, TN 38119

Church staff:
Rev Mark Howland
pastor
Rev Elizabeth Dick
parish associate



**Ways to give to the ministries of Balmoral Presbyterian
Church online....**



Scan this QR Code

**TEXT
or "BALMORAL"
to 73256**

**CONTACTS: REV. MARK HOWLAND: pastormark@balmoralpc.com;
REV. ELIZABETH DICK: elizabethdick2@gmail.com**