



balmoral presbyterian church

service of worship



December 28, 2025

1st Sunday of Christmas

11:00am

Chiming of the Hour

Bells of Balmoral

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Mark Howland

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Pedal Study on "Adeste Fideles"
Frank Carney, organist

arr. Peeters

***Call to Worship**

Erich Shultz, Liturgist

Leader: We recount the gracious deeds of God, all the praiseworthy acts the Lord has done for us:

People: Praise God for coming to dwell among us, Immanuel.

Leader: Praise God for the good news of Jesus, the pioneer of our salvation.

People: Praise God for making us siblings in Christ.

Leader: Praise God who is present with us still, lifting us up and carrying us.

**People: God's glory shines in heaven and on earth.
Praise the Lord!**

***Gathering Song 119**

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

MENDELSSOHN

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, in great love you have claimed us as your children. We confess that we have not loved you as we should. We have not participated fully in your purposes and plans; we grow weary and give up when the way is hard. We have not loved our siblings as you intend. Complacent in the presence of injustice and violence, we fail to recognize our own complicity. Forgive us, especially when we fail to protect children so vulnerable and precious in your sight. Forgive our misuse of power against people, and against your creation. Help us to praise you by living in harmony and peace. Do not be ashamed of us, we pray, but strengthen us in our time of testing. Set us free from fear that we may wholly trust in you.

(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

"To Bethlehem"

W.H. Parry, Text tr. from an old Spanish carol

Recorders, Carol King and Ellen Koziel

HEARING THE WORD

Children's Message

Invitation to Centering Silence

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

Prayer for Illumination

Reading from the Psalms Psalm 148 (responsively)

Leader: Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights above.

**People: Praise God, all God's angels;
praise God, all God's heavenly hosts.**

Leader: Praise God, sun and moon;
praise God, all you shining stars.

**People: Praise God, you highest heavens
and your waters above the skies.**

Leader: Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for at God's command they were created,

**People: and the Lord established them for ever and ever—
the Lord issued a decree that will never pass away.**

Leader: Praise the Lord from the earth,
you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,
lightning and hail, snow and clouds,
stormy winds that do God's bidding,
you mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars,

**People: wild animals and all cattle,
small creatures and flying birds,**

Leader: kings of the earth and all nations,
you princes and all rulers on earth,

**People: young men and women,
old men and children.**

Leader: Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for the Lord's name alone is exalted;
the Lord's splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

**People: And God has raised up for God's people a horn,
the praise of all God's faithful servants,
of Israel, the people close to God's heart.**

ALL: Praise the Lord!

Epistle Reading

Hebrews 2:10-18

Sermon

A Reason

Rev. Mark Howland

Silent Reflection

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

*Song of Response 634

"To God Be the Glory"

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

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.

Prayers of Intercession

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.

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

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Frank Carney, organist

arr. Keene

***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

***Sending Song 134**

"Joy to the World"

JOY TO THE WORLD

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

"Antioch"

arr. Keene

Frank Carney, organist

- 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!

BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER: Mary Nell Easum {29}; Janice Carney {30}

JANUARY: Lorie Blackwelder (1); Frank Carney (7); Mona Kernan (11); Elizabeth Dick (13); Kathrine Getske (19); Janie Pearson (21); Janice Hill (23); Glenda Ellis (29)

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

(NO January anniversaries)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **WE THANK OUR WORSHIP LEADERS** for enhancing our worship this morning! Thank you to the BPC Choir, led by Fran Addicott, Frank Carney, organist/pianist, and Erich Shultz, Liturgist.
- **EARTH CARE TIPS for JANUARY:** Instead of using single use cups provided at coffee shops, consider bringing your own reusable mug!
- **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.
- **HOLIDAY CLOSING:** The church office will close at noon on December 31. The office will reopen January 5 respectively.
- **PASTOR MARK WILL BE ON VACATION** January 7-12. If you are in need of pastoral care, contact Pastor Elizabeth at 314-330-0506. For all other needs, contact Clerk of Session, Jan Kaplan at 901-277-4267.
- **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."
- **OTHER 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
(NOTE: Bell Choir will not be practicing again until Wednesday, January 7)
 - **CHOIR REHEARSAL** meets every Wednesday at 7:00pm in the Choir Room (**Holiday schedule: no rehearsal on 12/31; 1/4: 10:30am**)
 - **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)
 - **SUNDAY STUDIES, Sunday, January 4**, 9:30am in Classroom A
 - **WORSHIP, Sunday, January 4**, 11:00am
 - **WORSHIP TEAM MEETING, Sunday, January 4**, 12:00pm in Classroom A
 - **WRITER'S CIRCLE, Monday, January 5**, 1:00pm in Classroom A
 - **PASTOR on VACATION, Wednesday, January 7 thru Monday January 12**
 - **PW BIBLE STUDY, Wednesday, January 7**, 10:30am in Classroom A
 - **OPERATIONS TEAM MEETING, Wednesday, January 7**, 4:00pm in Classroom A
 - **## HOLD ON! MEETING, Saturday, January 10**, 10:00am in the sanctuary
 - **SUNDAY STUDIES, Sunday, January 11**, 9:30am in Classroom A
 - **WORSHIP, Sunday, January 11**, 11:00am
 - **BOOK CLUB, Tuesday, January 13**, 1:30pm in Classroom B
 - **COM Meeting, Thursday, January 15**, 10:00am in Classroom A
 - **THURSDAY SMALL GROUP, Thursday, January 15**, 10:15am in Classroom B
 - **SESSION WORKSHOP, Saturday, January 17**, 9:00am to 1:00pm in Classroom A
 - **SUNDAY STUDIES, Sunday, January 18**, 9:30am in Classroom A
 - **WORSHIP, Sunday, January 18**, 11:00am
 - **SESSION, Sunday, January 18**, 12:30pm in Classroom A



A Room in the Inn

in Honor of...

**Lucy Kaplan,
Sam Kaplan,
CK Kaplan**

by David & Jan Kaplan

Megan Warren

by Linda & William Warren

Our grandchildren,

Henry, Harrison,

Jack and Eleanor

by Phil & Fran Shannon

BPC Office Volunteers

Sharon Blackwelder

Janice Carney

Jan Kaplan

Dee McGuire

Linda Warren

by Kathy Singleton

The BPC Choir

by Fran & Pete Addicott

in Memory of...

Laura Waltz Sexton

The Rev. Dr. Lee C. Waltz

by Linda Waltz

Marius M. Carriere, Jr.

by Kathy Singleton



Donations to remember and honor these special people are made to Room in the Inn, sheltering those experiencing homelessness in a safe environment of hospitality.

OUR MISSION:

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



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



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



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to 73256**

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