



THE SPIRIT OF  
CHRISTMAS

AN ADVENT SERMON SERIES



JANUARY 4, 2026

# BEVERLY HEIGHTS CHURCH

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Welcome and Greeting

Rev. Dr. Nathanael Devlin, Senior Pastor

Announcements

Amy Lucas, Administrative Assistant

## THE LORD GATHERS US FOR EPIPHANY WORSHIP

Prelude

*Selections*

*Jinna Park, Accompanist and Organist*

*The first note of the prelude marks the beginning of worship. Please use this brief period of time for prayer and preparation while keeping conversation at a low volume and to a minimum. **Please refrain from clapping unless led to do so.***

Invitation to Worship

**Leader:** Come, let us worship the LORD!

**People:** We renew the covenant and worship Him.

Prayer of Invocation

Opening Hymn of Praise **No. 30**

vv. 1-4

*Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 72:1-20

Rev. Peter A. Chace, Assistant Pastor

Congregational Response **No. 30**

vv. 5-7

*Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

## THE LORD CLEANSSES OUR SIN

Unison Prayer of Confession, Followed by Silent Confession of Sin

*Please bow your head. For those who are able, you are invited to kneel during the confession of sin.*

**God of the Bethlehem star, we thank You that the Light has come in Jesus Christ. The Magi sought Christ to worship Him. But Herod sought Him to appease his jealous anger. We confess that our motives in seeking Jesus are not pure. We do not come to worship: we come to Christ, asking His benefits of reassurance, health, wealth; asking Him to fulfill the requests that we heap before Him. Remind us that the Magi sought first the kingdom. Help us, God, to follow their example, putting our own needs in perspective, worshiping Christ in love, content to be in His presence, and laying our gifts before Him. Then may we journey, trusting that Your goodness and light will accompany us all the days of our life. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

## THE LORD SANCTIFIES OUR LIVES

Covenant Renewal (see next page)

Pastor Devlin

## Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

*Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Ps. 90:1*

F C F C Am Dm G C 7 Am Em Am D G

1. Our God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
 2. Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;  
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,  
 4. A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone;

C F Dm G C F E 7 C F C Dm G C 7

our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
 suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
 from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.  
 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5. The busy tribes of flesh and blood,  
 with all their lives and cares,  
 are carried downward by your flood,  
 and lost in foll'wing years.

6. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
 bears all its sons away;  
 they fly forgotten, as a dream  
 dies at the op'ning day.

7. Our God, our help in ages past,  
 our hope for years to come:  
 O be our guard while troubles last,  
 and our eternal home.

# COVENANT RENEWAL

*Baptism is a sacrament of the New Testament, ordained by Jesus Christ. By the act of baptism, a person becomes a part of the visible Church, for it is a sign and a seal of God's Covenant of Grace for believers and their children. At the start of this New Year we have the opportunity to renew our baptismal vows and our commitment to live no more unto ourselves, but to Him who loved us and gave Himself for us, to Him who has called us to Himself and to serve His Kingdom so that the purpose of His coming might be fulfilled.*

**Leader:** In the Old Covenant, God chose Israel to be a special people and to obey the law. Our Lord Jesus Christ, by His death and resurrection, has made a New Covenant with all who trust in Him. We stand within this covenant and we bear His name. On the one side, God promises in this covenant to give us new life in Christ. On the other side, we are pledged to live not to ourselves but for God. Today, therefore, we meet to renew the covenant which binds us to God.

Friends, let us claim and renew the covenant God has made with His people and accept the yoke of Christ. To accept the yoke of Christ means that we allow Christ to guide all that we do and are, and that Christ Himself is our only reward. Christ has many services to be done; some are easy, others are difficult; some make others applaud us, others bring only reproach; some we desire to do because of our own interests; others seem unnatural. Sometimes we please Christ and meet our own needs, at other times we cannot please Christ unless we deny ourselves. Yet Christ strengthens us and gives us the power to do all these things. Therefore, let us make this covenant of God our own. Let us give ourselves completely to God, trusting in His promise and relying on His grace.

**People:** **We give ourselves completely to You, God. Assign us to our place in Your creation. Let us suffer for You. Give us the work You would have us do. Give us many tasks or have us step aside while You call others. Put us forward or humble us. Give us riches or let us live in poverty. We freely give all that we are and all that we have to You. And now, holy God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, You are ours and we are Yours. So be it. May this covenant, established in Christ Jesus, continue for all eternity. AMEN.**

Hymn of Worship **No. 164**

vv. 1-4

*O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

Special Music

*We Three Kings*

arr. Lanier

Cindy Egeland, *flute*; Jinna Park, *piano*

Congregational Response **No. 731**

*Doxology*

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

*All children are invited to remain in worship with their families.*

## O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

D G D G Em

1. O for a thou - sand tongues to sing  
 2. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God,  
 3. Je - sus, the name that charms our fears,  
 4. He breaks the pow'r of reign - ing sin,

D G D<sup>7</sup> G D G

my great Re-deem-er's praise, the glo - ries of my  
 as - sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the  
 that bids our sor - rows cease; 'tis mu - sic in the  
 he sets the pris - 'ner free; his blood can make the

6 C G/D D<sup>7</sup> G

God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace.  
 earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.  
 sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.  
 foul - est clean, his blood a - vailed for me.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:13-18

Sermon

**The Spirit of Christmas**  
Flee to Fulfillment

Rev. Dr. Kyle David Bennett

**THE LORD RECEIVES OUR GIFTS AND HEARTS**

Call for the Offering and Offertory

*Selections*

**THE LORD MEETS US AT THE TABLE**

Words of Institution and Examination of Conscience (\*See below)

Invitation and Coming to the Table

***Please note: we will eat together in the pew.  
Those who are unable to come to the table will be served in the pew.  
The Elders are serving bread and wine.  
To better serve those with restrictions,  
please see Pastor Devlin for gluten-free bread and/or grape juice.***

Communion Hymn

See Screen

*Come, Bless the Lord*

Prayer of Thanksgiving followed by the Threefold Amen **No. 740**

Trinity Hymnal

**THE LORD SCATTERS US TO ADVANCE HIS KINGDOM**

Closing Hymn **No. 642**

vv. 1, 5

*Be Thou My Vision*

Benediction

Postlude

*Selections*

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***\*May I Come to the Lord's Table?***

*All true believers who trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, including those from other congregations, are a part of the true Church and are invited to partake in the Lord's Supper. As we come to the table we rejoice as we remember our need to trust in Jesus Christ as Lord, to repent of sin, and to covenant once more to live as followers of Jesus. Those who are ignorant in their knowledge of Christ or who are living ungodly and unrepentant lives should refrain from the table. Baptized children may be admitted to the Lord's Supper provided their parents have appeared before the Pastor or Session to share their child's profession of faith, in a manner acceptable to the Session.*

# Be Thou My Vision

642

*Whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. Phil. 3:7*

Unison

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart; naught be all  
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word; I ev - er  
 3. Be thou my bat - tle shield, sword for my fight; be thou my  
 4. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise, thou mine in -  
 5. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won, may I reach

else to me, save that thou art— thou my best thought by  
 with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou my great Fa - ther,  
 • dig - ni - ty, thou my de - light, thou my soul's shel - ter,  
 her - i - tance, now and al - ways: thou and thou on - ly,  
 heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun! Heart of my own heart, what -

day or by night, wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 I thy true son; thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.  
 • thou my high tow'r: raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
 first in my heart, High King of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 ev - er be - fall, still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Ancient Irish poem, ca. 8th cent.  
 Tr. by Mary E. Byrne, 1905  
 Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912

SLANE 10.10.10.10.  
 Traditional Irish melody  
 Arr. by David Evans, 1927

Tune arr. © 1927 from the *Revised Church Hymnary* by permission of Oxford University Press.

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## **Beverly Heights Presbyterian Church**

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**Gathered By His Love For Us ~ Scattered By Our Love For Him**