



THE SPIRIT OF
CHRISTMAS

AN ADVENT SERMON SERIES



NOVEMBER 30, 2025

BEVERLY HEIGHTS CHURCH

Welcome and Greeting

Rev. Dr. Nathanael Devlin, Senior Pastor

Announcements

Amy Lucas, Church Administrator

THE LORD GATHERS US FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Voluntary on "Veni Emmanuel"
Jinna Park, *Accompanist and Organist*

Hwang

*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.***

Call to Worship

Leader: We gather for worship and wait upon the Lord!

People: We cry, "Maranatha," Oh Lord, come to us!

Choral Introit

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!

Prayer of Invocation

Opening Hymn of Praise **No. 18**

vv. 1-4

You Holy Angels Bright

Responsive Reading

from Psalm 40

Rev. Peter A. Chace, Assistant Pastor

Leader: I waited patiently for the LORD; He inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

People: He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

Leader: In sacrifice and offering You have not delighted, but You have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering You have not required. Then I said, "Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me: I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your law is within my heart.

People: But may all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; may those who love Your salvation say continually, "Great is the LORD!" As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God!

You Holy Angels Bright

Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his heavenly hosts. Ps. 148:2

1. You ho - ly an - gels bright, who wait at God's right hand, or
 2. You bless - ed souls at rest, who ran this earth - ly race, and
 3. All na - tions of the earth, ex - tol the world's great King; with
 4. Sing forth Je - ho - vah's praise, you saints, that on him call! Him

through the realms of light fly at your Lord's com - mand, as - sist our
 now, from sin re - leased, be - hold the Sav - ior's face; God's prais - es
 mel - o - dy and mirth his glo - rious prais - es sing; for he still
 mag - ni - fy al - ways, his ho - ly church - es all! In him re -

song, for else the theme too high does seem for mor - tal tongue.
 sound, as in his sight with sweet de - light you do a - bound.
 reigns, and will bring low the proud - est foe that him dis - dains.
 joyce, and there pro - claim his ho - ly name with sound - ing voice.

5. My soul, bear now your part,
 triumph in God above;
 with a well-tun-ed heart
 sing now the songs of love;
 you are his own, whose precious blood
 shed for your good his love made known.

7. With your triumphant flock
 then I shall numbered be;
 built on th'eternal Rock,
 his glory we shall see.
 The heav'ns so high with praise shall ring
 and all shall sing in harmony.

6. Away, distrustful care!
 I have your promise, Lord;
 to banish all despair,
 I have your oath and word;
 and therefore I shall see your face
 and there your grace shall magnify.

THE LORD CLEANSSES OUR SIN

Unison Prayer of Confession, Followed by Silent Confession of Sin

Pastor Chace

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

O promised Christ: We are a world in conflict and strife. Our peace depends on Your coming. We are a sinful people. Our pardon depends on Your coming. We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises; our only hope of doing God's will is that You should come and help us do it. Lord Christ, Word made flesh, our world waits for Your peace, for Your pardon, for Your presence and Your grace. Hear us as we confess our sins and even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

*Hear the good news of the gospel: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Your sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid. Thanks be to God.*

Unison Confession of Faith

Definition of Chalcedon

**Therefore, following the holy fathers, we all with one accord teach men
to acknowledge one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
at once complete in Godhead and complete in manhood,
truly God and truly man, consisting also of a reasonable soul and body;
of one substance with the Father as regards his Godhead,
and at the same time of one substance with us as regards his manhood;
like us in all respects, apart from sin;
as regards his Godhead, begotten of the Father before the ages,
but yet as regards his manhood begotten,
for us men and for our salvation,
of Mary the virgin, the God-bearer;
one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten, recognized in two natures,
without confusion, without change,
without division, without separation;
the distinction of natures being in no way annulled by the union,
but rather the characteristics of each nature being preserved and coming together
to form one person and subsistence,
not as parted or separated into two persons,
but one and the same Son and Only-begotten God the Word, Lord Jesus Christ;
even as the prophets from earliest times spoke of him,
and our Lord Jesus Christ himself taught us,
and the creed of the fathers has handed down to us.**

THE LORD SANCTIFIES OUR LIVES

Advent Scripture Lesson: Micah 5:1-5

Rev. Dr. Kyle David Bennett, Assistant Pastor

Advent Litany

Leader: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I hope.

People: My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning.

Leader: O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption.

People: And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Advent Hymn **No. 324**

vv. 1-4

Christ Is Coming

Children are invited to the front of the Chancel during the last verse of the hymn.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle and Advent Countdown

Congregational Response (*see next page*) *Hear My Prayer, O Lord*

Wilbur

Choral Anthem

Who But the Lord?

Courtney

Who but the Lord can give the shadows light, can break into the dark, draw morning from the night?

Who but the Lord will hear our cry and answer, "Here am I"?

Who but the Lord makes blinded eyes to see, brings music to the deaf, sets the lonely captive free?

Who but the Lord will by His glory show the paths of peace?

O shine on us the brightness of Your face, to earth's remotest end, every people, every race.

O shine on us until to each is shown Your saving grace.

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.

Children ages 18 months to kindergarten are dismissed to the Walkabouts Room and Runabouts Room downstairs.

Please use the back sanctuary exits to access the stairs to the childcare rooms.

The Nursery is open but not staffed. All other children remain in worship with their families.

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:5-25

Sermon

The Spirit of Christmas
Spirits of Good News

Pastor Devlin

324

Christ Is Coming!

*We wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior,
Jesus Christ. Titus 2:13*

1. Christ is com - ing! Let cre - a - tion from her groans and
 2. Earth can now but tell the sto - ry of thy bit - ter
 3. Long thine ex - iles have been pin - ing, far from rest, and
 4. With that bless - ed hope be - fore us, let no harp re -

tra - vail cease; let the glo - rious proc - la - ma - tion
 cross and pain; she shall yet be - hold thy glo - ry,
 home, and thee: but, in heav'n - ly ves - tures shin - ing,
 main un - strung; let the might - y ad - vent cho - rus

hope re - store and faith in - crease: Christ is com - ing!
 when thou com - est back to reign: Christ is com - ing!
 they their lov - ing Lord shall see: Christ is com - ing!
 on - ward roll from tongue to tongue: "Christ is com - ing!"

Christ is com - ing! Come, thou bless - ed Prince of Peace.
 Christ is com - ing! Let each heart re - peat the strain.
 Christ is com - ing! Haste the joy - ous ju - bi - lee.
 Christ is com - ing! Come, Lord Je - sus, quick - ly come!"

Hear My Prayer

Based on Psalm 86 portions

Hear my pray'r, O Lord, and an-swer me. I am poor and need - y.

The first system of music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then a quarter note B4. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line of quarter notes and chords in the right hand.

Save my life for You are the on - ly God, For to You I cry.

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The vocal line has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The piano accompaniment maintains the same rhythmic pattern.

Refrain

You, O Lord, are full of mer-cy. Grac-ious are You, O God. Slow to an-ger, a-

The third system begins with a double bar line and the word 'Refrain' in italics. The vocal line starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then a quarter note B4. The piano accompaniment continues with the same accompaniment.

repeat Refrain

bound-ing in faith-ful-ness. Turn to me, de - li - ver me. Save me in Your love.

The fourth system continues the refrain. The vocal line has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The piano accompaniment continues with the same accompaniment. The system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

THE LORD RECEIVES OUR GIFTS AND HEARTS

Call for the Offering and Offertory

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Thewes

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 or Bulletin

Let All Together Praise Our God

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

Trinity Hymnal

THE LORD SCATTERS US TO ADVANCE HIS KINGDOM

Closing Hymn **No. 338**

vv. 1, 5

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

Benediction

Postlude

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Lau

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

All baptized 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.

Let All Together Praise Our God

1. Let all to - geth - er praise our God Up - on His loft - y
 2. He lays a - side His maj - es - ty And seems as noth - ing
 3. Be - hold the won - der - ful ex - change Our Lord with us doth
 4. The glo - rious gates of Par - a - dise The an - gel guards no

throne; For He un - clos - es Heav'n to - day, And gives to
 worth, And takes on Him a ser - vant's form Who made the
 make! Lo, He as - sumes our flesh and blood, And we of
 more; This day a - gain those gates un - fold, With praise our

us His Son, And gives to us His Son.
 heav'n and earth, Who made the heav'n and earth.
 Heav'n par - take! And we of Heav'n par - take!
 God a - dore, With praise our God a - dore!

Music: Nikolaus Hermann, 1554; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, c. 1735

Text: Nikolaus Hermann, 1554; tr. Arthur Tozer Russell, 1851

LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN

8 6. 8 6. w/ repeat

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Gal. 5:25

Capo 3: ♮ (G) (D⁷) (G) (C) (Am⁷) (G) 7 (Em) (F#)

1. Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart; wean it from
 2. I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies, no sud - den
 3. Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King? All, all thine
 4. Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh; teach me the
 5. Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love, one ho - ly

(Bm) (E⁷) (D/A) (A⁷) (D) (D⁷) (C)

earth, through all its puls - es move; stoop to my weak - ness,
 rend - ing of the veil of clay, no an - gel vis - i -
 • own, soul, heart, and strength and mind. I see thy cross—there
 strug - gles of the soul to bear, to check the ris - ing
 pas - sion fill - ing all my frame; the bap - tism of the

(D⁷) ♮ (G) (C) (G) (D⁷) (G) 7

might - y as thou art, and make me love thee as I ought to love.
 tant, no o - p'ning skies; but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 • teach my heart to cling: O let me seek thee, and O let me find.
 doubt, the reb - el sigh; teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 heav'n - de - scend - ed Dove, my heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.

Worship at a Glance

A Brief Overview of our Worship Service and How to Participate

A Note to Parents

Children are encouraged to be in the sanctuary because we believe the Bible commands us to include children in the worship service. Parents have the privilege of training their children for worship every Lord's Day. We are happy to partner with you in that training. To assist in training, we encourage families with children to sit closer to the front with their kids and make use of the children's worship bags in the sanctuary. Childcare rooms are also available when additional training or discipline is necessary. For more information, feel free to contact Nadine Michalak or Pastor Nate.

What is a Bulletin?

The bulletin contains our order of worship and includes all the information you need to worship with us on Sundays. The bulletin is not something we simply "work through" but a guide that helps us in our worship of God. Our worship services are approximately 90 minutes.

Announcements

Announcements about the ministry are given before the worship service begins. In the summer, we include a time of musical instruction as part of the announcements.

Prelude

The prelude is a musical selection that is played at the beginning of the worship service. During that time, worshipers are encouraged to pray and prepare their hearts and minds for worship. The prelude ends with the "ringing of the hour," which includes the Westminster Chime, followed by a Trinitarian bell.

Congregational Responses

Worship at Beverly Heights is "dialogical," meaning it is a dialogue between God and His people. The Pastor calls and the congregation responds throughout the service. All responsive readings for the congregation are in **bold**. The congregation also responds by kneeling for confession, standing for the reading of God's word before the sermon, and declaring "Amen" after prayer and song.

Confessions of Sin and Faith

Each Sunday, the congregation is invited to confess their sins. We first confess corporately, followed by a time of silent and private confession. Everyone is invited to bow their heads and, for those who are able, to kneel for confession. Following the confession of sin, the pastor offers assurance of your forgiveness. The congregation then joins in a unison confession of faith through one of the ecumenical creeds (Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed, Definition of Chalcedon).

Music

Our worship service includes weekly special music. Normally, the choir (which is the "first-fruit" of the voice) sings an anthem on behalf of the congregation. When the choir is in recess, special music is offered by soloists or ensembles. We refrain from clapping for these musical offerings but respond as a congregation by lifting up our hands and singing the Doxology *a cappella*. All congregational music for the service can be found in the bulletin, the Trinity Hymnbook, or the Summer Psalter. Our Director of Music cantors to assist the congregation in singing.

Scripture Readings

There are two scripture lessons during the worship service, normally one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. We always stand for the reading before the sermon in keeping with the model found in Nehemiah 8:5.

Sermon

The preaching of the word is understood as a direct address by God through the preacher to the congregation. Our sermons are predominantly exegetical (derived from the text) but sometimes topical. Most sermons will include an introduction, an explanation of the text, an application, and a takeaway (call to action).

Offering

Every Lord's Day includes the opportunity to present an offering to the Lord in the form of gifts, tithes, offerings, and prayers. (A "tithes" is defined by the scriptures as a tenth of our income.)

Pastoral Prayer

Following the offering, a pastoral prayer is made on behalf of the congregation. The subject of the prayer varies weekly, and worshipers are encouraged to join in the prayer by faith.

Communion

We practice weekly communion in worship. All baptized believers who trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are invited to partake in the Lord's Supper (See additional note in bulletin). Worshipers come to the front of the sanctuary to receive the bread and wine, but all partake of the elements together in the pews. As you receive the elements, the congregation is invited to sing. After communion, there is a "Eucharistic" (thanksgiving) prayer, followed by the singing of the threefold "Amen."

Closing

After communion, the congregation sings a closing hymn or Psalm, followed by the benediction. The benediction is a blessing given by God to the congregation by the pastor. All worshipers are encouraged to stretch out their hands as a gesture of receptivity as they receive the benediction.

Postlude

The service ends with the playing of a postlude.

The Spirit of Christmas

An Advent Sermon Series

November 30	Luke 1:5-25
December 7	Luke 1:26-38
December 14	Luke 1:39-80
December 21	Luke 2:8-20
December 28	Luke 2:22-35
January 4	Matthew 2:13-18

THIS WEEK AT BEVERLY HEIGHTS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

9:00 AM Christian Ed for all ages
10:00 AM Worship Service
5:00 PM Sabbath Supper
6:45 PM BH Orchestra Rehearsal

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

Church Offices Closed

6:30 PM BH Orchestra Rehearsal

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

8:00 AM Men's Study Group
10:00 AM Staff Meeting
4:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsals
6:30 PM Fusion (MS & HS Students)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

4:00 PM Prayer Team Meeting
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

8:00 AM Men's Study Group

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

9:00 AM Christian Ed for all ages
10:00 AM Worship Service
4:30 PM Glory in the Heights event

Beverly Heights Presbyterian Church

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