



THE SPIRIT OF  
CHRISTMAS

AN ADVENT SERMON SERIES



DECEMBER 7, 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

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*  
Jinna Park, Accompanist and Organist

Stanley

*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

*The Angel Gabriel*

*The angel Gabriel from Heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame.  
“All hail,” said he, “Thou lowly maiden Mary, thou highly favored lady.” Gloria!*

*“The handmaid of the Lord thy title be. Thy Son as Lord and King exalted He!  
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel by seers foretold, thou highly favored lady.” Gloria!*

*Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: “Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!*

Prayer of Invocation

Opening Hymn of Praise **No. 76**

vv. 1-3

*Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

Responsive Reading from Psalm 103

Rev. Dr. Kyle David Bennett, Assistant Pastor

Leader: Bless LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

People: **The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the people of Israel. The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever.**

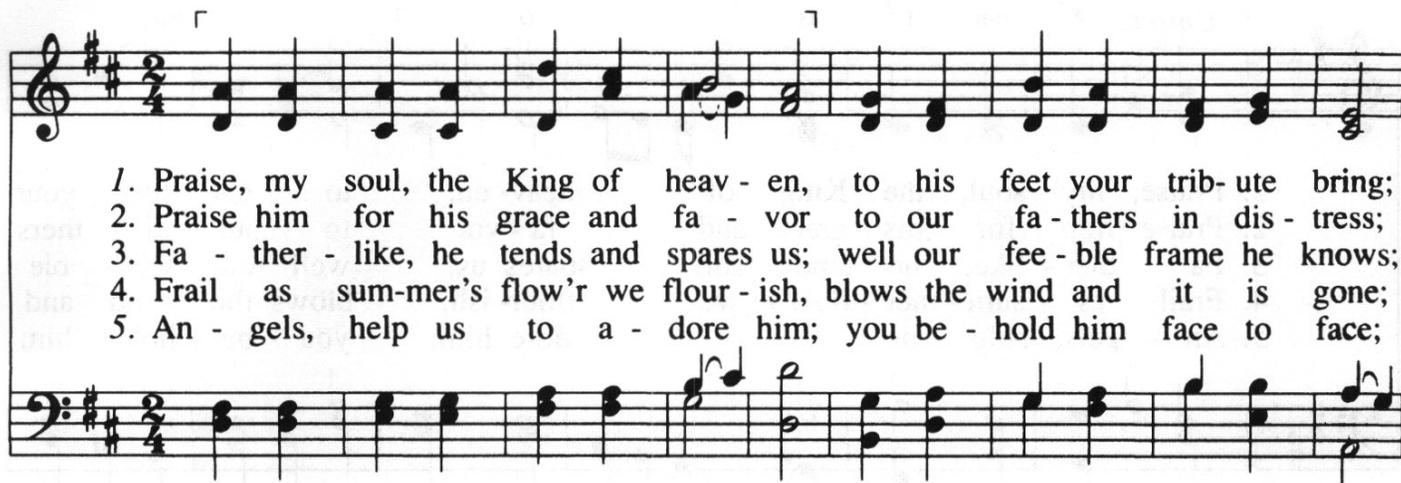
Leader: Bless the LORD, O you His angels, you mighty ones who do His word, obeying the voice of His word! Bless the LORD, all His hosts, His ministers, who do His will!

People: **Bless the LORD, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!**

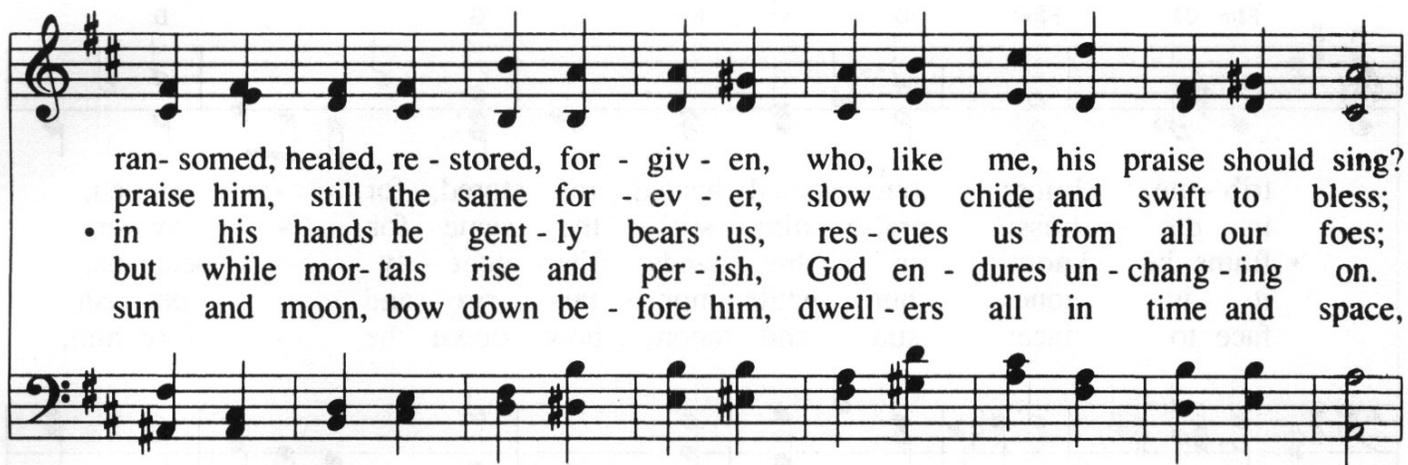
## Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

76

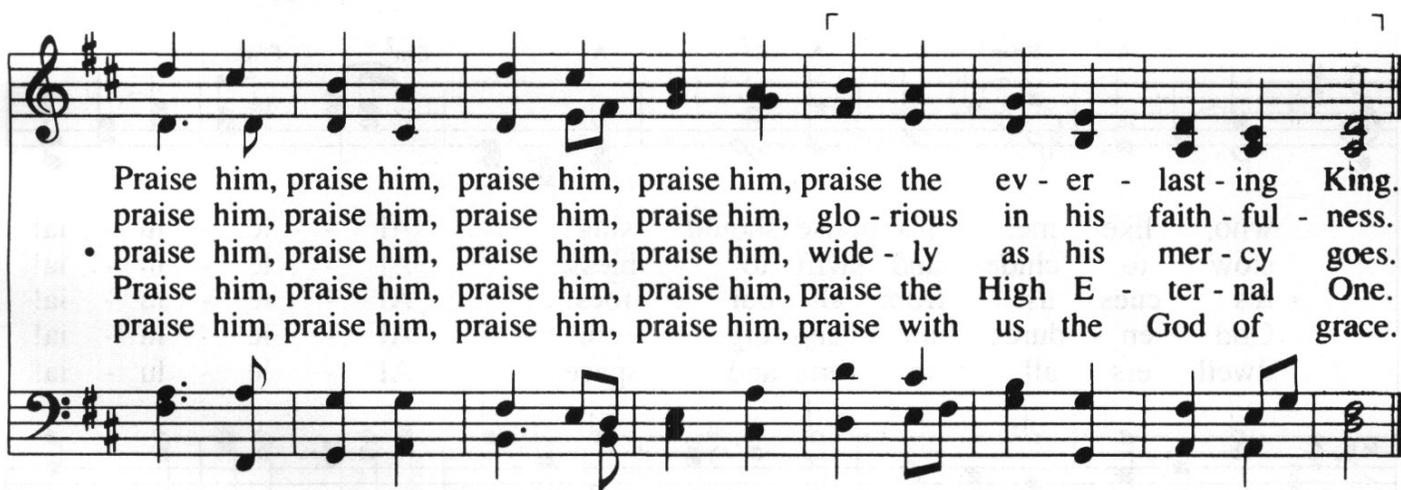
*Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere in his dominion. Praise the LORD,  
O my soul. Ps. 103:22*



1. Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en, to his feet your trib - ute bring;  
2. Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to our fa - thers in dis - tress;  
3. Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows;  
4. Frail as sum - mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;  
5. An - gels, help us to a - dore him; you be - hold him face to face;



ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, who, like me, his praise should sing?  
praise him, still the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless;  
• in his hands he gent - ly bears us, res - cues us from all our foes;  
but while mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en - dures un - chang - ing on.  
sun and moon, bow down be - fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space,



Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise the ev - er - last - ing King.  
praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.  
• praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, wide - ly as his mer - cy goes.  
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise the High E - ter - nal One.  
praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise with us the God of grace.

**THE LORD CLEANSSES OUR SIN**

Unison Prayer of Confession, Followed by Silent Confession of Sin

Pastor Bennett

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

**Merciful God, always with us and coming again: We confess that we do not know how to prepare for Your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of Your kingdom. Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we confess our sins. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

*Hear the good news of the gospel: The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; He will rejoice over you with gladness; He has renewed you in His love.*

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: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Rev. Peter A. Chace, Assistant Pastor

Advent Litany

Leader: The Lord will give you a sign.

**People: A young woman is with child and shall bear a son.**

Leader: And they shall name him Immanuel,

**People: which means “God is with us.”**

Advent Hymn **No. 197**

vv. 1-4

*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

*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

*O Come, Emmanuel*

Kyung Won Jeon, *cello*

Hagenberg

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.  
O come, Thou Dayspring come and cheer our spirits by Thine Advent here,  
And drive away the shades of night, and pierce the clouds and bring us light!  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.  
O come, desire of nations bind all people in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease, and fill the world with Heaven's peace.  
O rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

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 1:26-38

Sermon

**The Spirit of Christmas**  
Spirits of Miracles

Pastor Devlin

## Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

*Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem. Is. 40:1, 2*

1. Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
 2. Yea, her sins our God will par - don, blot - ting out each dark mis - deed;  
 3. For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
 4. Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er plac - es plain;

com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, mourn - ing 'neath their sor - row's load.  
 all that well de - served his an - ger he no more will see or heed.  
 bid - ding all men to re - pen - tance, since the king - dom now is here.  
 let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign.

Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them; tell her  
 She hath suf - fered man - y a day, now her griefs have passed a - way; God will  
 O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way; let the  
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad; and all

that her sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.  
 change her pin - ing sad - ness in - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
 val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.  
 flesh shall see the to - ken, that his word is nev - er bro - ken.

# 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, key of D major. 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 with chords in the right hand.

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

The second system continues the melody. The vocal line has a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4, quarter note F#4, quarter note E4, quarter note D4. The piano accompaniment follows the same pattern.

9 *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 a repeat sign. The vocal line starts with a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4, quarter note F#4, quarter note E4, quarter note D4. The piano accompaniment is consistent with the previous systems.

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

The fourth system continues the refrain. The vocal line has a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4, quarter note F#4, quarter note E4, quarter note D4. The piano accompaniment ends with a final chord. The system concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

**THE LORD RECEIVES OUR GIFTS AND HEARTS**

Call for the Offering and Offertory      *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

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**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 Doxology

See Bulletin

*Advent Doxology*

Benediction

Postlude

*Once in Royal David's City*

Parks

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***\*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.*

# Advent Doxology

Boswell

*Congregation sings twice.*

Glo - ry in the high - est heav - en

The first system of music features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one flat and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry in the high - est heav - en".

to the Fa - ther and the Son

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "to the Fa - ther and the Son".

and the Spi - rit He has giv - en

The third system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "and the Spi - rit He has giv - en".

hal - lowed be the Three - in - One.

The fourth system of music concludes the doxology. The lyrics are: "hal - lowed be the Three - in - One.".

# 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, DECEMBER 7

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

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

1:00 PM Women's Book Study  
4:00 PM Prayer Team Meeting  
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

*Church Offices Closed*

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

7:00 PM Session Meeting

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

8:00 AM Men's Study Group  
11:00 AM Orchestra Rehearsal

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

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)

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

9:00 AM Christian Ed for all ages  
10:00 AM Worship Service

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## Beverly Heights Presbyterian Church

1207 Washington Road ❖ Mt. Lebanon, PA ❖ 15228

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