



THE SPIRIT OF
CHRISTMAS

AN ADVENT SERMON SERIES



DECEMBER 21, 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 We Have Heard on High
Jinna Park, Organist and Accompanist

Lasky

*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

Come, O Come, Thou Quickening Spirit

*Come, O come, thou quickening Spirit, God from all eternity!
May thy power never fail us; dwell within us constantly.
Then shall truth and life and light banish all the gloom of night.*

*Holy Spirit, strong and mighty, thou who makest all things new,
Make thy work within us perfect and the evil foe subdued.
Grant us weapons for the strife and with victory crown our life.*

Prayer of Invocation

Opening Hymn of Praise **No. 4**

vv. 1-4

All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

Responsive Reading from Psalm 30

Rev. Dr. Kyle David Bennett, Assistant Pastor

Leader: I will extol You, O LORD, for You have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me. O LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and You have healed me. O LORD, You have brought up my soul from Sheol; You restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

People: Sing praises to the LORD, O you His saints, and give thanks to His holy name. For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

Leader: To You, O LORD, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy: “What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit? Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me! O LORD, be my helper!”

People: You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, that my glory may sing Your praise and not be silent.

All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men. Ps. 107:15

1. All praise to God, who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre -
 2. What God's al - might - y pow'r hath made his gra - cious mer - cy
 3. I cried to him in time of need: Lord God, O hear my
 4. The Lord for - sak - eth not his flock, his cho - sen gen - er -

a - tion, the God of won - ders, pow'r, and love, the God of our sal -
 keep - eth; by morn - ing dawn or eve - ning shade his watch - ful eye ne'er
 call - ing! For death he gave me life in - deed and kept my feet from
 a - tion; he is their ref - uge and their rock, their peace and their sal -

va - tion! With heal - ing balm my soul he fills, the God who
 sleep - eth; with - in the king - dom of his might, lo, all is
 fall - ing. For this my thanks shall end - less be; O thank him,
 va - tion. As with a moth - er's ten - der hand he leads his

ev - ery sor - row stills. To God all praise and glo - ry!
 just and all is right. To God all praise and glo - ry!
 thank our God with me. To God all praise and glo - ry!
 own, his cho - sen band. To God all praise and glo - ry!

5. Ye who confess Christ's holy name, to God give praise and glory!
 Ye who the Father's pow'r proclaim, to God give praise and glory!
 All idols underfoot be trod, the Lord is God! The Lord is God!
 To God all praise and glory!

6. Then come before his presence now and banish fear and sadness;
 to your Redeemer pay your vow and sing with joy and gladness:
 Though great distress my soul befell, the Lord, my God, did all things well.
 To God all praise and glory!

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.

O God, we live as if the light had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us. We confess that we ignore the savior You sent to be among us and to be in us. We've kept the birth of Your Son concealed and do not yearn for His birth each moment in our waiting hearts. Lord, You came to us in the fullness of time. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Your coming. We confess our sin as we prepare for Your coming and pray that Christ will come anew into hearts today. 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: Malachi 3:1-4

Rev. Peter A. Chace, Assistant Pastor

Advent Litany

Leader: Strengthen us, O God, in the power of Your Spirit,

People: to bring good news to the poor and to open blind eyes to sight,

Leader: to loose the chains that bind and claim your blessing for all people.

People: Keep us faithful in Your service until Christ comes in final victory.

Advent Hymn **No. 195**

vv. 1-4

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

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 Bulletin**) *Hear My Prayer, O Lord*

Wilbur

Choral Anthem

Angels From the Realms of Glory
Jinna Park and Katie Phelps, *piano four-hand*

arr. Forrest

*Angels from the realms of glory wing your flight o'er all the earth.
Ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King.*

*Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King.*

*Sages, leave your contemplation, brighter visions bean afar.
Seek the great Desire of Nations, ye have seen His natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King.*

*All creation join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son.
Evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One!
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King.*

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.*

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Ps. 98:4

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heav'n and na - ture sing,

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heav'n and na - ture sing,

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 eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a chordal accompaniment in the right hand.

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

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. It begins with a quarter note C5, followed by a quarter note B4, and then a quarter note A4. The piano accompaniment continues with 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 of music is marked as the 'Refrain' and begins with a repeat sign. 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 rhythmic pattern.

repeat Refrain

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

The fourth system of music continues the 'Refrain' and ends with a repeat sign. The vocal line starts with a quarter note C5, followed by a quarter note B4, and then a quarter note A4. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern.

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:8-20

Sermon

The Spirit of Christmas
Spirit of Joy

Pastor Devlin

THE LORD RECEIVES OUR GIFTS AND HEARTS

Call for the Offering and Offertory

What Child is This?

Burton

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)

Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor

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

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Burton

****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 21

9:00 AM Christian Ed for all ages
10:00 AM Worship Service
6:00 PM Congregational Dinner
7:00 PM Carol Sing

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

Church Offices Closed

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

4:15 PM Fusion and Kids Choir
Rehearsal
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service
9:00 PM Christmas Eve Service

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

10:00 AM Worship Service
11:30 AM Linger Longer fellowship

Beverly Heights Presbyterian Church

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