

A Christmastime Musical for Kids

BETHLEHEM EXPRESS

A Journey to the Heart of Christmas



Created by Gina Boe

Tracks programmed by Christopher Phillips

**BRENTWOOD
BENSON** Kids

Welcome

MPC'S MISSION

Worship. Grow. Serve.
Together

VISITING TODAY?

If this is your first time worshipping with us, we hope you will feel welcome. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us by phone at 610-566-3944.

We also invite you to visit our website at www.mediapresbyterian.org

Leading Worship This Morning...

Reverend Rose Sparrow, Parish Associate

Lisa VanHeldorf, Director of Traditional Music

Emily Barth, Organist

Jim Gatch, Worship Leader

Cindy McPeak, Janis Richards, Judy Sharbaugh, Kay Jackson,
and Susan Kolva, Directors of Children's Music

GATHERING

Prelude*O Come, Little Children*

Mark Hayes

Welcome and Announcements***Sharing the Joy of Our Faith****Call to Worship** (Psalm 122) (Advent, Christmas, & Epiphany pg. 60)

Leader: Let us worship God and take on our lips, words from a homecoming song: When the Holy Name brought us home from captivity, we thought we were dreaming.

All: Our mouths were filled with laughter then, our tongues with songs of joy.

Leader: O God, Living God, free our captive hearts. Make them like streams in a desert. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

All: O God, Living God, free our captive hearts. Make them like streams in a desert. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Leader: May those who go out weeping, bearing seed for sowing, come home and shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

All: Thanks be to God!

Advent Song*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

O Come, Thou Wisdom from on high
 And order all things, far and nigh;
 To us the path of knowledge show,
 And cause us in her ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Lighting of the Advent Candle of JOY by: The Kolva Family**Prayer of the Day (All)**

O Mighty One, who scatters the proud and fills the hungry, by your Holy Spirit let your word leap in us and bring to our yearning the joy that comes with new beginnings and renewed lives. Amen.

***Opening Hymn #41** *Oh Come, All Ye Faithful*

(Blue)

**Please stand in body or in spirit*

Blessing of the Children (*All*)

Almighty God, from whom we receive our life: We thank you for blessing us with the joy and care of children. Give us calm strength and patient wisdom, that we may teach them to love you, and to love whatever is just, true and good. Protect them from danger and hold them safe in your arms. In Jesus' name. Amen.

EQUIPPING

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Jim Gatch

First Reading: The Greatest Gift (based on John 3:16)

Janis Richards

By: Jennie Munson

The greatest gift
Given long ago
Wasn't wrapped in paper
Or tied with a bow
God's only Son
from heaven above
Given to us
Straight from His love
Lest we forget
Please hold on tight
To the great truth
Brought on that night
His gift of love
for all to receive
The gift of Salvation
To those who believe

Sermon:

"The Bethlehem Express"

Cornerstone Kids

Songs:

- Bethlehem Express
- The Road to Bethlehem
- Glory to God

First Ensemble: Hope, Lucie, Mackenzie, Tim

Second Ensemble: Atticus, Quinn, Nolan, Lexie

- Unexpected Christmas
- For Unto Us
- Bethlehem Express (Reprise)

RESPONDING

***Affirmation of Faith (*All*)**

A Declaration of Faith

Leader: Brothers and sisters, what do you believe?

All: **Jesus Christ stands at the center of the biblical record. The Bible is the account of God's word and action in history, together with his people's response in faith. It tells how the Lord has moved with Israel and the church towards the kingdom of God, his just and loving rule over all. It is the story of the one God, who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. That story is still unfolding, and in faith, we make it our own. It forms our memory and our hope. It tells us who we are and what we are to do. To retell it is to declare what we believe.**

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Stewardship

Offertory Anthem

Prepare The Way

(MPC Choir)

***Song of Praise, & Dedication**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation!

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!

O come, let us adore Him,

O come let us adore Him,

O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

***Prayer of Dedication**

SENDING

***Closing Hymn #40** *Joy to the World*
(Blue)

Charge and Blessing

***Postlude** *Joy to the World* Mark Hayes

Musical Cast:

Kevin- Atticus Ebbinger
Tyler- Castor Somsanith
Maya- Lucie Cunningham
Zoey- Cora Swierczek
Ben- Nolan Gatch
Marcus- Duke Derbabian
Conductor- Tim Swierczek
Engineer- Quinn Gibble
Opey (Wife)- Ophelia Derbabian
Connor (Husband)- Charlie Cunningham
Sheep Farmer Bill- James Wellman
Sheep Farmer's Daughter, Bessie- Olive Somsanith
Hotel Manager- Mae Gibble

Nativity Animals:

Sheep- Mackenzie Wellman
Cow- Hope Kalemkarian
Donkey- Lexie Havel
Foal- Allie Cunningham

Directors:

Cindy McPeak, Janis Richards, Judy Sharbaugh, Kay Jackson, and Susan Kolva

"Bethlehem Express"
Created by Gina Boe

**Many thanks to Scott MacDonald, the Tech Team, MPC
Office Staff, and the Children's Ministry Committee
members for helping us with our production!**

GENERAL INFORMATION

Restrooms -A restroom is located in the parlor at the back of the sanctuary. Handicap-accessible restrooms are located through either side door at the front of the sanctuary, then around the corner.

Nursery -Our Nursery is available for infants and children up to 4 years old during our 9:00am Sunday School hour and the 10:00am worship service.

Sunday School -Adults meet at 9:00am in Room 102. Children's Sunday School is in the Children's Wing. Youth Sunday School is in the Youth Room.

Prayer Chain -If you are in need of prayer or would like to receive prayer chain updates, please email Reverend Rose.

Attention Mothers of Infants -The parlor at the back of the church is available for privacy during church services.

Church Office Hours- Monday through Thursday, 8:30am-4:00pm.

The Church Office will be closed for the holidays, starting December 25th and we will reopen on the 6th of January.

If anything is urgent please either call the office at (610) 566-3944 or email office@mediapresbyterian.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

◆ **Confirmation Class**

MPC will offer a Confirmation Class for high school students who are interested in exploring their faith more deeply and in becoming members of Media Presbyterian Church. We will have an informational meeting for interested students and parents in mid-December, and the class will begin in late January. Here is a description of the curriculum we will be using from the PCUSA called "Big God, Big Questions." "Focused on preparing students to authentically answer the traditional membership questions, this Confirmation curriculum will equip students with the vital skills of asking and seeking answers using scripture, tradition, and church to tell their own story as Christian believers." For more information, please contact Tom Jackson at tjack713@hotmail.com, or 610-299-4326.

◆ **Christmas Eve Service**

MPC's Christmas Eve Service will be held at **5pm** on Tuesday, December 24th.

◆ **MPC's Christmas Concert, 'Share the Joy!'**

Our annual Christmas Concert will be held in the sanctuary on December 22nd, starting at 7pm. We are excited to have a musical and worshipful evening with the music ensembles on MPC featuring our choir, contemporary worship group, kids' choir, brass ensembles, and more! Invite your friends and family to hear the many musical talents Media Presbyterian Church has to offer.

ONGOING MINISTRIES

◆ **Adult Sunday School**

- Adult Sunday School meets each Sunday from 9-9:45am in Room 102. You may begin attending at any time! For additional information, please contact: Reverend David Cagle (david@mediapresbyterian.org).

◆ **Cornerstone Kids Children's Ministry**

- Building Lives on Christ (BLOC) is available most Sundays for children in 2nd grade and younger. The children are dismissed after the Children's Moment and should be picked up from Room 201 when the service is over.
- Contact Jeanne Cunningham (fuselloj@gmail.com) for more information.

◆ **MPC Youth Ministry**

- Youth Sunday School meets from 9-9:45am in the Youth Room.
- Youth Group meets on Thursday from 7-8:30pm in the Youth Room.



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM



Your orders for poinsettias enable us to beautify our sanctuary on Christmas Eve and allow you to recognize loved ones.

Poinsettias may be ordered by filling out this form and either placing it in the offering plate or returning it to the office. Plants cost \$12.00 each. Please make checks payable to *Media Presbyterian Church*. Orders and payments must be received by **TODAY!** Poinsettias may be taken home after the 5pm service on Christmas Eve. If you do not wish to take your plant, please check the appropriate box below. Plants not picked up will be taken to the sick and/or homebound.

Please reserve:

_____ Red Poinsettia (s)

_____ White Poinsettia (s)

_____ Total x \$12.00 each = \$ _____ enclosed

In memory of:

In honor of:

To the Glory of God:

GIVEN BY:

Please hold _____ plant (s) for pickup. —

Please deliver _____ plant (s) to shut-ins.

FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 15th, 2024

Sunday, Dec 15th

8:30am Choir Practice, Sanctuary
8:45am Nursery opens for drop-off
9:00am Adult Sunday School, Room 102
9:15am Worship Team, Sanctuary
10:00am Sunday Worship Service, Sanctuary
12:00pm Christmas Concert Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Monday, Dec 16th

12:00pm Prayer & Devotion, Rev. Rose, Zoom
6:30pm PNC, Room 102

Tuesday, Dec 17th

10:00am Staff Meeting
11:00am Piano Tuning
6:30pm Session mtg., Room 102 & Zoom

Wednesday, Dec 18th

9:00am Woofies Baking Co., Kitchen
10:00am Prayer Warriors, Rev. Rose Sparrow
Call 425-436-6394, Code 338523#
7:00pm Admin cmt., Zoom

Thursday, Dec 19th

7:00am Men's Bible Study, Court Diner
10:00am Women's Bible Study, Zoom
6:30pm MPC Ringers, Sanctuary
7:00pm Youth Group, Youth Room
7:00pm Yoga
7:30pm MPC Choir, Sanctuary

Friday, Dec 20th

Office Closed

Saturday, Dec 21st

9:00am Christmas Concert Rehearsal, Sanctuary
6:00pm NA Meeting, Dale Hall

Sunday, Dec 22nd

8:30am Choir Practice, Sanctuary
8:45am Nursery opens for drop-off
9:00am Adult Sunday School, Room 102
9:00am Youth Sunday School, Youth Room
9:15am Worship Team, Sanctuary
10:00am Sunday Worship Service (BLOC), Sanctuary
11:30am Worship Team, Sanctuary
7:00pm Annual Christmas Concert, Sanctuary

Transitional Pastor	Reverend Dr. David Cagle	David@mediapresbyterian.org Ext. 1001
Parish Associate	Reverend Rose Sparrow	Rose@mediapresbyterian.org Ext. 1002
Interim Business Administrator	Sandy Campbell	Sandyc@mediapresbyterian.org Ext. 1006
Church Administrator	Camryn Gavula	Camryn@mediapresbyterian.org Ext. 1005
Facilities Manager	Scott MacDonald	Scott@mediapresbyterian.org Ext. 1008
Director of Traditional Music	Lisa VanHeldorf	Lisa@mediapresbyterian.org
Organist	Emily Barth	Emily@mediapresbyterian.org
Director of Contemporary Music	Andrew Behringer	Andrew@mediapresbyterian.org
Director of Children & Youth Ministries	Tyler Harvey	Ty@mediapresbyterian.org Ext. 1003
	Main Kitchen	Ext. 1021
	Parlor (back of sanctuary)	Ext. 1022
	Nursery	Ext. 1023
	Benevolence Hotline	Ext. 2000

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Sign up to receive our weekly digital newsletter by going to our website or by emailing camryn@mediapresbyterian.org

ONLINE GIVING

Visit MediaPresbyterian.org/GiveOnline or scan the QR code to give your tithes.

