

Living in Praise to God

I can't think of an organist whose eyes wouldn't light up after a glance at today's bulletin cover! The *trumpet en chamade* is arguably the most festive and bombastic feature a pipe organ can boast. The heralding sound of these pipes commands attention in the most cavernous of cathedrals. It speaks above even the most boisterous of congregations and sings above the largest of choirs. There's simply no ignoring this trumpet sound.

It is thus fitting that today's text is Psalm 148, an exuberant appeal to us—and to all the earth—to praise God. The psalmist joyously envisions an entire earth engulfed in praise of God!

Irenaeus of Lyons, a second-century Christian leader, seems to have known something of this all-encompassing praise when he remarked: "The glory of God is man fully alive." Fully alive! What keeps us from life in all its fullness, from being enlivened? What prevents us from recognizing the depths of our God-given, miraculous life? What keeps us from surrendering to the Holy Spirit, already at work in and among us?

Today, as we prepare to leave another calendar year behind, how might we heed the psalmist's call and live in a resounding, clarifying way? Those who truly live in praise to God have the remarkable ability to endure the most trying situations, the capacity to illumine the darkest corners of this world, the power to bring grace and healing in the most troubling of times. Those who live in praise to God deeply radiate and cultivate justice, holiness, peace, and joy. This, sisters and brothers, is God's glory!

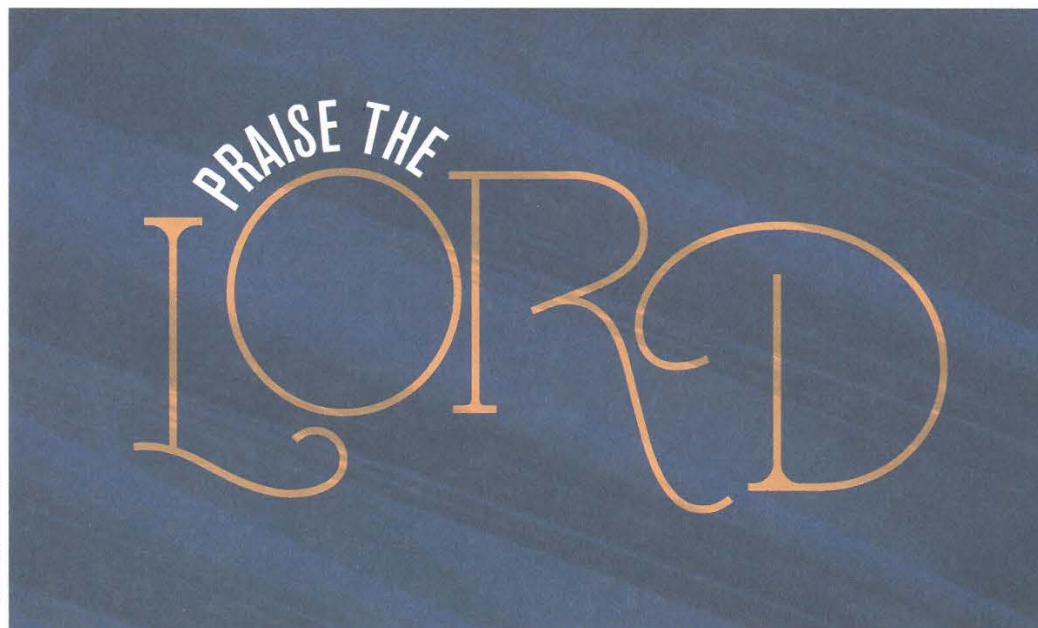
Our fullest lives emerge when we become the trumpets through which God's voice resounds, declaring a new creation, giving the whole earth life.

May we come to life, in Christ. Praise the Lord!

—Jonathan Enmons
Greensboro, North Carolina

Text for today: "Praise the LORD! *Praise the LORD* from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host! Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created. He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed" (Psalm 148:1-6, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148 (1); Colossians 3: 12-17; Luke 2:41-52.

12-30-18. Printed in the USA
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BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship December 30, 2018 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE Noël Suisse *Louis-Claude Daquin*
"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" *J. S. Bach*

CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER Jeff Carr
Please sign and pass the *Friendship Register* pad located at the inside aisle of the pew. Signing helps us learn the names of those worshipping near us. After all have signed, the pad can be passed back to the inside aisle.

* WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

***HYMN # 197** *Angels we have heard on high* GLORIA

PROCLAIMING

CHILDREN'S TIME (11:00)
Children of ALL ages are invited to the front of the sanctuary for a time of building upon and connecting to faith through stories and interactions.

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:41-52 *NRSV*

***HYMN INSERT** *In the Bleak Midwinter* MIDWINTER

SERMON "Preparing the Way...for a New Year" Jeff Carr

RESPONDING

SINGING WITH BRENT & FRIENDS (8:30)
Brent Holl, *guitar*; Phyllis Gaskins, *Galax Dulcimer*; & Jim Gaskins, *violin*

REFLECTIONS (8:30) ...a time for conversation.

DUET (11:00) *Coventry Carol* arr. *Lloyd Larson*
Ted Flory & Jolene Flory

OFFERING

Invitation
Offertory

(8:30) We bring our tithes and offerings to the worship center.

(11:00) Ushers receive our tithes and offerings.

"The Old Year Has Passed Away" *J. S. Bach*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***HYMN INSERT** *I heard the bells*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "Let All Together Praise our God" *J. S. Bach*

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

I heard the bells on Christmas day

1. I heard the bells on Christ - mas day Their
2. I tho't how, as the day come, The
3. And in de - spair I bowed my head. "There
4. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God
5. Till, ring - ing, sing - ing loud on its way, The

old fa - mil - iar car - ols play, And wild and sweet the
bel - fries of all Chris - ten - dom Had rolled a - long th'un -
is no peace on earth," I said, "For hate is strong, and
is not dead, nor doth He sleep; The wrong shall fail, the
world re - volved from night to day- A voice, a chime, a

words re - peat Of peace on earth, good - will to all
bro - ken song Of peace on earth, good - will to all
mocks the song Of peace on earth, good - will to all"
right pre - vail, With peace on earth, good - will to all"
chant sub - lime, Of peace on earth, good - will to all

Words: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow 1864

Music: Jean Baptiste Calkin, 1872

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

December 30, 2018-January 5, 2019 (All events are p.m. unless noted)

This is a church events calendar and does not include all building events use.
Please be sure to schedule ALL EVENTS through the church office.

Tues. *Happy New Year!*

Wed.	7:00	Food Pantry	Social Hall
	7:00	Christian Education Commission	Library
	7:00	Fellowship & Recreation Commission	Youth Room
	7:00	Ministerial Services Commission	Altruistic Room
	7:00	Mission & Service Commission	Lounge
	7:00	Properties Commission	Open Door Room

Thurs.	Noon	Interfaith Association	EMU
	7:30	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room

NEXT SUNDAY– January 6, 2019 – *Epiphany*

Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. – Sanctuary

Preaching: Pastor Jeff Carr

Sermon: “Holly Day, Epiphany, Betsy, and a Birthday”

Scriptures: Isaiah 60:1-6 & Matthew 2:1-12

Children’s Worship during Worship at 11

Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m. – Choir Room

Sunday School – 9:45 a.m. – Classrooms

Youth Fundraiser Lunch – Noon – Social Hall

Youth Inquirers’ Class – 2 p.m. – Youth Room

Sr. Hi. Youth Movie Night & Discussion – 5 p.m. – Home of the Zeppes

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP for Sundays, December 23 & 30 and January 6, 2019 will be provided in the January 13, 2019 bulletin.

BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

*An inclusive family of faith seeking to follow Jesus
and live the love of God.*

Our Mission...

As an inclusive community of faith, we commit ourselves to embody the love of God and to share our diverse lives and gifts with each other and the world. Through faith formation, worship, mission, and fellowship we boldly proclaim the peace and love of Christ. Together we work for justice, extend grace, and partner with God to offer abundant life, healing, and hope to our community and the world.

Our Values...

*Sharing life together and including all persons in our common life.
Growing in faith, compassion, and understanding.
Serving one another and our neighbor’s good.
Sharing the love of God and the God that is love.*

PASTORAL MINISTRY STAFF

Jeff Carr – Senior Pastor

Chris Zepp – Associate Pastor

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FACILITIES MINISTRY STAFF

Fortunato Correa – Custodian

Phil Flory – Treasurer

Karissa Hunt – Interim Financial Secretary

Shannon Puffenbarger – Administrative Assistant

Leon Rhodes – Head Teller

PROGRAM & MUSIC MINISTRY STAFF

Kathleen Arndt – Child Care Center Administrator

John Barr – Organist

Jim Benedict – Bell Choir Director

Josh Eye – Interim Christian Education Director

Mary Beth Flory – Pianist

Marianne Houff – Children’s Choir Director

Ellsworth Neff – Sound, Light, Video Coordinator

Curtis Nolley – Sanctus Choir Director & Music Coordinator

Clarke & Hope Staton – Youth Ministry Coordinators

CONTACT INFORMATION

420 College View Drive, Bridgewater, VA 22812

www.bwco.org / (540) 828-3711

Normal office hours are Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-Noon, and 1-5 p.m.

SUNDAY MORNING INFORMATION & TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

HOSPITALITY CENTER in the Greeting Hall

Nametags; large-print Bibles, hymnals, & bulletins; listening receivers; and information are available here.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45 a.m.

PARKING ASSISTANCE: 10:30-10:55 a.m. every Sunday.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME!

Children are always welcome among us and in our corporate worship gatherings. Activity bags are available in the greeting hall for their use and enjoyment. Additionally, childcare for children ages birth to kindergarten is available as well as a "cry room" for those who wish to listen and see the worship service in a separate room from the sanctuary. Ushers are more than willing to help you locate these resources.

Decorators – Anita Beckman, Linda Dean, Bea Miller

Deacon Caregiver – Andrea Miracle

Head Usher – Devin Bowman

Van Driver – Teshome Molalenge

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Envelopes are available to be picked up this morning. Anyone who would like offering envelopes for 2019 but has not had them in the past should notify our Interim Financial Secretary, Karissa Hunt. Weekly and monthly envelopes are available. Also, if you're interested in having your contribution made to the church electronically, forms are available in the church office or you may speak with Karissa.

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The church office will be closed December 31 & January 1. If you have pastoral needs please contact Pastor Jeff by leaving a message at the office or calling him at home – he *will* be checking messages.

PASTOR CHRIS is traveling with family and out of town over the holidays through January 2. He will return to his regular work schedule on Thursday, January 3.

In the bleak midwinter

MIDWINTER

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter frost - y wind made moan,
2 Our God, heav'n can - not hold him nor earth sus - tain;
3 E - nough for him, whom che - ru - bim wor - ship night and day,
4 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have ga - thered there,
5 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:
a breast - ful of milk, and a man - ger - ful of hay;
che - ru - bim and se - ra - phim thronged the air;
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed
e - nough for him, whom an - gels fall down be - fore,
but on - ly his mo - ther in her maid - en bliss
if I were a wise man I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
the Lord God Al - might - y Je - sus - Christ.
the ox and ass and ca - mel which a - dore.
wor - shipped the Be - lov - ed with a kiss.
yet what I can I give him - give my heart

Words: Christian Rossetti 1830-1894

Music: Gustav Holst, adapted in *The English Hymnal*