

Reclaimed and Restored

Call to Worship

One: O God, our God, you cry out to us.

Many: **Asking, when will you see that I love you, that I have shown you abundance, saved you with my presence, freed you from the powers of brokenness?**

One: When will we see that when bad things happen, you remain?

All: *God, what are we waiting for?*

Prayer

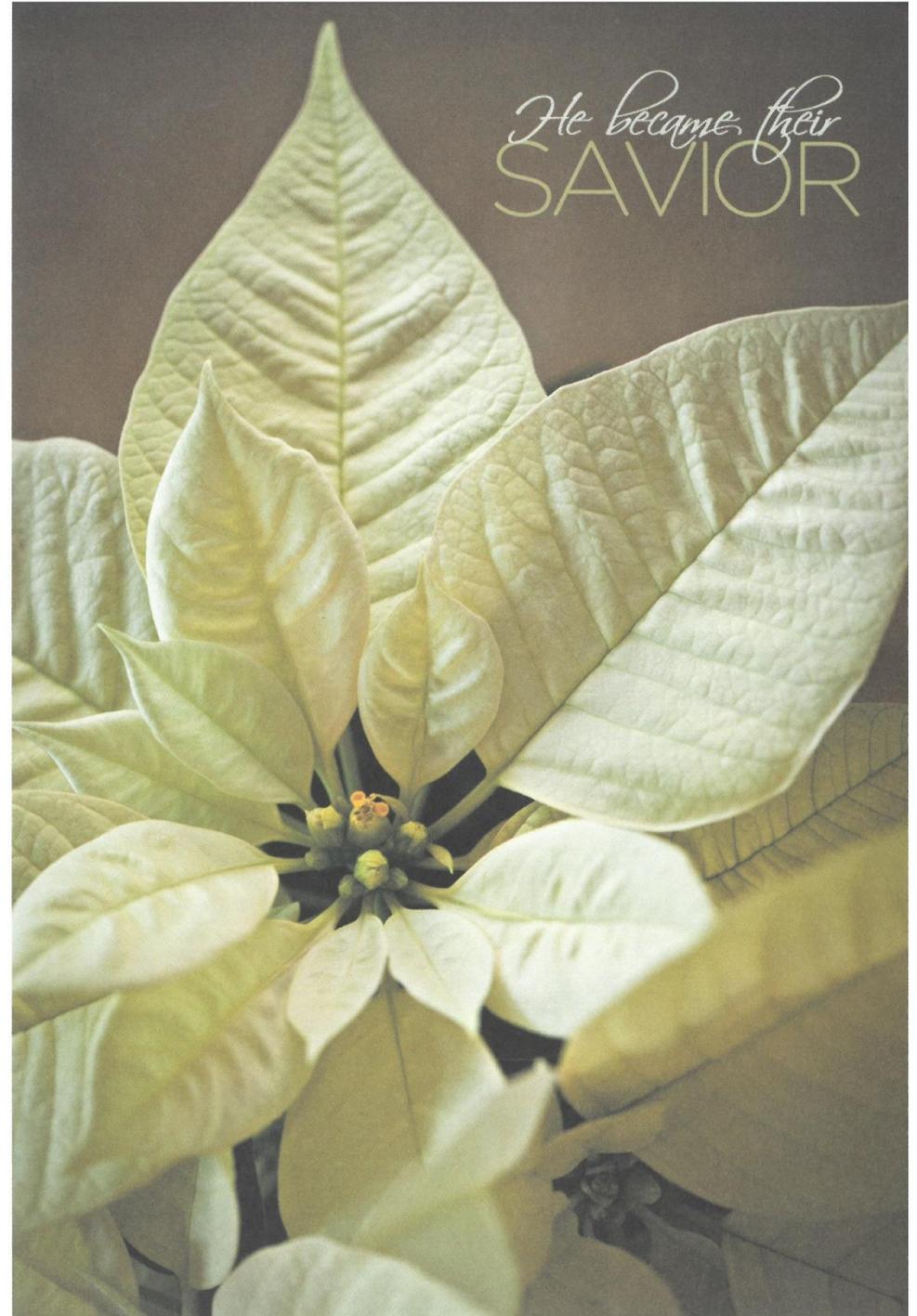
Praise be to you, O God! Let all that is within us rejoice and praise you, Lord, for you are goodness and mercy. Help us to move forward with this confidence, knowing that you reclaim and restore us. You give us life. Your love for us knows no bounds. Lord God, we put our trust in you as we walk the paths you have laid out for us.

Sending

May we join in praise with all creation, rejoicing at the presence of a God who abides with and among us. May we recognize the establishment of mercy, across nations and generations, that God has made.

Text for today: "I will tell of the loving-kindnesses of God. I will praise him for all he has done; I will rejoice in his great goodness to Israel, which he has granted in accordance with his mercy and love. He said, 'They are my very own; surely they will not be false again.' And *he became their Savior*. In all their affliction he was afflicted, and he personally saved them. In his love and pity he redeemed them and lifted them up and carried them through all the years" (Isaiah 63:7-9, *The Living Bible*). **Bible readings for today:** Isaiah 63:7-9 (8); Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23.

12-29-19. Printed in the USA
Worship resources © 2019 MennoMedia. Used by permission



BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship December 29, 2019 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

*Light of life, you came in flesh, born into human pain and joy,
and gave us power to be your children. Grant us faith, O Christ,
to see your presence among us, so that all of creation may sing
new songs of gladness and walk in the way of your peace.*

~Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (2002)

GATHERING

PRELUDE (11:00) We Three Kings *Lani Smith*
The First Noel arr. *Kenneth D. Varner*

WELCOME AND SHARING THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

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.

***RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURAL CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 148 *NRSV*

One: Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

All: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

One: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

**All: Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!**

One: Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were created.

**All: He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

One: Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

**All: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!
Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**

One: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of
the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together!

**All: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone
is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.**

One: He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.

All: Praise the Lord!

***HYMN # 201** *Hark! the herald angels sing* MENDELSSOHN

PROCLAIMING

CHILDREN'S TIME (11:00) Christy Dowdy
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.

SOLO (11:00) Midnight Noel arr. *Mark Hayes*
(It Came Upon a Midnight Clear and The First Noel)
Ted Flory, *soloist*

OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

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

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

Still, Still, Still arr. *Kenon D. Renfrow*

TIME OF PRAYER

Community Concerns and Joys

Prayer of the People ...concluding with *The Lord's Prayer*

(8:30 – Spoken)

(11:00 – Sung)

Albert Hay Malotte

SCRIPTURE READINGS Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23 *NRSV*

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

SERMON “*I Can't Wait*” Chris Zepp

RESPONDING

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

***RESPONSIVE LITANY AND UNISON PRAYER** ~Back of Bulletin

***HYMN # 210** *Good Christian friends, rejoice* IN DULCI JUBILO

***SENDING SCRIPTURE** Isaiah 63:7-9 *NRSV*

POSTLUDE (11:00) What Star Is This? *Franklin Ritter*

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

December 29, 2019-January 4, 2020 (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.

Sun.	9 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Wed.		Church Offices & Building Closed: New Year's Holiday	
Thurs.	Noon	Interfaith Association	EMU
	7:30	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room

NEXT SUNDAY– January 5, 2020

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

Preaching: Christy Dowdy

Sermon: “Gifts”

Scriptures: Matthew 2:1-12 & John 1:(1-9), 10-18

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

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

CHURCH OFFICE SCHEDULE

The church office is closed through January 3 and will reopen on Monday, January 6, resuming normal office hours. If you have pastoral needs during this time, please contact Interim Pastor Christy by leaving a message at the office or calling her at 1-814-599-6307.

PASTOR CHRIS will be taking holiday and vacation time December 30 thru January 5.

PASTOR CHRISTY will be taking holiday and vacation time January 24 thru February 3.

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

Christy Dowdy – Interim Senior Pastor

Chris Zepp – Associate Pastor

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FACILITIES MINISTRY STAFF

Fortunato Correa – Custodian

Phil Flory – Treasurer

Karissa Hunt – 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

Kasey Carns – Ministry Intern

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 – Decorating Committee

Fellowship Host – Beth Day-Miller

Deacon Caregiver – Jan Flora

Head Usher – Don Remnant

Hymn Leader – Jesse Hopkins

Pianist (8:30) – Ann Daggett

Van Driver – Donnie Fulk

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come; thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.

TRANSITION TEAM

Your nominations for the Transition Team are due in the church office by Monday, January 6. Please prayerfully consider persons from BWCOB who could represent the church as they lead our congregation to prepare to call a new pastor. The outline for the work of the team is listed in the December newsletter.

2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Envelopes are now available to be picked up. Anyone who would like offering envelopes for 2020 but has not had them in the past should notify our 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.

PASTOR'S BOOK STUDY

This month's book study with Pastor Chris will meet 2-3 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon, January 15 (one meeting only!) and will focus on *A Shotgun Wedding: The Conflict between Science and Religion Resolved* by our very own Philip Radcliffe (2010). Sign up for a copy with the office by December 29 for an estimated cost of \$13. Books are also available on Amazon, or you may be in touch with Philip directly to see if he has extra copies on hand. We will discuss the entire book on January 15.

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY 12/22/19 will be included in the January 12 bulletin.