

Musicians

Leah Martin, organ and piano
Bryn Athyn Cathedral Handbell Choir, directed by Graham Bier
Ariel Martin, vocal soloist

Preludes

From Heaven High I Come to You – Robert Edward Smith
Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern – P. Nicholai, harm J.S. Bach,
arr. N.L. Stephens
The First Noël– French Carol, arr. N.L. Stephens
O Little Town of Bethlehem – Lewis H. Redner, arr. Mark Hayes
Here by the Sheep and Oxen Mild – French carol, arr. N.L. Stephens
Es ist ein Ros entsprungen – German carol, harm. M. Praetorius,
arr. N.L. Stephens
Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella – arr. Christopher Uehlein
Angels We Have Heard on High – French Carol, arr. N.L. Stephens
Hark the Herald Angels Sing – arr. Gordon Young
The Little Road to Bethlehem – Michael Head; arr. David Maddux

Postludes

Ding, Dong Merrily on High – European carol, arr. N.L. Stephens
In Dulci Jubilo – arr. Jan Sanborn



We do not pass a collection basket during the service. Offertory bowls are located at each entrance for donations. Donate online at www.brynthynchurch.org or scan the QR code:



Please rise

On This Day Earth Shall Ring..... 950

Opening of the Word, sentence of Scripture, invitation to Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in the heavens, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven so upon the earth. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we also 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.

Priest: O Lord, forgive us our trespasses.

People: As we forgive those who trespass against us.

Recitation583-584

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. (Luke 2:4-5)

So, it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:6-7)

Lessons: Luke 2:1-20, *Arcana Coelestia* 5992

Interlude: *Still, Still, Still* – Austrian carol, arr. Kent Cooper

Silent Night, Holy Night!975

Talk: *In the Company of Angels*

Blessed Night 958

Benediction and the closing of the Word

Calm on the Listening Ear of Night966

Good News from Heaven



The Christmas story is woven together by the messages of angels. To Zacharias the angel said, “*your prayer is heard*” and “*you will have joy and gladness.*” To Mary the angel said, “*rejoice, for you have found favor with God...[and] with God nothing will be impossible.*” To Joseph the angel said, “*do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.*” To the shepherds, the angel said, “*I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.*”

The Lord used His messengers, not simply to announce His birth, but to give each participant the necessary instruction, reminder, counsel and support to turn their fears and concerns into a time of celebration for “*...once fear is removed, hope is at hand.*”

Secrets of Heaven 2694

“The Lord, by means of angels, leads and protects us...they impart to us charity and faith. They notice the direction in which our delights turn, and modify and bend our delights towards what is good, so far as they can do so without taking away our freedom...Spirits from hell are constantly on the attack, but angels provide protection...they moderate our affections...and call forth the goodness and truth residing with us and set this in opposition to the evil and falsity activated by the evil spirits...The Lord, by means of angels, employs means like these to lead and protect a person, doing so every fraction of a moment.”

Secrets of Heaven 5992

215 947-6225 | www.brynathynchurch.org | churchoffice@brynathynchurch.org



Bryn Athyn Church

Welcome to our Worship Service



“In the Company of Angels”

2024 Christmas Eve Service

Rev. Derek P. Elphick