

# ***The Future***

*“I know the thoughts that I think toward you,  
says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of  
evil, to give you a future and a hope.”*

*- Jeremiah 29:11*

Community Worship Service  
Rev. Derek Elphick

Original Date: January 22, 2023  
Rebroadcast: January 25, 2026



Bryn Athyn Church

[www.brynathynchurch.org](http://www.brynathynchurch.org)

**Preludes**

- Que lo diga el río - Juan Falú
- On Eagle's Wings - Michael Joncas, arr. Douglas Wagner
- Danza in E minor - Jorge Morel
- Shall We Gather at the River - arr. Dale Wood
- Total Praise - Richard Smallwood

**Welcome**

*Jesus, With Thy Church Abide.....* 921

**Opening Prayer**  
**The Lord's Prayer**

*As We Gather.....* 1018  
(children come forward)

**Children's Talk (with reading)**  
**Blessing on Children**

*The Trees of the Field.....* 1007  
(children go to activities-see map on back)

**Interlude:** Un Dia de Noviembre - Leo Brouwer

**Adult Talk (with readings)**  
**Reflection/Discussion** (see questions under readings)  
**Announcements**

*Jerusalem, the Golden!.....* 924

**Benediction**

**Postlude**  
A Trumpet Tune (Suite in D) - Charles Callahan

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all who were carried away captive, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon: build houses and dwell in them, plant gardens and eat their fruit. Take wives and beget sons and daughters — that you may be increased there, and not diminished. And seek the peace of the city... for in its peace you will have peace.

For thus says the Lord: after seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

### **Jeremiah 29: 4-7, 10-11**

The more interior and perfect angels become the less do they care about things of the past or think about those of the future. This is the origin of their happiness. They have said that the Lord provides them every moment with what to think, accompanied by blessing and happiness, and this being so, they have no cares or worries. This also is what is meant in the internal sense by the manna being received “day by day” from heaven, and by the “daily provision of bread” in the Lord’s Prayer; as well as by the statement that they must not worry about what they are to eat and drink, or what clothes they are to put on.

But although angels have no care about things of the past and are not worried about the future they nevertheless have a most perfect recollection of the past and a most perfect insight into the future, because their entire present includes both the past and future within it.

### ***Secrets of Heaven 2493***

#### **Questions for Reflection/Discussion:**

1. What came to mind for you as you listened to the talk today or what part of the story stuck out to you?
2. What steps can we take to better support each other in our efforts to build a brighter, happier future for ourselves and for this community?

## **Musicians**

Terry Schnarr, organ & piano

Grayson Zuber, guitars

Alair Brock, Chara Daum and

Grant Smith, singers

Scott Russell, bass

Shawn Rose, piano

Cathedral Choir, dir. Graham Bier