

Studying *12 Amazing Women of the Bible*

Women's Bible Study: Wednesday at 9:15a in Session Room
studying lectionary passages and the art of writing

All of these Bible studies are open to anyone wishing to deepen his or her faith. Please talk to Ben about which Bible study would be best for you as we are all called to nurture our faith in Christ through the discipline of studying scripture.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

It is a joy and honor to welcome Rev. Dr. Brian Blount to preach this morning. Brian is the President of Union Presbyterian Theological Seminary and Professor of New Testament in Richmond, VA. He is an acclaimed scholar and preacher. He and Sharon, his wife, are good friends of our congregation as HMPC's relationship with Union is long and storied. Many HMPC's pastors and summer interns have come from Union and we've reaped the benefits of the Seminary.

SAVE THE DATE

TODAY: *Breakfast with Mary and Joseph* was during Sunday school for the children and their parents.

Wednesday, December 7: *First Wednesday Supper, "Christmas Around the World."* Dinner will be catered. If you haven't signed up, please still let us know ASAP so we can save a seat. Cost is \$12/person, \$6/child and \$24 max for a family.

Sunday, December 11: *Lessons and Carols Worship Service.* Our choir will lead us in worship on this Sunday with songs and scripture.

Calvary Parish Presents *George Frideric Handel's Messiah* at 7p at Calvary Episcopal Church. Members of HMPC's choir have joined with other churches to present this wonderful musical piece for our community. Admission is free and doors open at 6:15p. There will also be a silent auction following the performance.

Sunday, December 18: *Family Advent Worship Service*

Christmas Eve, December 24: *Children's and Family Service* at 4:30p and *Candlelight and Communion Service* at 8p.

Sunday, December 25: *Christmas Day Worship* at 11a. This will be a casual service of joy and excitement, celebrating the birth of Christ.

Website: www.howardmemorial.org

THE SESSION

Benjamin Kane, Moderator
C.W. Mayo, IV, Clerk of Session (2018)

COMMITTEES OF THE SESSION

Christian Education

Lynn Taylor (2016)
Bonnie Whitehurst (2018)

Congregational Life

Ellen Clark (2018)
Martha Creech (2016)

Facilities

Harry Doughtie (2017)
Greg Sessoms (2017)

Finance and Stewardship

Tom Cordle (2017)
Beth Brinson (2018)
Bill Clark (2018)

Membership Development

Ellington Smoot (2017)

Mission and Christian Service

Kelly Parker (2016)

Worship

Carnell Lamm (2016)
Adam Schultz (2018)
(Elder Class in parentheses)

Staff

Pastor.....Rev. Benjamin E. E. Kane
Children's Education & Music Director.....Katie Schultz
Director of Music/Organist.....Bill Hilderbrandt
Office Administrator and Finance.....Angie Gregg
Sexton..... Arthur Walker

A NOTE ABOUT THE SILENCE IN WORSHIP

In a world full of noise and clatter, we come into this sacred sanctuary to experience the Triune God. It is not an escape from the world, but it is also an extension of the world. It is a space God creates. And we respond to it by praying, singing, confessing, lamenting, praising, reading scripture, preaching and extending hospitality to each other. As a way to perpetuate the sacredness of this space our time together we've incorporated more silence into our worship. God speaks in the silence, when we take the time to listen carefully; and in the silence of our hearts we better understand our calls as Christians. The silence is a time to think, pray, lament, offer praise, or to allow your mind to wander. May the silence be an avenue through which we glorify our God.

that we may learn God's ways and walk in God's paths.

Today we light the candles of hope and preparation,
so that we might walk in the light of Christ!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

**God of glory,
we know that you are coming at an unexpected hour.
Come to us now, in spirit and truth, and take us into your
presence, and make us ready for your reign of peace;
through Jesus our Lord, Amen.**

***HYMN # 88**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(Verses 1, 2, 6, 7)

CALL TO CONFESSION

You know what time it is:

Now is the time to wake from sleep.

Salvation is near!

Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of night and day,
there is no shadow that can conceal our sin from you
and no secret that you will not bring to light.**

For our reveling and debauchery
forgive us, O God.

For our recklessness and licentiousness,
forgive us, O God.

For our quarreling and jealousy,
forgive us, O God.

(Silent prayers.)

**O God, forgive us our sins,
Renew us in love and teach us to live in a way that brings
Honor and glory to your name. Amen.**

RESPONSE TO CONFESSION

O HOLY CHILD OF BETHLEHEM

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great tidings tell;
O Come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.*

***RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO!

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

THE WORD

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Katie So

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Mary Louise Bat

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

FIRST READING

Joel 2:12-13,

ANTHEM

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending
T. Olivers

SECOND READING

Matthew 24:

HOMILY

“Get Your Christmas On”

Rev. Dr. Brian B

***HYMN #106**

Prepare the Way, C

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Apostles' C

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by
Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate
was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third d
rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sittith on t
right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come
judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the commun
saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and th
everlasting. Amen.**

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee
P. Manz

***DOXOLOGY**

Hymn

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*