FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Blessings & Memories:

A Musical Celebration of Place

November 15, 2026

Prelude: Psalm Prelude Set 2, No. 1 — Herbert Howells

David Macbeth, organ

Prelude and Fugue in D major, BWV 532 — J.S. Bach

Dr. Nicholas Halbert, organ

Welcome — Rev. Karen Kinney, David Macbeth

Hymn: #376 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling — HYFRYDOL

One: With gratitude, we celebrate this place.
All: Here the faithful and the indifferent have found salvation and been awakened.

Reflection by Rev. JC Austin

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem: "Geistliches Lied" (Sacred Song) Op. 30 — Johannes Brahms

Combined Choir
Dr. Christopher Jackson, conductor
Dr. Nicholas Halbert, organ

Let nought afflict thee with grief;
Be calm, as God ordains,
And so may my will be contented.

Why take thought for the morrow?
The one God who gives thee
What is thine watches over all.

All in thy doings be steadfast
And true. What God decrees
Is best, and this it is acknowledged.

Text: Paul Fleming

Reflective Silence

Hymn: #555 Now Thank We All Our God — NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

One: With gratitude, we celebrate this place.
All: Here the weary have found rest, and the strong have been renewed.

Reflection by Rev. Sue Pizor Yoder

All: Thanks be to God.

Reflective Silence

Anthem: Sing Me to Heaven — Daniel Gawthrop

Combined Choirs
David Macbeth, conductor

In my heart's sequestered chambers
Lie truths stripped of poet's gloss
Words alone are vain and vacant
And my heart is mute
In response to aching silence
Memory summons half-heard voices
And my soul finds primal eloquence
And wraps me in song
Wraps me, in song
If you would comfort me, sing me a lullaby
If you would win my heart, sing me a love song
If you would mourn me and bring me to God
Sing me a requiem, sing me to Heaven
Touch in me all love and passion
Pain and pleasure, touch in me
Touch in me, grief and comfort
Love and passion, pain and pleasure
Sing me a lullaby
A love song. a requiem
Love me, comfort me
Sing me to God
Sing me a love song
Sing me to Heaven

Text: Jane Griner

Reflective Silence

Hymn: #416 Christ is Made the Sure Foundation — WESTMINSTER ABBEY

One: With gratitude, we celebrate this place.
All: Here the aged and the young have found connection and been inspired.

Reflection by Rev. William Hess

All: Thanks be to God.

Reflective Silence

Hymn: #399 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight — DUNLAP'S CREEK

One: With gratitude, we celebrate this place.

All: Here the doubting have found faith, and the anxious have been encouraged.

Reflection by Rev. Ruth Santana-Grace

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem: Density of Light — Sarah Quartel

Combined Choirs
David Macbeth, conductor
Dr. Nicholas Halbert, organ

Density of light
Density of light
That could shatter the cold rock
on the moon.
Compacted flame
That only the face of holy love
could withstand.
May Christ reflect your blaze
May Christ reflect your blaze
To the distant satellite of my heart.
And melt the fear
And melt the fear
That from the orbit of my days
You would scatter my dim shards
to darkness.
Density of light
Density of light.
Compacted flame.
Sudden lightning
Draw me onward through thick darkness.
Onward through thick darkness
Trusting that light shall spring from the grave.
And the coldest rock in space shall join
Join in a blaze of song.
A blaze of song.
Glory, glory, glory be to you, O God!

Text: Thomas H. Troeger

Reflective Silence

Hymn: #343 Called as Partners in Christ's Service — BEECHER

One: With gratitude, we celebrate this place.
All: Here those in need have found help, and the sorrowful have been comforted.

Reflection by Rev. Dr. Sally Brown

All: Thanks be to God.

Reflective Silence

One: With gratitude, we celebrate this place.
All: Here has the Triune God—Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer—been glorified.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn: #264 When in Our Music God is Glorified — ENGELBERG

Charge and Benediction — Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton

Choral Benediction: The Lord Bless You and Keep You — John Rutter

Combined Choirs
David Macbeth, conductor
Dr. Nicholas Halbert, organ

The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make His face to shine upon you
To shine upon you and be gracious
And be gracious unto you

The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make His face to shine upon you
To shine upon you and be gracious
And be gracious unto you

The Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon you
The Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon you

And give you peace, and give you peace
And give you peace, and give you peace

Text: The "Aaronic Blessing", Numbers 6: 24-26

Postlude: 5. "Toccata", Symphony No. 5, Op. 42 — Charles-Marie Widor

Dr. Nicholas Halbert, organ