

## Seeking Sanctuary

"There's a big white bird trying to eat Pepper!" our preschool-aged son yelled, bursting through the back door. My husband and I locked eyes, both astounded and confused by the news. Though we lived in a remote area, a snowy owl would have been unlikely, at best. And certainly a bird weighing five pounds was unlikely to prey on a puppy. What was white and lurking about at dusk?

Without delay, we trailed our son to the backyard where only a few moments before he had been feeding and watering our new pet. Nothing was flying about, so together we prodded him to learn more about what he'd seen.

Eventually we meandered back inside, rejoicing that all were safe. It felt good to have a place where we could take refuge—especially in the midst of a situation that didn't make much sense.

Heading to town the next morning, we spotted a mature bald eagle soaring above the roadway. We knew they were rare in these parts, so how did this happen? An imposing storm had blown in from the north two nights before; could this storm have forced this large bird to travel countless miles south of its nesting region? We paused to rejoice, for sometimes a sense of refuge is simply wide-eyed indebtedness for safety and sanctuary.

*Refuge . . . a predator seeking supper turned elsewhere for a meal.*

*Refuge . . . our pup and son returned to safety of shelter.*

*Refuge . . . everyone found a warm home where all is well.*

*Refuge . . . in times of life's greatest unknowns,  
God continues to provide.*

### Unison Prayer

Ever-Present Sustainer, we are amazed by the many simple ways you provide a safe haven when trouble comes. Make us aware of those daily moments of sanctuary and refuge. Fill us with awe.

—Yvonne Riege  
Wakarusa, Indiana

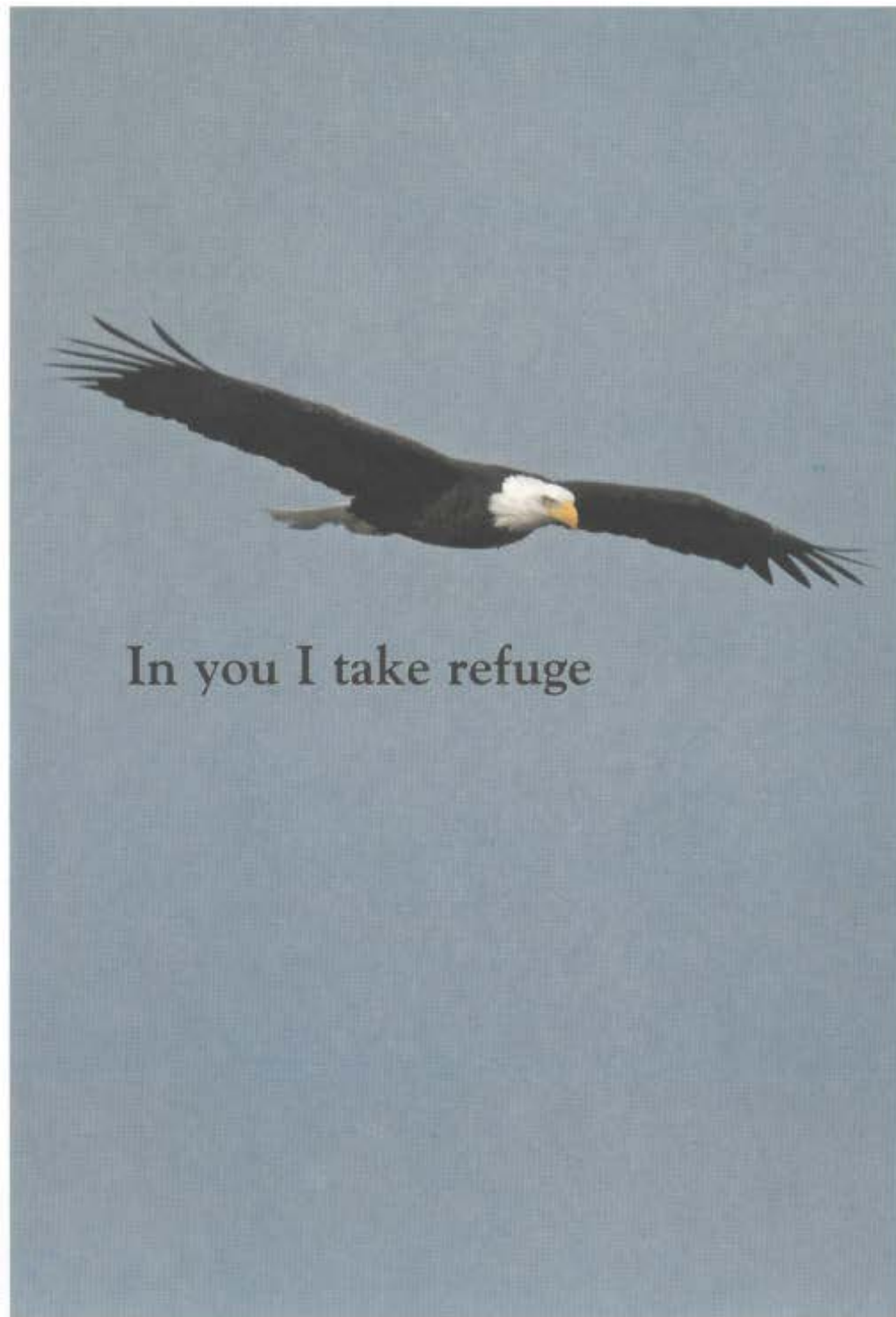
**Text for today:** "Protect me, O God, for *in you I take refuge*. I say to the Lord, 'You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.' . . . I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit" (Psalm 16:1-2, 8-10, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21; Psalm 16; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62.

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# BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship January 1, 2017 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

## GATHERING

**PRELUDE** Noel on the Flutes *Louis-Claude Daquin*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Isaiah 63:7-9

**CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER** Jeff Carr

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.

**\*HYMN # 199** *The first Noel, the angel did say* THE FIRST NOEL

## PROCLAIMING

**SCRIPTURE READING** Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 *NRSV*

**CHILDREN'S TIME** Tony Stovall

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** Carol of the Star (traditional French Carol) *arr. Donald Moore*

**SCRIPTURE READING** Matthew 2:13-23 *NRSV*

**SERMON** "Going with God" Jeff Carr

## RESPONDING

**REFLECTIONS (8:30)** Music for contemplation, followed by conversation.

**\*HYMN INSERT** *He Came Down*

**OFFERING**  
**Invitation**  
**Offertory**

(8:30) We bring our tithes and offerings to the worship center.  
(11:00) Ushers receive our tithes and offerings.

*We Three Kings* *arr. Bob Walters*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**\*HYMN INSERT** *Go! Tell it on the mountain*

**\*BENEDICTION** Numbers 6:24-26

**POSTLUDE** Ductia on: Riu, Riu, Chiu *Dennis Janzer*

\* Rise as able in body and spirit.

## SUNDAY MORNING INFORMATION

### **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.**

*All Are Welcome* brochures, available in the pews and literature rack, list specific Christian Education opportunities and locations.

**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.

## TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

**Hymn Leader (8:30)** – Curtis Nolley

**Worship Leader** – Palmer Lee Berry

**Fellowship Host** – Donnie Fulk

**Head Usher (11:00)** – Kevin Keplinger

**Sound/Light (11:00)** – Ellsworth Neff

**Decorators** – Lori Lineweaver & Dwynn Stovall

**Deacon Caregiver** – Lori Lineweaver

**Van Drivers** – David Lineweaver / Rick Fawley

## MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

January 1-7, 2017 (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.

|               |      |  |                 |
|---------------|------|--|-----------------|
| <b>Mon.</b>   |      | Church Offices Closed – New Year’s Holiday           |                 |
| <b>Tues.</b>  | 7:00 | Food Pantry  | Social Hall     |
| <b>Wed.</b>   | 6:00 | Board of Administration                              | Seekers Room    |
|               | 7:00 | Christian Education Commission                       | Library         |
|               | 7:00 | Fellowship & Recreation Commission                   | Youth Room      |
|               | 7:00 | Ministerial Services Commission                      | Altruistic Room |
|               | 7:00 | Mission & Service Commission                         | Lounge          |
|               | 7:00 | Properties Commission                                | Open Door Room  |
|               | 7:00 | Witness & Renewal Commission                         | Gap Room        |
|               | 7:00 | Worship & Music Commission                           | Seekers Room    |
| <b>Thurs.</b> | Noon | Interfaith Association                               | Islamic Center  |
|               | 7:30 | Sanctus Choir Rehearsal                              | Choir Room      |
| <b>Fri.</b>   | 6:30 | Brethren Student Movement – Social Hall / Youth Room |                 |

### NEXT SUNDAY– January 8, 2017 – First Sunday after the Epiphany

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

Pastor Chris Zepp, preaching

Sermon: “A New M.O.”

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9; Matthew 3:13-17

**Bell Choir Rehearsal** – 9:30 a.m. – Choir Room

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

### **ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 12/25/16**

Worship attendance and stewardship for last Sunday, December 25, will be included in the January 8<sup>th</sup> bulletin.

**2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available to be picked-up in the greeting hall this morning. **2016 YEAR-END GIVING STATEMENTS** will be available for pick-up January 15 and 22.

## 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**

**Jeff Carr** – Senior Pastor

**Chris Zepp** – Associate Pastor

### **ADMINISTRATIVE AND FACILITIES MINISTRY STAFF**

**Fortunato Correa** – Custodian

**Phil Flory** – Treasurer

**Shannon Puffenbarger** – Administrative Assistant

**Leon Rhodes** – Head Teller

**Glenna Wampler** – Business Manager

### **PROGRAM & MUSIC MINISTRY STAFF**

**Kathleen Arndt** – Child Care Center Administrator

**John Barr** – Organist

**Jim Benedict** – Bell Choir Director

**Jeanie Eye** – 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.bwcob.org](http://www.bwcob.org) / (540) 828-3711

Normal office hours are Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-Noon, and 1-5 p.m.

## He came down

1 He came down that we may have love; he  
 2 He came down that we may have peace; he  
 3 He came down that we may have joy; he

came down that we may have love; he came down that we may  
 came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may  
 came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may

have love; hal-le-lu-jah for ev-er-more.  
 have peace; hal-le-lu-jah for ev-er-more.  
 have joy; hal-le-lu-jah for ev-er-more.

*Leader (omit last time)*  
 Why did he come?

## Go Tell it on the Mountain

*Refrain*

Go tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev-'ry-where;  
 go tell it on the moun-tain that Je-sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si-lent flocks by night,  
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a-bove the earth  
 3 Down in a lone-ly man-ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

*Refrain*

be-hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho-ly light.  
 rang out the an-gel cho-rus that hailed our Sav-ior's birth.  
 and God sent us sal-va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.