



**HOPE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**Welcomes You!**



Hope Episcopal Church  
Mt. Hope, Pennsylvania

**December 17, 2023 10:00 AM**

The Rev'd Bradley L. Mattson, Rector

The Rev'd Nancy Leshner, Deacon

## WELCOME TO HOPE CHURCH

We are a community gathered together in the name of Jesus in the Episcopal Church in Central Pennsylvania. Whoever you are and wherever you are on your faith journey, we are so glad you are joining us for worship, community, and fellowship.

Please take a moment to go through the announcements in the bulletin, and familiarize yourself with the many ways there are to connect with us in worship, music, creation care, Bible study, outreach, GriefShare, and regional youth ministry.

We hope that you will find something in our church that speaks to you. Should you have any questions, or like to learn more, let's have a conversation. Please either call the church office at 717-665-6311 or email us at [office@hopeepiscopal.org](mailto:office@hopeepiscopal.org).

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit +Romans 15:13*

## ADVENT

The 1st day of Advent is the first day of a new Liturgical (or church) calendar and begins a four-week period of preparation in anticipation of the nativity of Jesus at Christmas. The Advent Season is all about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in the world. It is a time for faith communities and families to remember the true meaning of Jesus' birth, through prayer, reflections, special music, and good deeds. Advent invites us to step away from what can be a frenzied time of parties and shopping to consider how we commemorate the birth of Jesus. We look forward to the triumphant return of Jesus at the second coming.

Since approximately the 13th century, the usual liturgical color in Western Christianity for Advent has been violet. On the 3rd Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, rose may be used instead, referencing the rose used on Laetare Sunday, the 4th Sunday of Lent. A rose colored candle in Western Christianity is referenced as a sign of joy (Gaudete) lit on the 3rd Sunday of Advent. In some denominations, blue, a color representing hope, is an alternative liturgical color for Advent, a custom traced to the usage of the Church of Sweden (Lutheran) and the medieval Sarum Rite in England. In addition, the color blue is also used in the Mozarabic Rite, which dates from the 8th century. This color is often referred to as "Sarum blue". Worship identify purple or blue as appropriate for Advent.

## CHILDREN

Children are always welcome at Hope Church. Jesus wanted the little children to come to him, and children's voices and presence are an important part of our worship here at Hope Church.

To be added to our mailing list, please fill out a pew card, place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher. You may also fill this out online by using the QR code.



Scan the QR Code below to see more about our Youth Ministries and downloadable Children's Advent Resources.



# Third Sunday of Advent

## HOLY EUCHARIST II

The symbol ♠ indicates when to stand if able.

The symbol ✠ indicates where to make the sign of the cross.

Prelude

Welcome + Good News & Announcements

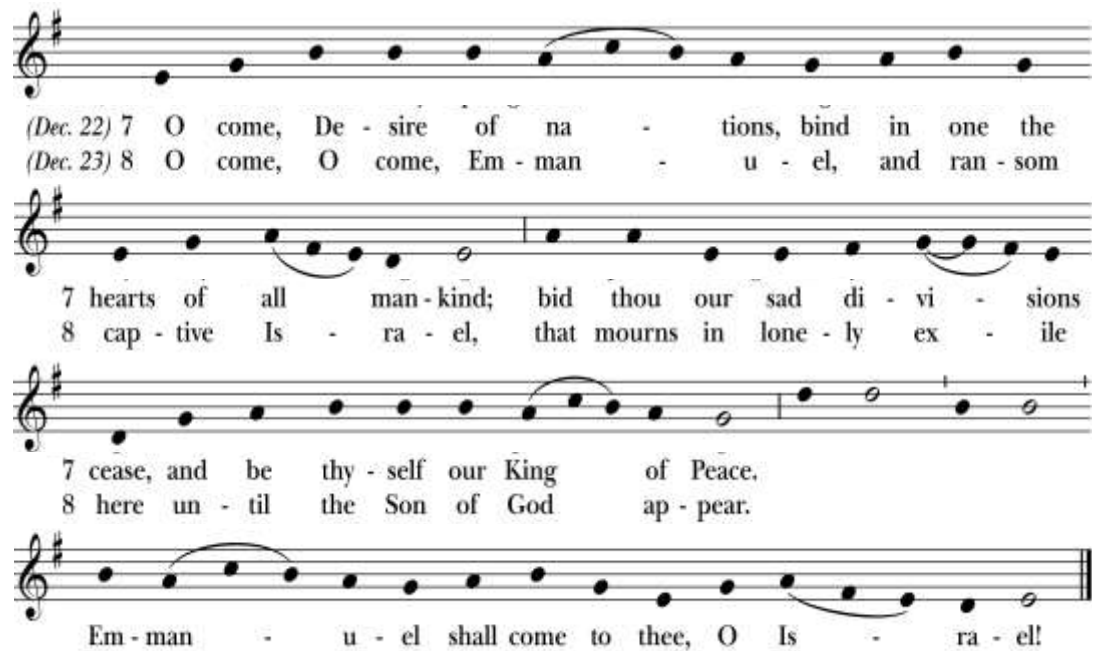
### THE WORD OF GOD

♠ Processional Hymn

#56 - "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

#### Opening Hymn

Christians often begin their services of worship with music. The opening hymn gives us an opportunity to raise our voices in song while worship servers and clergy process into the sanctuary following the cross. It allows us to enter into worship together as a community.



(Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the  
(Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions  
8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace,  
8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

#### Advent Wreath Lighting

Today we light the first two candles of the Advent wreath. The candle of HOPE and the candle of PEACE. Now we light the third candle of Advent (the pink candle). This is the candle of JOY. As the coming of Jesus, our Savior, draws nearer, our joy builds with our anticipation of his birth. From the Book of Isaiah, we read the words of our Lord:

*"But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight." - Isaiah 65:18*

From the New Testament, the words of Paul to the people of the church at Galatia: *"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit." - Galatians 5:22-25*

Let us pray: We joyfully praise you, O Lord, for fulfilling your promise of a Savior and what that means in our lives. Thank you for the gift of salvation through the birth of your Son, Jesus. Create us anew as we wait and help us to see your glory as you fill our lives with your living Spirit. Amen.

#### ✠ The Acclamation

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

#### ✠ The Collect for Purity

*Celebrant* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### ✠ The Gloria - *Traditional tune.*

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen

#### ✠ The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

#### *Celebrant*

**S**tir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

#### ✠ The Collect for Shaped by Faith - *said by all*

God of Wisdom and Love, in whom we find our joy: Help us to listen for your Word and to discern your way forward for our Church. Give us the insight to hold on to what is true, the courage to explore new ideas, and the boldness to create with you. Let us be Shaped by Faith for your mission; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### The Collect for Purity

Christians have prayed this prayer for more than a thousand years. It is a prayer that orients our hearts and minds to God and prepares us for the praise and thanksgiving that is at the heart of our worship. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit we ask to be transformed so that our lives, our love, and all of our worship may reveal the glory of God and our love for the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

#### The Collect of the Day

This prayer gathers together the scriptural themes of the readings and the season. The collect follows a consistent pattern: We address God, naming something about God's nature (i.e., Almighty God); we ask God to work in a particular area of human living; and we acknowledge that we ask all of these things in the name of Jesus.

## The Lessons

The next portion of the liturgy focuses on the readings of Holy Scripture that are appointed for the day. The readings have a thematic unity that ties together the message of the Old and New Testaments.

## The Lessons

*The congregation may be seated for the readings.*

### First Lesson

*Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*

*Reader*      A Reading from the Book of the Isaiah.

**T**he spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.  
For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.  
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

*Lector*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      Thanks be to God.

**Reader:** We will read the Psalm responsively.

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, \*  
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \*  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, \*  
"The LORD has done great things for them."
- 4 The LORD has done great things for us, \*  
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, \*  
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears \*  
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

## The Epistle

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

**Reader** A Reading from first Thessalonians.

**R**ejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

**Reader** The Word of the Lord.

**People** Thanks be to God.

## ♠ Gradual Hymn

#538 - "God of Mercy"

1 God of mer - cy, God of grace, show the bright - ness of thy  
2 Let thy peo - ple praise thee, Lord; be by all that live a -

## The Psalter

The Psalter, or the Book of Psalms, is the great song book of the People of God. In Jewish and Christian worship these hymns or songs are ordinarily sung and many of them form the lyrics of hymns in our hymnals. At each celebration of Holy Eucharist we read one of the Psalms, or a portion of a Psalm, that is selected to reinforce the theme of the lessons for the day.

## The Gospel

We customarily stand and face the Gospel Book as the Gospel of the Lord is read. It is a sign that the Word of the Lord is living and we honor its presence among us.

## ✠ The Gospel

*John 1:6-8, 19-28*

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. ✠✠✠  
*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

**T**here was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## The Sermon

The Rev. Nancy Leshner

### ✠ The Nicene Creed

*To be read in unison.*

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## The Sermon

The purpose of the sermon is to help us understand the meaning of the word of God in Scripture and to make it real in our lives.

### The Nicene Creed

The Nicene Creed has been used by Christians of all traditions for over 1700 years and reminds us of the basics of our faith. The Creed is not a definition of Christianity, but briefly states the essentials of Christian teaching. We say it together to respond to the Word of God in the Scriptures and the sermon. We are saying in effect, "Yes! This is the faith that we believe and live!"



## The Prayers of the People

The prayers of the People follow the form of a litany, with the Leader offering petitions to God and the People responding or affirming the petition. These are the prayers of the entire community where we offer to God our concerns for the Church and the surrounding world. Prayers of the People always follow a particular order: prayers for the Universal Church, its mission and its members, for the Nation and all in authority, for the welfare of the world, for the concerns of the local community, for those who suffer or are in any trouble, for life's blessings, and for the departed.

## The Prayers of the People

*The people kneel or stand as able.*

*The Leader and People pray responsively.*

Mindful of the words of the prophet Isaiah, we gather our thoughts and prayers with hope and humbly call on God to help us in our needs. Holy God, as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of Christ our Savior, we ask that you will answer our prayers and make us a holy people fit to greet him with eager hearts. May our Church leaders be blessed with wisdom and holiness to guide us through this season of Advent, to a holy, peaceful, and joyful Christmas. We raise before you our Church and ask that with eager longing for the return of Christ, our Advent celebrations may help all who join with us to prepare a place in their hearts and homes for you and your son Jesus Christ our Lord. Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

Creator God, help the leaders of nations to seek that justice and peace which come from the Word of God, may there be good news for the poor and the broken hearted; release for those illegally or wrongly imprisoned and an end to the conflicts throughout the world which lead to so much grief and mourning. We pray too for all those who strive to rebuild in places which have been ravaged by war or natural disaster Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Father God, your son Jesus lived an ordinary life in Nazareth, with human parents, brothers, and sisters. He understands the difficulties faced in families. We pray for all of those involved in providing support for troubled families and strengthening our community life. We especially pray for our family members who have not yet heard of the coming of Christ and that this Christmas they may hear and believe the Good News and receive the gift of the Christ Child. Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Merciful God may your blessing be upon all those who are in pain or sickness, those who are anxious or troubled. We know that you are always present with us, even when sometimes you seem far away. Help us to feel your presence when we pass through dark places and sustain us and all who suffer through our pains and sorrows.

We pray especially for those we name out loud or silently in our hearts and those listed on our prayer list. Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Gracious God, may those who have died be granted the peace of your heavenly kingdom. Give rest to the souls of those who have gone from our lives to meet with you and may they now, released from pain or sorrow, find life eternal at rest in your presence. Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Faithful God, as we continue this Advent journey, teach us to turn to you in times of joy and pleasure as well as we do when faced with fear and sorrow. Help us to put our differences behind us and to unite behind the great commission of Jesus to make disciples of all nations and all people. Merciful father: Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

*The Priest says*

Loving God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen*

*The Deacon says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*Silence*

**The Absolution**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

✠ **The Peace**

*Deacon*            The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
*People*            And also with you.

**The Offertory**

*The offering will be taken at this time.*

*Please take this time to make an offering to Hope Church:*

- 1. Online: <https://hopeepiscopal.breezechms.com/give/online> or scan the QR code in the margin of your bulletin*
- 2. Text: "[AMOUNT]" to (717) 999-5991 to make a donation to the General Fund. If it is your first time using text giving, you will receive a link by return text to complete the donation.*
- 3. Offering plate: cash or a check payable to "Hope Episcopal Church". You may designate any ministry in the 'memo' line.*

*Thank you very much for your contribution to advance the mission of Hope Episcopal Church! Your generosity is greatly appreciated!*

**The Peace**

After the Prayers of the People, the Priest extends Christ's peace to the congregation and the congregation shares the peace with one another. The Peace is real and also symbolic. It is real because in the forgiveness of our sins we are restored to Christ's peace. It is also the way we remind ourselves that because we have received the gift of God's forgiveness we can and must be reconciled to one another.



1 Chris - tians, a - wake, sa - lure the hap - py morn  
 2 Then to the watch - ful sleep - herds it was told.  
 3 He spoke, and straight - way the ce - les - tial choir  
 4 In Beth - le - hem the hap - py sleep - herds sought  
 5 Let us, like these good sleep - herds, then em - ploy

1 where - on the Sa - vior of the world was born;  
 2 who heard the an - gel - ic her - ald's voice: "Be - hold,  
 3 in hymns of joy, un - known be - fore, con - spire;  
 4 to see the won - der God for us had wrought,  
 5 our grate - ful voice - es to pro - claim the joy;

1 rise to a - dore the mys - ter - y of love.  
 2 I bring good tid - ings of a Sa - vior's birth  
 3 the prais - es of re - deem - ing love they sang,  
 4 and found, with Jo - seph and the bless - ed maid,  
 5 trace we the Babe, who hath re -rieved our loss,

1 which hosts of an - gels chant - ed from a - bove;  
 2 to you and all the na - tions on the earth;  
 3 and heaven's whole orb with al - le - lu - ias rang;  
 4 her Son, the Sa - vior, in a man - ger laid;  
 5 from his poor man - ger to his bit - ter cross;

1 with them the joy - ful tid - ings first be - gan of  
 2 this day hath God ful - filled his prom - ised word, this  
 3 God's high - est glo - ry was their an - them still, peace  
 4 a - mazed, the won - drous sto - ry they pro - claim, the  
 5 tread - ing his steps, as - sist - ed by his grace, till

1 God In - car - nate and the Vir - gin's Son.  
 2 day is born a Sav - ior, Christ the Lord."  
 3 on the earth, and un - to men good will.  
 4 ear - liest her - alds of the Sa - vior's name.  
 5 our first heaven - ly state a - gain takes place.

6 Then may we hope, the angelic thrones among,  
 to sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song;  
 he that was born upon this joyful day  
 around us all his glory shall display;  
 saved by his love, incessant we shall sing  
 eternal praise to heaven's almighty King.

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### The Doxology

*The congregation stands*

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.

### ✠ The Great Thanksgiving

*Eucharistic Prayer 2*

*The people stand.*

### The Sursum Corda

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*Then, facing the Altar, the Celebrant proceeds*

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

### ✠ Sanctus - Holy, Holy, Holy

*The people kneel or stand.*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. God of power and

### The Holy Communion or Holy Eucharist

Eucharist means “thanksgiving.” This celebration of thanksgiving with its bread and wine is at the heart of the Christian faith. The Eucharist can also be called Holy Communion, the Lord’s Supper, or the Mass. In Holy Eucharist Christians give thanks for the gift of salvation given to us in the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ Jesus and the gift of new life that comes from it.

### Gathering Together for the Meal of Christ

Offertory: At the beginning of the Eucharist we offer gifts to God, which are really just a return of the gifts God has given us—bread and wine for the Lord’s Supper, our financial gifts, and our lives.

Ablutions: The Priest comes to the front of the altar and wash his or her hands. This symbolic washing cleanses the Priest on behalf of all of the People so that we might all come to the holy meal refreshed. It is a reference to Psalm 26:6-12 which starts, “I wash my hands in innocence, O Lord, that I may go in procession around your altar.”

Sursum Corda: Literally, “we lift up our hearts.” Here in the *Sursum Corda* the People affirm that they have turned wholeheartedly to God.

Sanctus: Sanctus means "holy." We sing this hymn that the angels and archangels sing in heaven as a reminder that our worship here is an echo of the heavenly worship of God (Isaiah 6:3, Revelation 4:8).

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry, Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### *Then the Celebrant continues*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." ✠

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." ✠

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN.

### Praise for the Work of God the Father

Preface: The opening prayer of the Eucharist is a prayer of blessing, praising God and giving thanks for his mercy to us. This opening prayer of blessing ends with a section that refers to the death and resurrection of Christ and focuses our prayers for the remainder of the liturgy.

### Praise for the Work of God the Son

The next portion of the prayer of thanksgiving remembers the gift of salvation that came through Jesus Christ. It is followed by the Institution, the words of Jesus that explained the bread and the wine to His disciples at the Last Supper (Matthew 26:26-28).

### Praise for the Work of God the Holy Spirit

This prayer asks that the Holy Spirit be present and bless and sanctify the bread and wine so that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. It also asks for blessings on the People that we might be holy. At the end of the prayers the People say, "Amen" which means, "So be it," or "So it is."

## The Lord's Prayer

The last prayer of the Eucharist is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. The Priest and the People say it together (Matthew 6:9-13).

**Breaking of Bread**  
The Priest breaks the bread so that it might be shared among the People. It is seen as a symbol of the breaking of Christ's body on the cross and an invitation to each of us to enter into the life of Christ.

## The Communion

In 1 Corinthians 10: 16-17, St. Paul says, "The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread". In receiving Communion week after week, Christians are sacramentally united with Christ in His life, death, and resurrection.

## ✠The Lord's Prayer

### *Celebrant*

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to pray,

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

## The Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the people of God.

## Communion

*Communion is received at the altar rail. All are invited to receive communion. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please come forward and cross your arms over your chest.*

*The Prayer of Spiritual Reception of the Sacrament for those joining us at home via Livestream:*

*Lord Jesus Christ, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.*

## Music During Communion

### Post Communion Hymn

### #711 - "Seek Ye First"

1  
2

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God  
2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you,

and its right - eous - ness, and all these things shall be  
seek, and ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be

add - ed un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!  
o - pened un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

*Refrain*  
2

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

Words: St. 1, Matthew 6:33; adapt. Karen Lafferty (20th cent.). St. 2, Matthew 7:7.  
Stanza 2 is not part of the hymn as originally written.  
Music: *Seek Ye First*, Karen Lafferty (20th cent.)

13. 11. 7 with Alleluia

## The Thanksgiving

### *The congregation stands*

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Prayer after Communion

In this prayer of thanksgiving for the gifts of grace we are given in the Communion we ask God to send us out into the world as ambassadors of the good news of the Gospel. It is important to remember that the gifts we have been given during worship are gifts given to us to share with all the world.



# ✦ The Blessing

## The Recessional

## #99 - "Go Tell It On The Mountain"

### The Blessing & Dismissal

In the blessing and dismissal we are reminded that we carry the peace and love we have received from Christ into the world. We are challenged to live out the Gospel in our lives outside the walls of the church so that others may see and be drawn into new life in Christ.

*Refrain*

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and

ev - ery - where; go tell it on the moun - tain, that

Je - sus Christ is born:

1 While shep - herds kept their  
2 The shep - herds feared and  
3 Down in a low - ly

watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -  
trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang  
man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

*Repeat Refrain*

hold, through-out the hea - vens there shone a ho - ly light.  
out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sa - vior's birth.  
God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Words: African-American spiritual 19th cent.; adapt. John W. Work (1901-1967). Music: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935). Arrangement, Copyright © 1984, Horace Clarence Boyer.

✠ The Dismissal

*Celebrant*     Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!  
*People*        Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Three-Fold Amen  
Postlude

*Current 2024 Stewardship Numbers:*

*Estimate of Giving Cards Received: 12*

*Total Amount of Giving Estimated: \$27,130.56*

*Please continue to send in your 2024 Estimate of Giving cards.  
Our goal is to have all of them in by Sunday, December 31st.*

Copyright Information:

*The liturgy in this worship bulletin is taken from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979 according to the use of The Episcopal Church, ©The Church Hymnal Corporation, New York. Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907),*  
***O come, O come, Emmanuel***, #56 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. Hymnal 1940, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).  
***God of mercy, God of grace***, #538 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847), alt. Music: *Lucerna Laudoniae*, David Evans (1874-1948). By permission of Oxford University Press.  
***Christians, awake, salute the happy morn***, #106 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: John Byrom (1692-1763), alt. Music: *Yorkshire*, John Wainwright (1723-1768).  
***Go Tell It on the Mountain***, #99 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: African-American spiritual 19th cent.; adapt. John W. Work (1901-1967). Music: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935). Arrangement, Copyright © 1984, Horace Clarence Boyer.

## Worship Servers

December 17, 2023

This week's Birthdays:

Janelle Weckerly - 12/16

Jennifer Gruber - 12/16

Jeff Gebhard - 12/19

Allie Fiore - 12/23

Thanks to

John Groh for providing  
lunch today!

If you'd like to sign up to  
provide lunch, there is a sign-  
up list on the whiteboard in  
the parish house. The entire  
year is listed on the sign-up  
pages. The last Sunday of the  
month is a Pot Luck, so plan to  
bring your favorite dish!

Ushers - Jim Burchik, Jeff Gebhard

Lectors - LeAnne Burchik (1st & Psalm), Missy Gebhard (2nd)

Prayers of the People - Patty Gokey

Lay Eucharistic Minister - Bob Siims

Altar Guild - Patty Gokey

Acolytes - Ethan Weckerly, Liam Peach

Please remember in your prayers:

Elizabeth Grace & the Mattson Family, John, Marian, Michael, Bob,  
Barbara, Angie, Katie, Jerry, Paul, Braiden, Diane, Nancy, Judith, Lydia, Jeff,  
Lester, Susan, Beth Ann, Mose, Ed, Daphne, Peg, Stephanie, Bertha, Janice,  
Lily, Carol, Steve, Lori, Patrick, the Beal Family, the Solis Family, the  
Leibley Family, Amelia, Jamie, Betsy, Bobby, Rosalie, Chris, Sarah, Sheila,  
Keith, Bob, John, George, Steve and GriefShare;

Those suffering from all illnesses and those who caring for them;

Those impacted by natural disasters and violence;

The People of Ukraine & Israel and all those supporting them;

Those living in nursing homes, group homes, and prisons;

The People of the Diocese of Navajoland and all indigenous peoples;

Those serving in the military;

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. John's Episcopal Church, Lancaster

The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea

*To add people to our Parish Prayer List, including those in the military  
please call the church office so they can be added to our prayer list.*



## *A Jubilee Parish*

A parish of The Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania  
The Most Reverend Michael Bruce Curry, Presiding Bishop, Episcopal  
Church in the United States of America  
The Right Rev. Audrey Cady Scanlan, Bishop of Central Pennsylvania

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### Worship at Hope Church

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist and live-streamed on YouTube.

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### Our Clergy and Staff

The Rev'd Bradley L. Mattson, Rector  
The Rev'd Nancy Leshner, Deacon  
Katie Brown, Parish Administrator  
Gail Edgell, Principal Organist  
Bob Sims, Verger  
Gwen Norton, Sexton

[bmattson@hopeepiscopal.org](mailto:bmattson@hopeepiscopal.org)  
[nlesher@hopeepiscopal.org](mailto:nlesher@hopeepiscopal.org)  
[office@hopeepiscopal.org](mailto:office@hopeepiscopal.org)

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### Our Vestry & Parish Officers

Jo Steffy, *Sr. Warden*; Jae Dupler, *Jr. Warden*; Gail Edgell, *Secretary*; Deb Dupler, *Treasurer*;  
Stephanie Hynick, Steve Palmer, Steve Norton  
Mary Sims, *Assistant Treasurer*; Bob Sims, *Delegate to Convention*

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### Supporting Volunteer Staff

Lynette Brown, *Altar Guild*; Nancy Wesley, *Card Ministry*; Bob Sims, *Cemetery*; Jo Steffy, *Facebook*;  
Steve Palmer, *Finance Committee*; LeAnne Burchik, *Outreach Committee*; Jae Dupler, *Property Committee*  
Rob Gokey, *Creation Care Committee*; Gail Edgell, *Garden of Hope*

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### Visit Us Online and In Person

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

[office@hopeepiscopal.org](mailto:office@hopeepiscopal.org)

[Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#)

Church Office Hours: Tuesday – Thursday, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

In case of a pastoral emergency, contact Rev. Bradley Lodge Mattson  
Mobile: 215-869-4781 Email: [bmattson@hopeepiscopal.org](mailto:bmattson@hopeepiscopal.org)

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