



## HOPE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Welcomes You!



Hope Episcopal Church  
Mt. Hope, Pennsylvania

December 24, 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.



# Fourth Sunday of Advent

## Morning Prayer

*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

Opening Prayer

*(Said together)*

God of all hope and joy, open our hearts in welcome, that your Son, Jesus Christ, at his coming may find in us a dwelling prepared for him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

And the prophet said: for unto us a child is born. That is the message. That is the meaning. A child, a pure unspoiled hope, and embodiment of all this is decent and honest and good, a new beginning, a fresh vision, a blessing and a challenge, is born, made real, comes alive. Not born to the special or the few, not born to the privileged or the powerful, not to the followers of this religion or that politician, but to us. To us, all of us, the us, of every culture and language, of every class and condition. For unto us a child is born. Unto the deserving and the undeserving, the broken and the lonely, the tired and the frightened, unto the whole tribe of the human beings, the child is born, the hope is given, the healing is offered. Let us believe what the prophet said, and by our believing set one another free.

Confession of Sin

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship Him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by His infinite goodness and mercy.

*The people kneel or stand.*

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.

*The Deacon says*

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

*The people stand.*

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

*People* And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

*Officiant and People*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

*People*

Our King and Savior now draws near: Come, let us adore him.

## Canticle 15

The Song of Mary *Magnificat*

*Luke 1:46-55*

*Reader: We will read the canticle together.*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him \*

in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, \*

he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*

and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, \*

and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*

for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, \*

to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

## The Lessons

*The congregation may be seated for the readings.*

### First Lesson

*2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16*

*Reader* A Reading from second Samuel.

**W**hen the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

### The First Song of Isaiah

*Ecce, Deus*

*Isaiah 12:2-6*

*Reader:* We will read the song together.

Surely, it is God who saves me; \*  
I will trust in him and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \*  
and he will be my Savior.  
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \*  
from the springs of salvation.  
And on that day you shall say, \*  
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;  
Make his deeds known among the peoples; \*  
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.  
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \*

and this is known in all the world.  
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \*  
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

### The Epistle

*Romans 16:25-27*

*Reader* A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

### The Third Song of Isaiah

*Surge, illuminare*

*Isaiah 60:1-3,11a, 14c, 18-19-6*

*Reader:* We will read the song together.

Arise, shine, for your light has come, \*  
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.  
For behold, darkness covers the land; \*  
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.  
But over you the Lord will rise, \*  
and his glory will appear upon you.  
Nations will stream to your light, \*  
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.  
Your gates will always be open; \*  
by day or night they will never be shut.  
They will call you, The City of the Lord, \*  
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.  
Violence will no more be heard in your land, \*  
ruin or destruction within your borders.  
You will call your walls, Salvation, \*  
and all your portals, Praise.  
The sun will no more be your light by day; \*  
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.  
The Lord will be your everlasting light, \*  
and your God will be your glory.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. ✠✠✠

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

**I**n the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

*People* Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, \*  
 praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
 In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, \*  
 praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

### A Song of Praise

*Benedictus es, Domine*

*Song of the Three Young Men, 29-34*

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; \*  
 you are worthy of praise; glory to you.  
 Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; \*  
 we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.  
 Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; \*  
 on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.  
 Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; \*  
 we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.  
 Glory to you, beholding the depths; \*  
 in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.  
 Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; \*  
 we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

## 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 Sermon

The Rev. Nancy Leshner

## ✠ The Apostles Creed

*To be read in unison.*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth;  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## ✠ The Lord's Prayer

*The people kneel or stand.*

*Officiant*      The Lord be with you.

*People*          And also with you.

*Officiant*      Let us 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.

*Leader* Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
*People* And grant us your salvation.  
*Leader* Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
*People* Let your people sing with joy.  
*Leader* Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
*People* For only in you can we live in safety.  
*Leader* Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
*People* And guide us in the way of justice and truth.  
*Leader* Let your way be known upon earth;  
*People* Your saving health among all nations.  
*Leader* Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
*People* Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.  
*Leader* Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
*People* And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

#### ✠ The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant*

**P**urify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

#### ✠ The Collect for Christmas

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## The General Thanksgiving

*(Said together)*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

### A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

### ✠ The Dismissal

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen. - *Romans 15:13*

*Worship Servers*  
December 24, 2023

Ushers - Jim Burchik, Jeff Gebhard

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

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: Christ Episcopal Church, Williamsport

The Episcopal Church in the Phillippines

*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.*

### The Offertory

*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, a link will be sent 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!*



## *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*  
Terry Heisey, *Adjunct 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*; tbd, *Jr. Warden*; Gail Edgell, *Secretary*; tbd, *Treasurer*;  
Jeremy Brown, Tom Brown, Gail Edgell, Rob Gokey, Steve Palmer, Steve Norton  
Mary Sims, *Assistant Treasurer*; Jo Steffy, *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*; tbd, *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)

2425 Mountain Road    Manheim, PA 17545    717-665-6311