



## HOPE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Welcomes You!



December 24, 2023 5:30 PM

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*

## THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas or Christmastide is a season of the liturgical year in most Christian churches. For the Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican, and Methodist Churches, Christmastide begins on the 24th of December at sunset or Vespers, which is liturgically the beginning of Christmas Day. Most of December 24th is thus not part of Christmastide, but of Advent, the season in the Church Year that precedes Christmastide. In many liturgical calendars Christmastide is followed by the closely related season of Epiphany that commences at sunset on January 5th, a date known as "Twelfth Night".

The celebration of Christ's coming among us at Christmas (known as the 'Incarnation') is one of the two poles of the Christian year, along with the story of Christ's death and resurrection. Christmas is much more than the celebration of Jesus's birth: it reminds us of the central truth that 'the Word became flesh and dwelt among us' (John 1.14), fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah (7.14) that 'a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son.' One of the challenges for Christians is to continue the celebration of Christmas long after the rest of the world turns its attention elsewhere. Historically, Christmas would have extended at least until the Epiphany (i.e. twelve days).

## 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.



# Christmas Eve

## Children's Service and Pageant

Candle Lighting Procession

*"Christmastime" - Michael W. Smith*

Collect for the Nativity of our Lord

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.

Opening Declaration

*Luke 2:10-11*

Opening Hymn

#100 - "Joy to the World"

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.

Opening Prayers

# Christmas Around the World & Dressing of the Creche

*The story of the birth of Jesus.*

Bethlehem of Judea

*read by J.D. Hynick*

Christmas in Australia

*John 1: 1-9*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being<sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

There 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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

Special Music

*“Welcome to Our World” - Chris Rice*

Christmas in Canada

*Luke 1: 26-33*

In 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 for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'

Special Music

*“Messiah” - Francesca Batistelli*

*Animals and straw are placed in the stable.*

## Christmas in Mexico

### *Luke 2: 1-7*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Special Music

*“When Love was Born” - Mark Shultz*

*Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus are placed in the stable.*

## Christmas in Alaska

### *Luke 2: 8-20*

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

Special Music

*“Hark the Herald Angles Sing”*

*Max Brown - Saxophone*

*Shepherds and sheep are placed in the stable.*

## Christmas in Ireland

## The Visit of the Shepherds

*Luke 2: 8-20*

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Hymn

"Away In a Manger"

*Away in a manger no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

## Christmas in the Philippines

While Candles Burn

*read by J.D. Hynick*

*Congregation lights candles for closing prayers and hymn*

Closing Prayers

Closing Hymn

"Silent Night"

*Silent night, holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin mother and child,  
Holy infant so tender and mild;  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.*

✠ The Dismissal

*Officiant*     Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

*People*        Thanks be to God.

*We'd like to thank Missy Gebhard, the acolytes and their parents for assisting in this service.*

# Worship Servers

## December 24, 2023

Music - Gail Edgell

Readers & Support - Missy Gebhard, Kathleen Peach, Steph Hynick

Acolytes - Ethan Weckerly, J.D. Hynick, Liam Peach, Max, Keegan & Eli Brown

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: All Saints Episcopal Church, Selinsgrove

The Anglican Church of Rwanda

*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.*

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), Joy to the world! the Lord is come, #100 from The Hymnal 1982 — Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: Antioch, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).*

## 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!*



## *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)

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