



HOPE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Welcomes You!



December 24, 2023 7:30 PM

The Rev'd Bradley L. Mattson, Rector

The Rev'd Nancy Leshar, 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.

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

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

Advent Wreath Lighting

Today we light all four Advent candles. First, the candles of HOPE, PEACE, and JOY, and now the candle of LOVE. Jesus demonstrated self-giving love in his ministry as the Good Shepherd. Advent is a time for kindness, thinking of others and sharing. It is a time to love as God loved us by giving us his most precious gift. As God is love, let us also be love.

In the book of Deuteronomy, we find these words:

“For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.” - Deuteronomy 10:17-19a

From the Gospel of John, we hear: *“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” - John 13:34-35*

Let us pray:

Teach us to love, O Lord. May we always remember to put you first as we follow Christ's footsteps so that we may know your love and show it in our lives. As we prepare for our celebration of Jesus' birth, also fill our hearts with love for the world, that all may know your love and the one whom you have sent, your son, our Savior. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

♠ Processional Hymn

#83 - "O Come All Ye Faithful"

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 God from — God, — Light from Light e - ter - nal, —
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, —
*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle, —
*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger, —

1 come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
2 lo! he ab - hors — not the Vir - gin's womb;
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
4 leav - ing their flocks, — draw — nigh to gaze;
5 we would em - brace — thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son — of the Fa - ther;
3 glo - ry to God, — glo - ry in the high - est;
4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him. Christ the Lord.

b Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given:
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

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.

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 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

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.

The Lessons

The congregation may be seated for the readings.

First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness -
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Psalter *A Song of Praise*

Psalm 96

Reader: We will read the Psalm together.

- 1 O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have gotten him victory.
- 2 The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
- 3 He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 4 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
- 5 Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
- 6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.
- 7 Let the sea roar and all that fills it,
the world and those who live in it.
- 8 Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
- 9 at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

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.

Reader A Reading from the book of Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

♠ Gradual Hymn

#84 - "Love Came Down at Christmas"

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The first system contains three lines of lyrics, and the second system contains three lines of lyrics. The music is written in a simple, accessible style with clear note heads and stems.

1 Love came down at Christ-mas, love all love - ly, love di-vine;
 2 Wor-ship we the God-head, love in-car-nate, love di-vine;
 3 Love shall be our to-ken; love be yours and love be mine,

love was born at Christ-mas; star and an-gels gave the sign,
 wor-ship we our Je-sus, but where-with for sa-cred sign?
 love to God and neigh-bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

✠ The Gospel

Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor 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 for them in the inn.

In that 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!"

[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. But 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, as it had been told them.]

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Bradley Mattson

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 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 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 Prayers of the People

The people may, stand, sit, or kneel as is their comfort.

The Leader and People pray responsively.

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. We pray especially for
those we name out loud or silently in our hearts.

Silence

Amen.

The Priest says

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we, your
servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his
coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ our only Mediator and
Advocate. *Amen.*

The Deacon says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

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.

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.

Offertory Music

#89-“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that
 2 Still through the clov - en skies they come with
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the
 4 For lo! the days are haste - ning on, by

glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing
 peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heaven - ly
 world has suf - fered long, be - neath the heaven - ly
 pro - phets seen of old, when with the ev - er -

near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:
 hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;
 cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from
 a - bore its sad and low - ly plains they
 and war - ring bu - man - kind hears not the
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its

heaven's all - gra - cious King.” The world in sol - emn
 bend on hov - ering wing, and ev - er o'er its
 tid - ings which they bring; O hush the noise and
 an - cient splen - dors fling, and all the world give

still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 Ba - bel - sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 cease your strife and hear the an - gels sing!
 back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Words: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876), alt. Music: *Carol*, Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900).

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.

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 may, stand, sit, or kneel as is their comfort.

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary, his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

✦ Sanctus - Holy, Holy, Holy

The people kneel or stand.

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

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

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

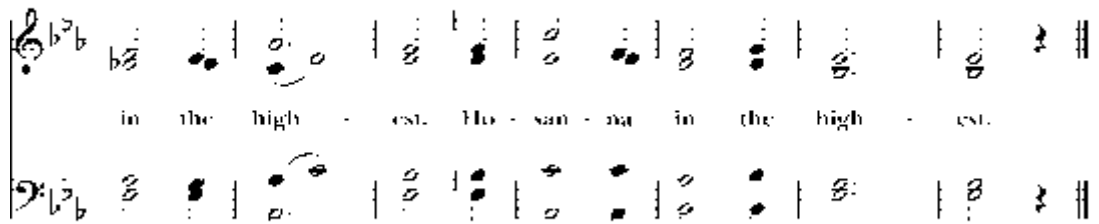
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - nu 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

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).



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."

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." ✠

As supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." ✠

Therefore, according to his command, O Father

Celebrant and people

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *Amen.*

✦ 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

Candle Lighting

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.

Post Communion Hymn

#111 - "Silent Night"

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
 hea - ven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

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 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.

♣ The Blessing

The Recessional

#96 - "Angels We Have Heard On High"

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove:

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright-ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King,
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain
Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958).

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.

✠ The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Three-Fold Amen

Postlude

Worship Servers
December 24, 2023

Ushers - Steve Norton, Jeremy Brown

Lectors - Lucy Longo (1st), Stephanie Seaman (Psalm), ??? (2nd)

Prayers of the People - Patty Gokey

Lay Eucharistic Minister - Bob Sims

Altar Guild - Bob Sims

Acolytes - Max Brown, Keegan 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: Christ Episcopal Church, Williamsport

The Episcopal Church in the Philippines

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),

O come, all ye faithful, #83 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others. Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

Love came down at Christmas, #84 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894), alt. Music: *Gartan*, melody from *Petrie Collection of Irish Melodies, Part II*, 1902; harm. David Evans (1874-1948). By permission of Oxford University Press.

It came upon the midnight clear, #89 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876), alt. Music: *Carol*, Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900).

Silent night, holy night, #111 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885). Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910).

Angels we have heard on high, #96 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958).

This week's Birthdays:

Jimmy Harrington - 12/28

Thanks to

Janelle Weckerly for providing the meal between services this evening!

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!



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

Worship at Hope Church

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

Our Clergy and Staff

The Rev'd Bradley L. Mattson, Rector

bmattson@hopeepiscopal.org

The Rev'd Nancy Leshner, Deacon

nlesher@hopeepiscopal.org

Katie Brown, Parish Administrator

office@hopeepiscopal.org

Gail Edgell, Principal Organist

Terry Heisey, Adjunct Organist

Bob Sims, Verger

Gwen Norton, Sexton

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

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

Visit Us Online and In Person

www.hopeepiscopal.org

office@hopeepiscopal.org

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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

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