



HOPE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Welcomes You!



December 22, 2024 10:00 AM

The Rev'd Bradley L. Mattson, Rector

The Rev'd Nancy Lesher, 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

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 here for The Big Way of Love children's resources for following Jesus



First Sunday of Christmas

Lessons and Carols

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

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

Silent Procession

Advent Wreath Lighting

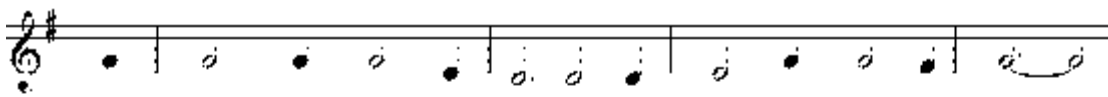
Reader: This Advent season we have lit the candle of Hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ, the candle of Peace, remembering God's dream of a peaceful world, and the candle of Joy, remembering the Spirit within us who brings joy. (*Light Candles*).

Today we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of Love.

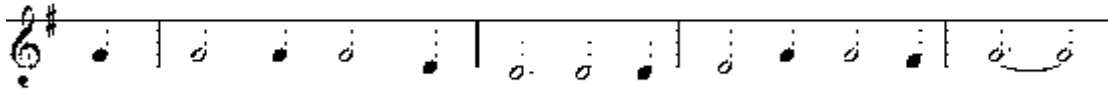
People: **Scripture tells us "There is no fear in love, for perfect love casts out fear." God created this world in love and this world will end in the love of God. God's love pervades all aspects of this life. From birth to death, pain to delight, strangers to lovers, God's love is there.**

We light this candle in Love. (*Light Candle*)

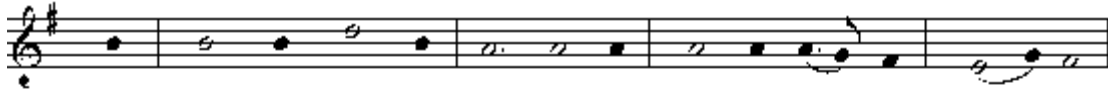
Reader: On this day, we remember God is Love.



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love,
 His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.

Officiant The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. *Isaiah 40:5*

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 forever.

The Introduction

Officiant 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 Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The people kneel or stand as able.

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.

Officiant 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 Song of Mary Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

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.

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.

The Lessons

The congregation may be seated for the readings.

First Lesson: John's Prologue

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 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Thanks be to God!

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
 3 I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ.

1 want to fol-low Je-sus.
 1 want to look at Je-sus.
 I want to be with Je-sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The
 Clear sun of right-eous-ness, shine on my path. and
 When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

star of my life is Je-sus.
 show me the way to the Fa-ther.
 shall know the joy of Je-sus.

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The

night and the day are both a-like. The

Lamb is the light of the ci-ty of God.

Shine in my heart. Lord Je-sus.

Second Lesson: John the Baptist

I am 'the voice of one shouting in the desert: Get the road ready for the Lord; make a straight path for him to travel! Every valley must be filled up, every hill and mountain leveled off. The winding roads must be made straight, and the rough paths made smooth. All mankind will see Gods salvation!"

"I baptize you with water, but someone is coming who is much greater than I am. I am not good enough even to untie his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Thanks be to God!

Hymn

#76 - "On Jordan's Bank The Baptist's Cry"
Verses 1, 2 & 5

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is night; a - wake and heark - en,
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Put Cattle and sheep in Creche

Third Lesson: Jesus is Born

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.

Thanks be to God!

Put Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus in Creche

Special Music

“O Holy Night”

Solo by Stephanie Seaman

Fourth Lesson: The Shepherds

Put Shepherds in Creche

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 who 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.

Thanks be to God!

Special Music

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

Max Brown & Gail Edgell

Fifth Lesson: The Wise Men

Put Wise Men in Creche

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea: for so it has been written by the prophet: Then Herod secretly called for the wisemen and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then, he sent them to Bethlehem saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out and there ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at it’s rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Thanks be to God!

Special Music

“Christmas Offering”

Gail Edgell

Sixth Lesson: And Then.....

When the shepherds saw him, they told them what the angel had said about the child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said. Then, the shepherds went back to their fields, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen.

The wisemen returned to their country by another road, since God had warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod.

An angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph and said, “Herod will be looking for the child in order to kill him. So get up, take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you to leave.” So, Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and left during the night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod died.

Thanks be to God!

✦ 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 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.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord. For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

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

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 Lord's Prayer**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant 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.

Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,
santificado sea tu nombre;
venga tu reino;
hágase tu voluntad
en la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.
Perdona nuestras ofensas,
como también nosotros perdonamos
a los que nos ofenden.
No nos dejes caer en la tentación
y líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino,
el poder y la gloria,
ahora y por siempre. Amén.

The Peace

Deacon The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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 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 General Thanksgiving

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

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men.

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

And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to who, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

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

◆ The Blessing

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God

The Recessional

#109 - "The First Nowell"

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star
 3 And by the light of that same star
 4 This star drew nigh to the north - west,
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay:
 2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,
 3 three wise men came from coun - try far,
 4 o'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest,
 5 full re - v - erent - ly up - on their knee,

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
 2 and to the earth it gave great light,
 3 to seek for a king was their in - tent.
 4 and there it did both stop and stay
 5 and of - fered there in his pres - ence

1 on a cold win-ter's night — that was — so deep.
 2 and — so it con - tin - ued both day — and night.
 3 and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 4 right — o - ver the place — where Je - sus lay.
 5 their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

Refrain

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

6 Then let us all with one accord
 sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
 that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
 and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

The Dismissal

Officiant May the God of hope fill us with all peace, joy and love in believing
 through the power of the Holy Spirit.

People Thanks be to God.

Three-Fold Amen

Postlude

Worship Servers

December 22, 2024

Ushers - Jeremy Brown, Jo Steffy

Lectors - Kathleen Peach (1st), Steve Palmer (2nd), Lydia Engle (3rd), Lynette Brown (4th), Jo Steffy (5th), Missy Gebhard (6th)

Prayers of the People - Lynette Brown

Lay Eucharistic Minister - Bob Sims

Altar Guild - Bob Sims

Acolytes - J.D. Hynick, 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 Solis Family, the Leibley Family, Betsy, Bud Dissinger, Emily Garber and family, Nancy, Susie and our Grief Share, Creation Care, Outreach, Property and Yarn Ministries.

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

Those impacted by natural disasters and violence;

The People of Ukraine 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 Church of the Province of Uganda

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.

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I want to walk as a child of the light, #490 from The Hymnal 1982 – Words: Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934). Copyright © 1970, 1975, Celebration, Aliquippa, PA 15001. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: Houston, Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934).

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry, #76 from The Hymnal 1982 – Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: Winchester New, melody from Musicalishes Hand-Buch, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.



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

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Gwen Norton, Sexton	
Bob Sims, Verger	
J.D. Hynick, Jr. Verger	

Our Vestry & Parish Officers

Jo Steffy, Sr. Warden; Jeremy Brown, Jr. Warden; Gail Edgell, Secretary; Gwen Norton, Treasurer;
Jeremy Brown, Tom Brown, Gail Edgell, Steve Norton, Steve Palmer, Brandon Peach
Lucy Longo, Assistant Treasurer; Jo Steffy, Delegate to Convention

Supporting Volunteer Staff

Lynette Brown, *Altar Guild*; Nancy Wesley, *Card Ministry*; Bob Sims, *Cemetery*; Janelle Weckerly, *Special Events*;
Lucy Longo, *Finance Committee*; Kathleen Peach, *Outreach Committee*; Jeremy Brown, *Property Committee*
tbd, *Creation Care Committee*; Gail Edgell, *Garden of Hope*, Stephanie Seaman, *Livestream Coordinator*

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