



HOPE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Welcomes You!



December 6, 2024 6:30 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.

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

SAINT LUCY'S DAY

The tradition of celebration for Saint Lucy's Day, also called the Feast of Saint Lucy, is a Christian feast day observed on the 13th of December. The observance commemorates Lucia of Syracuse, an early-4th-century virgin martyr who according to legend brought food and aid to Christians hiding in the Roman catacombs, wearing a candle lit wreath on her head to light her way and leave her hands free to carry as much food as possible. Her feast day, which coincided with the shortest day of the year prior to calendar reforms, is widely celebrated as a festival of light. The presence of the Santa Lucia service is considerable throughout the Anglican Communion, as well as in all Scandinavian Countries. In fact, Santa Lucia celebrations in Sweden, Norway, Finland and Denmark are nearly as well attended as Christmas Eve services. Her story captured the attention of the Scandinavian people when it was carried there by missionaries, possibly as early as the end of the Viking period. Lucia began to be celebrated in earnest in the very earliest of Christian services. Falling in Advent, it pointed to the arrival of the Light of Christ in the calendar on Christmas Day. Jesus said: "I am the light of the world: those who follow me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life: (John 8:12). May this Lucia celebration prepare us and inspire us to receive Christ and his light into our hearts this coming Christmas.

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



St. Lucy's Day

The symbol † indicates when to stand if able.

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

Prelude

Welcome + Good News & Announcements

THE WORD OF GOD

† Processional

“The Santa Lucia”

*Night comes with heavy steps through our land calling,
sunlight the earth forgets, shadows are falling.
However dark the night rising with candles bright.
Santa Lucia, Santa Lucia.*

*Though long may we be the night, hope she is bringing.
Hear now the maid in white silently winging.
Hushed wonder in the air, lights glowing in her hair.
Santa Lucia, Santa Lucia.*

*The darkness soon shall flee, valleys in shadow.
Sunlight I can foresee over the meadow.
The sun will come again, rise in the sky to reign.
Santa Lucia, Santa Lucia.*

*Let us with one accord, sing praises to our Lord.
Jesus is coming soon, angels are calling.
Let us with soul and might, carry Christ's holy light.
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

Celebrant Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp to put it under a bucket, but on a lamp-stand where it gives light for everyone in the house. And you, like the lamp, must shed light among your fellow men, so that they may see the deed you do, and give glory to your Father in heaven." - Matthew 5:14-16

✠The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant

Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God our redeemer, who gave light to the world that was in darkness by the healing power of the Savior's cross: shed that light on us, we pray, that with your martyr Lucy we may, by the purity of our lives, reflect the light of Christ and, by the merits of his passion, come to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The congregation may be seated for the readings.

The Psalm *A Song of Praise*

Psalm 131

Reader: We will read the Psalm responsively.

1 O Lord, I am not proud; *

I have no haughty looks.

2 I do not occupy myself with great matters, *

or with things that are too hard for me.

3 But I still my soul and make it quiet, like a child upon its mother's breast; *

my soul is quieted within me.

4 O Israel, wait upon the Lord, *

from this time forth for evermore.

The Epistle

Revelation 19:5-8

Reader: A Reading from Revelations.

And from the throne came a voice saying, 'Praise our God, all you his servants,* and all who fear him, small and great.' Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out, 'Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure'— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer and altar lighting

Lord Christ, your saints have been the lights of the world in every generation: Grant that we who follow in their footsteps may be made worthy to enter with them into that heavenly country where you live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Candle Lighting and Arrival of St. Lucy

The Gospel

John 1: 9-14

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.* He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own,* and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,* full of grace and truth.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Homily & Kids' Outreach to the World

The Rev. Bradley Mattson

Family Prayer

✠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 Hymn

“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
 heaven - 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.

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).

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers, creator of the changes of day and night, giving rest to the weary, renewing the strength of those who are spent, bestowing upon us occasions of song in the evening. As you have protected us in the day that is past, so be with us in the coming night; keep us from every sin, every evil, and every fear; for you are our light and salvation, and the strength of our life. To you be glory for endless ages. **Amen.**

✦The Blessing

✦The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

The Recessional

“The Santa Lucia”

*Night comes with heavy steps through our land calling,
sunlight the earth forgets, shadows are falling.
However dark the night rising with candles bright.
Santa Lucia, Santa Lucia.*

*Though long may we be the night, hope she is bringing.
Hear now the maid in white silently winging.
Hushed wonder in the air, lights glowing in her hair.
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*The darkness soon shall flee, valleys in shadow.
Sunlight I can foresee over the meadow.
The sun will come again, rise in the sky to reign.
Santa Lucia, Santa Lucia.*

*Let us with one accord, sing praises to our Lord.
Jesus is coming soon, angels are calling.
Let us with soul and might, carry Christ’s holy light.
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

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!



Please join us in the parish house for cookies, hot drinks, and advent wreath making.

To+gether: Following Jesus in the Way of Love

We're excited to kick off **To+gether** this January! This vibrant community for young people gathers monthly on **Third Thursdays** at the Parish House of Hope Episcopal Church. Each meeting begins with a shared meal—**dinner is provided**—followed by time for connection, worship, and spiritual growth.

To+gether is rooted in the Way of Love, a life centered in Jesus, and is open to all youth seeking a welcoming space to grow in faith, build community, and celebrate the loving presence of Jesus in their lives and the lives of others.

At the heart of **To+gether** is the belief that faith is a journey best shared. Guided by the **Way of Love**, we explore the seven practices of a Jesus-centered life:

- **Turn:** Pause, listen, and follow Jesus.
- **Learn:** Reflect on Scripture, especially Jesus' life and teachings.
- **Pray:** Build a connection with God through intentional prayer.
- **Bless:** Share God's love through acts of kindness and service.
- **Worship:** Celebrate God's presence in joyful community.
- **Rest:** Embrace God's peace and renewal.
- **Go:** Carry the Good News into the world, inviting others to experience it.



To+gether empowers youth to grow as disciples, see Christ in everyone they meet, and share God's love boldly. Whether through moments of prayer, acts of service, or joyful fellowship, we are reminded that we are never alone on this journey - it's good to be to+gether!

**Mark your calendar: Third Thursdays at Hope Episcopal Church.
Dinner is provided, and all are welcome.**

Come as you are and discover what it means to follow Jesus in the Way of Love.

***Our first meeting will be:
Thursday, January 16th, 2025 from 6:00 - 7:30 PM***

Let's walk this journey **To+gether**. Because in Jesus, we are all welcome.