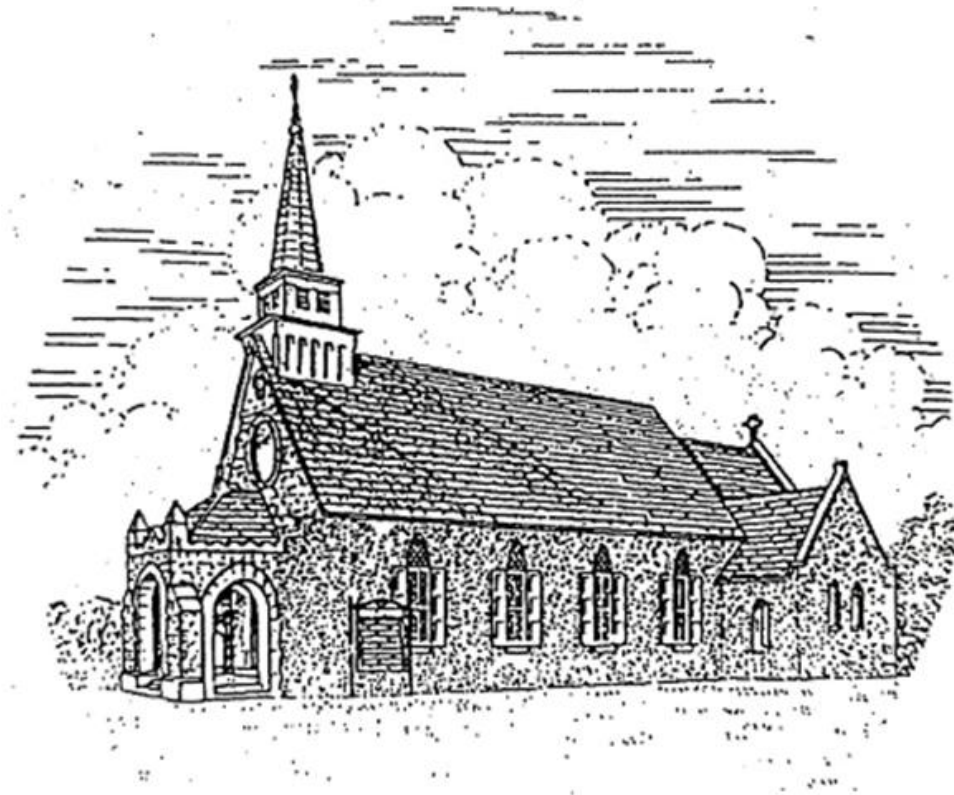




## HOPE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

+ *Hope Always* +



Hope Episcopal Church  
Mt. Hope, Pennsylvania

February 2, 2025 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](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 FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS CHRIST

The Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ or also known as Candlemas is a Christian holiday that takes place on February 2nd. It commemorates the presentation of Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem, 40 days after his birth. It is also known as the Feast of the Purification, or the Feast of the Holy Encounter.

Candlemas Day also was important in the lives of farmers. An old English song went as follows:

“If Candlemas be fair and bright, / Come, Winter, have another flight. / If Candlemas brings clouds and rain, / Go, Winter, and come not again.”

So, if the bright sun “overshadows” the brightness of Candlemas Day, there will be more winter. However, if the light of Candlemas Day radiates through the gloom and darkness of the day, the end of winter is near. In America, it has been decided we should replace the English song of Candlemas Day with Groundhog Day. So, on this day in America people watch for groundhogs.

## 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.



Hope Always 175th  
Anniversary Campaign



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



# Fourth Sunday After The Epiphany

## 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 GATHERING

*Leader:* In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Dear brothers and sisters, forty days have passed since we celebrated the joyful feast of the Nativity of the Lord. Today is the blessed day when Jesus was presented in the Temple by Mary and Joseph. Outwardly he was fulfilling the Law, but in reality he was coming to meet his believing people.

Prompted by the Holy Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the Temple. Enlightened by the same Spirit, they recognized the Lord and confessed him with exultation. So let us also, gathered together by the Holy Spirit, proceed to the house of God to encounter Christ. There we shall find him and recognize him in the breaking of the bread, until he comes again, revealed in glory.

*A prayer of blessing for the altar candles, saying:*

Let us Pray. O God, source and origin of all light, who on this day showed to the just man Simeon the Light for revelation to the Gentiles, we humbly ask that, in answer to your people's prayers, you may be pleased to sanctify with your blessing these candles, which we are eager to light in praise of your name, so that, treading the path of virtue, we may reach that light which never fails. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

#### Opening Sentence:

*Leader* Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (*Ephesians 1:2*)

#### Prayer of Preparation:

*Leader* Loving God, we come to you in humility, seeking your presence.

*People* **We come with our joys and our sorrows, our hopes and our fears.**

*Leader* You know the secrets of our hearts, and you understand our deepest needs.

*People* **Cleanse our thoughts and renew our spirits by your Holy Spirit.**

*Leader* As we gather in your name, make us aware of your presence among us.

*People* **Help us to lay aside all that distracts and burdens us,**

*Leader* that we may worship you in spirit and in truth.

*People* **Guide us in our prayers and in our praises,**

Leader that we may draw closer to you and be transformed by your love.

People Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Hymn

#377 - "All People On Earth Do Dwell"

*Unison or harmony*

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with  
2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our aid he  
3 O en - ter then his gates with praise, ap - proach with joy his  
4 For why? the Lord our God is good, his mer - cy is for  
\*5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, the God whom heaven and

1 cheer - ful voice: him serve with mirth, his praise forth  
2 did us make: we are his folk, he doth us  
3 courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his Name al -  
4 ev - er - sure; his truth at all times firm - ly  
5 earth a - dore, from men and from the an - gel

1 tell, come ye be - fore him and re - - joice.  
2 feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.  
3 ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.  
4 stood, and shall from age to age en - - dure.  
5 host be praise and glo - ry ev - er - - more.

## The Liturgy of the Word

The Psalter *A Song of Praise*

Psalm 84

Reader: We will read the Psalm responsively.

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! \*

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

2 The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \*  
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*  
they will always be praising you.

- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \*  
**whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.**
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs,\*  
**for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.**
- 6 They will climb from height to height, \*  
**and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.**
- 7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; \*  
**hearken, O God of Jacob.**
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; \*  
**and look upon the face of your Anointed.**
- 9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, \*  
**and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God  
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.**
- 10 For the Lord God is both sun and shield; \*  
**he will give grace and glory;**
- 11 No good thing will the Lord withhold \*  
**from those who walk with integrity.**
- 12 O Lord of hosts, \*  
**happy are they who put their trust in you!**

**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.**

### Old Testament Reading

*Malachi 3:1-4*

Reader A Reading from the Book of Malachi.

**T**hus says the Lord, See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### Canticle 32

*The Song of New Creation*

*Refrain: All* **I will make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.**

- 1 'I am the Lord, your Holy One, ♦  
the Creator of Israel, your King.'
- 2 Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, ♦  
a path in the mighty waters,

- 3 'Remember not the former things, ♦  
nor consider the things of old.  
4 'Behold, I am doing a new thing; ♦  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
5 'I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert, ♦  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
6 'The people whom I formed for myself, ♦  
that they might declare my praise.'

*Isaiah 43.15,16,18,19,20c,21*

*All* **Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*All* **I will make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.**

### **New Testament Reading**

Hebrews 2:14-18

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

**S**ince God's children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### **✠The Gospel**

*Luke 2:22-40*

**W**hen the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed- and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**The Sermon**

The Rev Nancy Lesher

### **Affirmation of Faith**

*Leader* Let us declare our faith in God.

*People* **We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God; Father,  
Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*The offering will be taken at this time.*

**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!



## Hymn

#120 - “The Sinless One”



1 The sin - less one to Jor - dan came,  
2 Up - ris - ing from the wat - ers there,  
3 A - bove him see the heaven - ly Dove,  
4 How blest that mis - sion then be - gun  
5 O Christ, may we bap - tized from sin,  
6 On you may all your peo - ple feed,



1 and in the riv - er shared our stain;  
2 the Fa - ther's voice did then de - clare  
3 the sign of God the Fa - ther's love,  
4 to heal and save a race un - done!  
5 go forth with you a world to win:  
6 and know you are the Bread in - deed,



1 God's right - eous - ness he thus ful - filled,  
2 that Christ, the Son of God, had come  
3 now by the Ho - ly Spi - rit shed  
4 Straight to the wil - der - ness he goes  
5 grant us the Ho - ly Spi - rit's power  
6 who gives e - ter - nal life to those



1 and chose the path his Fa - ther willed.  
2 to lead his scat - tered peo - ple home.  
3 up - on the Son's a - noint - ed head.  
4 to wres - tle with his peo - ple's foes.  
5 to shield us in temp - ta - tion's hour.  
6 that with you died, and with you rose.



## The Doxology & Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

*The congregation stands while the ushers bring the offering forward.*

**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. Amen.**

*Leader* All things come of thee of God.  
*People* **And of thine own have we given thee.**

## The Prayers of the People For the Care of Creation and the World

*The people kneel or stand as able. The Leader and People pray responsively*

*Leader:* Behold the light that shines in the darkness, illuminating every path and calling all people to seek the holy. With hearts uplifted, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all in need.

*Intercessor:* O God of the starry heavens, you call your Church to rise and shine with the brilliance of Christ. May we, your people, reflect your glory in word and deed. Empower us to seek justice, embrace mercy, and proclaim your good news. Lord, in your light,  
*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* O Creator of the cosmos, the earth sings of your majesty and creation reveals your wisdom. Teach us to honor the gifts of the earth, to tread gently upon the soil, and to care for all creatures who dwell within it. Lord, in your light,  
*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* O Ruler of all nations, you call the leaders of the earth to seek peace and pursue righteousness. Grant wisdom to those in authority, that they may serve with humility and work for the common good. Lord, in your light,  
*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* O Light for all who wander, guide those who are lost, afraid, or in despair. Be present with those who are suffering in mind, body, or spirit, especially [*names may be offered*]. Bring them the comfort of your healing presence. Lord, in your light,  
*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* O Gathering One, you call us to be a people of welcome and hospitality. Open our hearts to the stranger, our doors to the outcast, and our lives to those in need. May we be signs of your love to all we meet. Lord, in your light,  
*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* O Eternal Dawn, in you, death has no dominion, and the grave is overcome. Shine your light upon those who have died, and comfort those who mourn. May we, with all your saints, rise in the brightness of your eternal presence. Lord, in your light,  
*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* O God of faithful witness, we lift up to you the ministries of Hope Church. Bless all who serve and lead, all who teach and learn, all who give and receive. May our efforts proclaim your glory and reveal your kingdom here on earth. Lord, in your light,

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* Radiant God, you revealed your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. As we journey through this Epiphany season, may your light guide our steps, illuminate our hearts, and transform our lives. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

*(Pause for silent prayer.)*

Grant that we may see your glory breaking through, even in the smallest moments.

*People:* **Shine through us, O Light of the world.**

### ✠The Lord's Prayer

*The people kneel or stand.*

*Officiant* As our Savior taught us, so we 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.

### Blessing and Dismissal

*Leader* May the Lord bless and keep us.

*People* **Amen.**

*Leader* Go in peace, with hearts full of hope, to love and serve the Lord.

*People* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
 2 Praise to the Lord; o - ver all things he glo - rious - ly  
 3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy way and de -  
 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion; O my soul, praise him, for he is thy  
 reign - eth: borne as on ea - gle - wings, safe - ly his  
 fend thee; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall  
 dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with

health and sal - va - tion: join the great throng, psal - ter - y,  
 saints he sus - tain - eth. Hast thou not seen how all thou  
 ev - er at - tend thee; pon - der a - new what the Al -  
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

or - gan, and song, sound - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion.  
 need - est hath been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?  
 might - y can do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.  
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.

Postlude



## *A Jubilee Parish*

A parish of The Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania  
The Most Reverend Sean Rowe, 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	<a href="mailto:bmattson@hopeepiscopal.org">bmattson@hopeepiscopal.org</a>
The Rev'd Nancy Leshner, Deacon	<a href="mailto:nlesher@hopeepiscopal.org">nlesher@hopeepiscopal.org</a>
Katie Brown, Parish Administrator	<a href="mailto:office@hopeepiscopal.org">office@hopeepiscopal.org</a>
Gail Edgell, Principal Organist	<a href="mailto:music@hopeepiscopal.org">music@hopeepiscopal.org</a>
Terry Heisey, Adjunct Organist	
Doug Beach, Adjunct Organist	
Jo Steffy, Sr. Warden	<a href="mailto:srwarden@hopeepiscopal.org">srwarden@hopeepiscopal.org</a>
Jeremy Brown, Jr. Warden	<a href="mailto:jrwarden@hopeepiscopal.org">jrwarden@hopeepiscopal.org</a>
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;  
Tom Brown, Steve Norton, Brandon Peach, Steve Palmer, Janelle Weckerly  
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*  
Micah Roldan, *Digital Communications*; Gail Edgell, *Garden of Hope*, Stephanie Seaman, *Livestream Coordinator*

---

### **Visit Us Online and In Person**

[www.hopeepiscopal.org](http://www.hopeepiscopal.org)                      [office@hopeepiscopal.org](mailto:office@hopeepiscopal.org)

**Facebook | YouTube**

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**