



HOPE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

+ *Hope Always* +



Hope Episcopal Church
Mt. Hope, Pennsylvania

March 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.

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

EPIPHANY

Epiphany is the climax of the Advent/Christmas Season and the Twelve Days of Christmas, which are usually counted from the evening of December 25th until the morning of January 6th, which is the Twelfth Day. This can be an occasion for feasting in some cultures, including the baking of a special King's Cake as part of the festivities of Epiphany.

The colors of Epiphany are usually the colors of Christmas, white and gold - the colors of celebration, newness, and hope that mark the most sacred days of the church year.

As with most aspects of the Christian liturgical calendar, Epiphany has theological significance as a teaching tool in the church. The Wise Men, or Magi, who brought gifts to the child Jesus were the first Gentiles to acknowledge Jesus as "King" and so were the first to "show" or "reveal" Jesus to a wider world as the incarnate Christ. This act of worship by the Magi, which corresponded to Simeon's blessing that this child Jesus would be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" (*Luke 2:32*), was one of the first indications that Jesus came for all people, of all nations and races, and that the work of God in the world would not be limited to only a few.

Around January 6, the symbol +C+M+B+ with two numbers before and two numbers after (for example, 20+C+M+B+25) is sometimes seen written in chalk above the doorway of Christian homes. The letters are the initials of the traditional names of the Three Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. These letters also abbreviate the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The beginning and ending numbers are the year, 2025 in the example above. The crosses represent Christ.

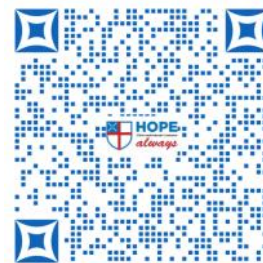
CHILDREN

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:



Last 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

#8 - "Morning Has Broken"

Unison or harmony

1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing,
2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from hea - ven,
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing

black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird. _____
like the first dew - fall on the first grass. _____
born of the one light E - den saw play! _____

Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery morn - ing,

Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word! _____
sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass. _____
God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day! _____

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The Liturgy of the Word

The Psalter *A Song of Praise*

Psalm 99

Reader: We will read the Psalm responsively.

- 1 The Lord is King; let the people tremble; *
he is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.
- 2 The Lord is great in Zion; *
he is high above all peoples.
- 3 Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; *
he is the Holy One.
- 4 "O mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; *
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."
- 5 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God and fall down before his footstool; *
he is the Holy One.
- 6 Moses and Aaron among his priests,
and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, *
they called upon the Lord, and he answered them.
- 7 He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; *
they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.
- 8 O Lord our God, you answered them indeed; *
you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds.
- 9 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God and worship him upon his holy hill; *
for the Lord our God is the Holy One.

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

Exodus 34:29-35

Reader A Reading from the Book of Exodus.

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

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

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

[On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.]

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon

The Rev Nancy Leshar

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.**

Celebrant: Holy and eternal God, you have called us by name and claimed us as your own. Fill us with your light, refine us with your Spirit, and send us forth to proclaim your abundance to a world longing for hope. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns in glory everlasting.

People: **Amen.**

✠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.

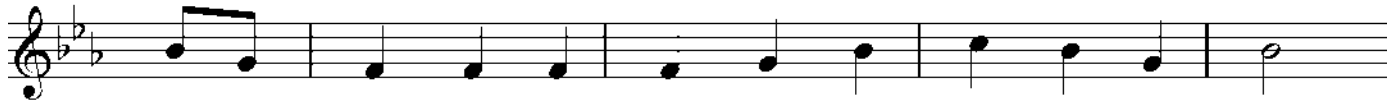
People **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Closing Hymn

#482 - "Lord of All Hopefulness"



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
 2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
 3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
 4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy,
 whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
 your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace,
 whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm,



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our lab - ors, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
 your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
 your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Postlude

Worship Servers March 2, 2025

Ushers - Jim Burchik, Steve Norton
 Lectors - Jo Steffy, Stephanie Seaman
 Prayers of the People - LeAnne Burchik
 Acolytes - Liam Peach, JD Hynick

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The sinless one to Jordan came, #120 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: G. B. Timms (b. 1910), alt. From English Praise. By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: *Solemnis haec festivitas*, melody from *Graduale*, 1685; harm. Arthur Hutchings (b. 1906). By permission of Oxford University Press.

Lord of all hopefulness, **Lord of all joy**, #482 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Jan Struther (1901-1953). By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: *Slane*, Irish ballad melody; adapt. *The Church Hymnary*, 1927; harm. *Hymnal 1982*.



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

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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; 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*
tbd, *Creation Care Committee*; Gail Edgell, *Garden of Hope*, Stephanie Seaman, *Livestream Coordinator*

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