



HOPE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

+ *Hope Always* +



December 28, 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

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 check out more information about the Hope Always 175th Anniversary Campaign



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

♠ Processional Hymn

#109 - "The First Noel"

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,

1 on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.

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

A Bidding Prayer

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Beloved in Christ, in this season of Christmas, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, to see the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by his holy Child; and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise. But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church, for which he died, and especially in this country and within this city.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven in the words which Christ himself has taught us: Our Father, which 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 them that 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, forever and ever. Amen.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Kings bring us all. Amen.

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Stuttgart*, melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge*, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

The Lessons

The congregation may be seated for the readings.

Prophecy of the Redeemer

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

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. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually,

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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 - bove its sad and low - ly plains they
 and war - ring hu - 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



The Annunciator

Luke 1: 26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Special Music

Joseph's Dream

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet; "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
 2 Je - sus came to earth from heav - en, who is God and Head of all,
 3 And through all this won - drous child-hood Je - sus hon - ored and o - beyed,
 4 Je - sus is our child-hood's pat - tern, dai - ly like us lived and grew,
 5 We at last shall meet our Sav - ior, fount of God's re - deem-ing grace,

Where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for a bed:
 Shel - tered in a rus - tic sta - ble, cra - dled in a com - mon stall;
 Loved and watched the ten - der moth - er whose strong arms a cra - dle made.
 Je - sus, lit - tle, weak, and help - less, tears and smiles and com - fort knew.
 For that Child so dear and gen - tle reigns with - in a glo - rious place;

Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 With the poor and meek and low - ly lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 So, like Je - sus, we should be serv - ing God o - be - dient - ly.
 Je - sus felt the pain of sad - ness, and the joy - ous lift of glad - ness.
 Lead - ing all God's chil - dren on to the heaven where saints have gone.

The Inn at Bethlehem and the Birth of Jesus

Luke 2: 1-7

And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And while they were there, the time came for her to deliver, and she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no place for them in the inn.



The musical score is written for two voices, labeled 1 and 2. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a corresponding lyric line. The lyrics are as follows:

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,

1 A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

The Shepherds

Luke 2: 8-20

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry.
 flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far; seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
 hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

Refrain

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth;
 yon - der shines the in - fant Light; come and wor - ship,
 ye have seen his na - tal star;
 in his tem - ple shall ap - pear;

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King,

The Word Made Flesh

John 1:1-18

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. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of

me because he was before me.” ’) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

Lector Here end the readings. The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

The Rev. Bradley Mattson

✠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.

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 Peace

<i>Deacon</i>	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.

Unison or Harmony

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on
 2 Why lies he in, such mean es - tate where
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,

Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
 ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for
 peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds
 guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to
 bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

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.

✠The Blessing & Dismissal

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
 2 From God our heav - en - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came
 3 "Fear not, then," said the an - gel. "Let noth - ing you al - fright;
 4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,

re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,
 and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same;
 this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,
 and with true love and char - i - ty each o - ther now em - brace;

to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.
 how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
 to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might."
 this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.

Refrain
 O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and
 joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

Three-Fold Amen

Postlude

Worship Servers - December 28, 2025

Ushers - Jim Burchik, Tom Brown

Lectors - Lucy Longo, Stephanie Seaman

Prayers - Lydia Engle

Crucifer - J.D. Hynick

Acolyte - Liam Peach

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 Anglican Church of Canada



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

bmattson@hopeepiscopal.org

The Rev'd Nancy Leshner, Deacon

nlesher@hopeepiscopal.org

Katie Brown, Parish Administrator

office@hopeepiscopal.org

Gail Edgell, Organist Emeritus

music@hopeepiscopal.org

Doug Beach, Principal Organist

Terry Heisey, Adjunct Organist

Steve Palmer, Sr. Warden

srwarden@hopeepiscopal.org

Jeremy Brown, Jr. Warden

jrwarden@hopeepiscopal.org

Gwen Norton, Sexton

Bob Sims, Verger

J.D. Hynick, Jr. Verger

Our Vestry & Parish Officers

Steve Palmer, *Sr. Warden*; Jeremy Brown, *Jr. Warden*; Gwen Norton, *Treasurer*;

Denice Weaver, Steve Norton, Tom Brown, Brandon Peach, Janelle Weckerly

Lucy Longo, *Assistant Treasurer*; Micah Roldan, *Delegate to Convention*, Bob Sims, *Alternate*

Supporting Volunteer Staff

Lynette Brown, *Altar Guild*; Gail Edgell & Missy Gebhard, *Card Ministry*; Bob Sims, *Cemetery*; Micah Roldan, *Facebook*;

Lucy Longo, *Finance Committee*; Kathleen Peach, *Outreach Committee*; Jeremy Brown, *Property Committee*

Rebecca Warren, *Creation Care*; Gail Edgell, *Garden of Hope*; Stephanie Seaman, *Live Stream*; Janelle Weckerly, *Special Events*

Visit Us Online and In Person

www.hopeepiscopal.org

office@hopeepiscopal.org

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In case of a pastoral emergency, contact Rev. Bradley Lodge Mattson

Mobile: 215-869-4781 Email: bmattson@hopeepiscopal.org

2425 Mountain Road Manheim, PA 17545 717-665-6311