

## Keep Watch

Several mornings each week my grandson comes to my house to wait for the school bus. At first, we know that we have time to do some fun things together and not be looking for the bus. But then comes the time when we need to keep our eyes fixed out the window. James puts his backpack on, and we get ready to dash out the door when we see the bus rounding the corner. If we're not in place when the bus comes by, it will likely just keep on going. There have been a few times we have been distracted and nearly missed our opportunity for James to jump on board!

In this passage from Matthew, Jesus gives us the wonderful news that someday he will return to set up his forever kingdom. He tells us to keep watch for his coming lest we miss the opportunity to get on board, to enjoy all the things he has prepared for us.

While this does not mean that we do nothing except keep our eyes fixed on the sky, it does mean that we live our lives with the goal of always being ready for Christ's return. One way I have found to keep watch is to be vigilant for how the Spirit of Christ is leading me each day, allowing the Holy Spirit to transport me to the work to which Christ has called me.

As we once again walk through Advent reflecting on the first coming of Jesus, may we be rejuvenated and refreshed for our daily task of keeping watch for his promised second coming. Jesus is Lord and King of a forever kingdom that will never end. So, how are you keeping watch today?

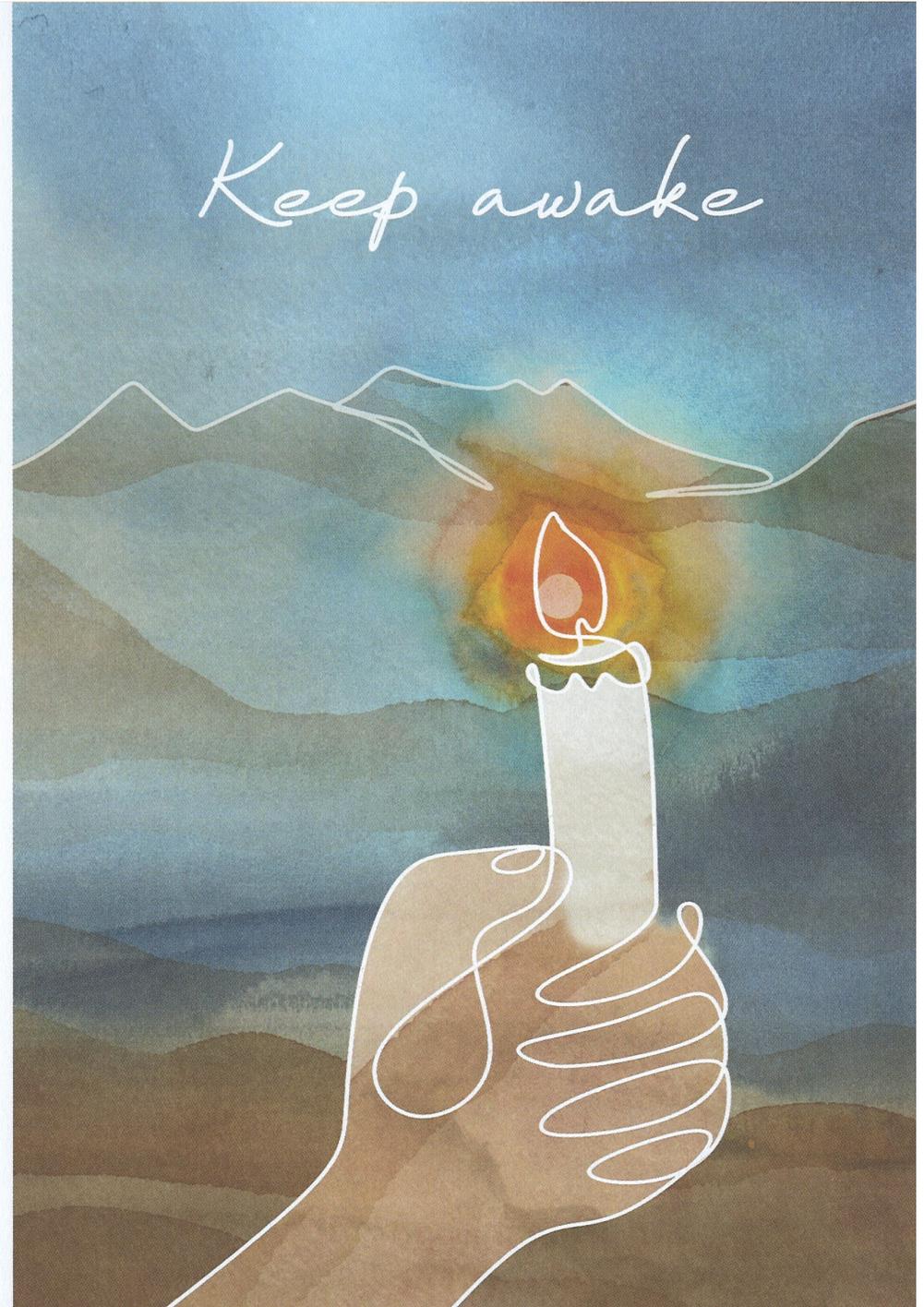
—Donita Keister  
Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania

**Text for today:** " 'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. *Keep awake* therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming' " (Matt. 24:36-42, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44 (42).

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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
Hagerstown, Maryland

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**MORNING WORSHIP**

**10:45AM**

First Sunday of Advent  
November 27, 2022

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying" (Manz)

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Chris Herman, Worship Leader

Leader: Awaken to a season of anticipation. God is offering peace within and among us.

*People: How good it is to gather in God's house! God draws us to gether for this time of worship.*

Leader: God calls us to celebrate our diversity. Differences shall no longer divide us.

*People: We want to see one another through God's eyes. We will look for the good in our neighbors.*

Leader: Seek the highest and best for each other. Come to the mountain of God's love.

*People: We will follow in the paths where God leads. Our ears are open to hear God's instructions.*

**\*HYMN #56** "Awake, arise, O sing a new song"

*Awake, arise, O sing a new song of joy and celebration.  
A new day has come, bring praise to the Son of God.*

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

You have wakened us from sleep and led us to this place, wondrous God. Now let us feel your presence with us as we encounter your Word. Surely you have blessed us. You have drawn us together and bound us firmly to one another. We give you thanks for giving us an identity as relatives and friends through Jesus Christ. In this season we remember your unexpected appearance among us in the birth of a child. You make yourself known to us again and again. May we know you now! Amen.

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

**One:** Today we light the first candle of Advent, the candle of Hope. We put our hope in the one to come, the promised one comes from God to bring good news of salvation. We hope in the one who will lead us to walk in the light of the Lord. We hope he will not let us live in dark valleys, but on the high mountain of God. We light this candle of Hope.

**All:** *On this day, we remember to hopefully look for the coming of Christ.*

**CHORAL RESPONSE** "A Candle Shines" (Hayden)  
Temple Choir

**All:** *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**SERVICE OF GIVING**

**Call to Giving**

God has blessed us with both spiritual and material gifts. As God has been generous with us, let us be generous and joyful givers.

You are invited to give by placing your offering in the offering plate at the front of the chancel during the offertory or after the service. To those worshiping with us virtually, we invite you to place your offering in the offering plate by dropping it off at the church this week, or mailing it to the church or by using Paypal on the Hagerstowncob webpage. Let us all give with thanksgiving and joy.

**Offertory** "A Christmas Mosaic" (Chesterton)

**\*Doxology** "Praise God from whom"

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

God of all creation, we present these monetary gifts, as well as our very selves, to you. It is our prayer that all our gifts would be used to your glory. Amen.

**A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN**

**SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, AND HOPES**

*Please remember our worship is also on Facebook Live and our website.  
Please do not share any personal information you do not want to be made public.  
An usher will hold the microphone for you while you share.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**MORNING ANTHEM**      “A Carol of Hope”      (Lantz/Harlan)  
   “Temple Choir”

**SCRIPTURE READING**      Matthew 24:36-44      NT 27

36 “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 37 For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, 39 and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. 41 Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. 42 Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 43 But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

**MESSAGE**      “Keep Awake”      Pastor Twyla Rowe

**\*HYMN #178**      “Come thou long-expected Jesus”  
   [Verse 1]

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus! born to set thy people free, from our fears and sins  
release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the  
earth thou art, dear desire of ev’ry nation, joy of ev’ry longing heart.*

[Verse 2]

*Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, now  
thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone.  
By thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.*

**\*BENEDICTION CHORAL RESPONSE**

*After the Benediction, you may be seated.  
Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.*

**POSTLUDE**      “Christmas Carol Medley”      (Hughes)

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\*Please rise — in body or spirit — as an act of worship  
Thank you for joining us in worship today.

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*First Sunday of Advent*



Hagerstown  
Church of the Brethren  
15 S. Mulberry Street,  
Hagerstown, Maryland  
21740  
301-733-3565  
Fax: 301-733-3598

Office: Tuesday—Friday  
Flexible hours  
(appointments welcome/  
call ahead)

Morning Praise Worship  
at 8:30 AM  
Sunday School at 9:30 AM  
Worship and Facebook Live  
at 10:45 AM

[www.hagerstowncob.org](http://www.hagerstowncob.org)

[www.facebook.com/  
hagerstowncob](http://www.facebook.com/hagerstowncob)

Twyla Rowe  
Pastor

Allyson McPeak  
Administrative Assistant

Burton Young  
Director of  
Music Ministries

Don Rowe  
Interior Esthetics  
Technician

*We welcome you to our church and  
Rejoice in your participation with us in  
worship. It is our prayer that you will  
experience the presence of God's Spirit and  
that it will equip you for service and minis-  
try in the week ahead. Our Pastor, Deacons,  
and Cluster Leaders are available after  
worship and during the week to listen and  
assist you in your Christian pilgrimage.*

### **THE ANNOUNCER November 27, 2022**

**If you or a loved one** has surgery scheduled, is hospitalized, or would like a visit from the pastor, please notify the church.

**This week please join us in praying for members of our congregation.** Please pray for Ryan, Victoria, Dalton and Ezra Beachley, Mary Ellen Beachley, Mariel Beachley, Justine Beachley, and Ed & Elizabeth Beachley.

**“Take a Moment”** May this be our "Take a Moment Prayer" for the week beginning on Sunday, November 27 - Heavenly Father, once again, the season of advent is upon me. I hear you calling to my spirit...saying, "Awaken my beloved child, and remember once again the gift I sent to the world... the gift of my Son and the salvation he brings." Oh most gracious God, I do want to be awake. Call to me often and help me to escape the traps of commercialism and busyness that can distract me. I want to celebrate. I want the Good News to grab hold of me and renew my spirit with the joy, hope, peace and love that comes only from you. My heart I give to you, O God, as a home for your Son. Amen

**Our thanks** to Chris Herman for being our worship leader and to our Temple Choir for our morning Anthem.

**Pastor Twyla will be on vacation** November 25th through December 3rd (week days). If you are in need of regular pastoral care, please contact your deacon. Glenn Young will be on call for emergencies, you can reach him at 301-331-8010.

**Would you like to put flowers** on the altar

in honor or memory of a loved one or a special event in a loved one's life? The Flower and Altar Committee has an opening on January 15, 2023. If you're interested, please contact Suzie Wolfe at 240-520-2850.

**Attendance.** Please sign the attendance rosters found at the end of your pew, or possibly in the hymnal rack, and pass it down the row so everyone can sign.

**Our Advent Dinner** will be held today at 12:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

**The Sunday School Orchestra** will be performing in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 4th from 9:00 am—9:30 am. Our Morning Praise and Worship will be held in the Sanctuary at 8:30 am and Sunday School classes will begin at 9:45 am.

**Junior Church**—We will not have Junior Church in November due to HCOB's busy schedule. For the month of December, Junior Church will be held on December 4th.

**The Service & Outreach Team** would like to invite you to fill a Christmas Stocking for The Salvation Army. Stockings are available in the west entrance. Last year you filled 44 stockings for disadvantaged children. Pick-up a stocking and decide on the gender and age of the recipient. It's amazing how many goodies we can stuff into the stockings. They need to be returned to the church by Sunday, December 4th.

**Oh, the weather outside is frightful** but if you sign up for the Community Christmas Dinner that would be delightful. Our Community Christmas Dinner will be held on December 10, 2022. Volunteers are needed. Sign-up sheets have been placed in the west entrance.

**Christmas Card Exchange.** Spiritual Nurture will be providing a Christmas Card exchange box this year that will be set up in the Mullendore Room December 1st through December 25th. Please check the box for any cards that are addressed to you and also only place cards in the box for individuals/families that attend regularly.

**Christmas Caroling at Fahrney-Keedy.** HCOB will be caroling at Fahrney-Keedy on December 11th at 2:00 PM. We will meet at the home and then sing in the chapel and then outside to the cottages and apartments.

**Fahrney-Keedy Senior Living** Community is accepting monetary donations as they would like to purchase new pajamas for their residents for Christmas. If you would like to send a donation, please make your check payable to Hagerstown Church of the Brethren and put on the memo line: Pajamas for Fahrney Keedy.

**Psst...Listen...Did you hear me?** I am Woman: Hear me Roar... an exciting opportunity for HCOB women and friends! Friday, February 10, and Saturday, February, 11, 2023! A retreat to nurture the mind, body and soul. Shepherd's Spring Retreat Center, Sharpsburg, Maryland. Be sure to check the bulletin for more details and a registration form later this fall! Hope to see you there!

**Save the Date!** Our service week at REACH Cold Weather Shelter is February 12 -18, 2023. For all those who have volunteered in the past or plan on volunteering in 2023, please add this week to your calendar. Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, please see Sandy Clipp.

**Covid guideline reminders. \*\*We ask that if you know, or suspect, you have been exposed to someone who tested positive for Covid, or if you have a temperature and/or you are feeling unwell, that you remain home and worship with us via Facebook.\*\*** We ask that everyone attending worship please observe social distancing guidelines. You may enter and exit through the West Entrance, and exit only through the Washington Street door. Please do not stop on the outside steps to chat and possibly block those entering and exiting behind you. Also, remember to keep a clear path from the building to the sidewalk ramp as we enter and exit at the west entrance. We need to keep that path clear to make it easier for those who have special needs to access the use of the ramp to their car. Thank you.

**CALENDAR**

**Sunday, November 27**

First Sunday of Advent

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship, Fellowship Hall

9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms

10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live

12:00 pm Advent Dinner

**Monday, November 28**

Pastor Vacation

Church Office Closed

1:00 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

**Tuesday, November 29**

Pastor Vacation

6:30 pm Leadership Team/Room 302

7:00 pm Hag. Choral Arts/Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday, November 30**

Pastor Vacation

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

**Thursday, December 1**

Pastor Vacation

5:30 pm Praise Band rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

6:30 pm Brethren Bells

7:30 pm Temple Choir Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall

**Friday, December 2**

Pastor Vacation

8:00 am Bulletin preparation time, Church Office

6:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting/Fellowship Hall

**Saturday, December 3**

Pastor Vacation

1:00 pm Christian Lifestyles Dinner/Mullendore Room

**Sunday, December 4**

Food Pantry Sunday

Junior Church

Second Sunday in Advent

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Sanctuary

9:00 am SS Orchestra/ Fellowship Hall

9:45 am Sunday School, individual classrooms

10:15 am Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screening

10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live

You may mail your offering to  
15 S. Mulberry Street,  
Hagerstown MD 21740  
OR  
you can make a secure offering  
donation on our website using  
PayPal [www.hagerstowncob.org](http://www.hagerstowncob.org)

The church calendar is online at  
[www.hagerstowncob.org](http://www.hagerstowncob.org).  
Click the calendar tab.

Statistics	
8:30 AM attendance	.....20
Sunday School.....	45



***It's Time to Place Your Poinsettia Order***

You are invited again this year to purchase a poinsettia to be placed in the church on Christmas Eve.

Poinsettias are **\$9.00 each** and may be purchased as a memorial, tribute, or as a thank you. Please return this completed form and your check made out to Hagerstown Church of the Brethren no later than November 27, 2022. Your order may be placed in the offering or mailed to the Church Office: Hagerstown Church of the Brethren, 15 S. Mulberry St. Hagerstown MD 21740.

**DEADLINE TO PLACE YOUR ORDER IS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2022**

**Payment must accompany this form.**

**If you order a poinsettia, please make sure either you or the person you gave it to removes it from the church at the proper time. Thank you!**

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants (6 inch)

- ( ) Red
- ( ) White
- ( ) Marble (white edge and pink center)
- ( ) Glitter (splattered look with pink and white)

Total plants: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount attached at \$9.00 each: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.  
USE ADDITIONAL FREE SLIPS IF NECESSARY.**

\_\_\_ **IN MEMORY OF:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ **IN TRIBUTE TO:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ **IN THANKS TO:** \_\_\_\_\_

