

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
Hagerstown, Maryland

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**MORNING WORSHIP** **10:45AM**

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**December 3, 2023**  
**The First Sunday of Advent**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Julie Herman, Worship Leader

**PRELUDE** "Coventry Carol"  
Brethren Bells

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE** Arnold and Ann Platou  
"Love's Pure Light" - Temple Choir

**Responsive Litany:**

One: In this season of Advent, we long for God's presence.  
*All: Christ is our light and the source of our hope.*  
One: In this season of Advent, we search for God's truth.  
*All: Christ is our light and the source of our hope.*  
One: In this season of Advent, we seek God's guidance.  
*All: Christ is our light and the source of our hope.*  
One: In this season of Advent, we remember God's promise.  
*All: Christ is our light and the source of our hope.*  
One: This morning we light the first candle, the candle of hope.  
This candle reminds us that God's promises give us reasons  
to be filled with hope – hope for unity in a world of division,  
hope for healing in a world of pain, and hope for peace in a  
world filled with anger and strife. We remember that Christ  
is our light and the source of our hope.

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

God of love and mercy, we thank you for your loving presence in our lives. You have formed us in your image and you continue to transform us as we grow in faith. Break through the darkness in our lives and let the light of your love flood in, that we may become more productive disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**PRAISE TEAM** "Here I Am to Worship"

**SERVICE OF GIVING**

**CALL TO GIVE:**

Lord, as you have shined the light of your love into our lives; may the same brightness of your love be revealed as we receive this morning's offering.

We joyfully give as one body, both gathered in his house of worship and gathered through virtual technology. We give by placing our offerings in the plate, mailing to or dropping off at the church, or using Paypal. Together, as we give, we declare our dedication to Jesus and our obedience to serve him.

**Offertory** "O Gentle Jesus, Be Our Light" (Shea)  
**\*Doxology** "Praise God from whom"

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Bless these gifts, O Lord, and help them to bring the transforming love you have given us into ministries of hope and peace in this our dark world. Amen.

**HYMN #182** "Oh how shall I receive thee"

[Verse 1]

*Oh, how shall I receive thee, how meet thee on thy way,  
bless'd hope of ev'ry nation, my soul's delight and stay?*

*O Jesus, Jesus, give me now by thine own pure light  
to know whate'er is pleasing and welcome in thy sight.*

[Verse 2]

*Love caused thine incarnation; Love brought thee down to me.*

*Thy thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.*

*Oh, love beyond all telling, that led thee to embrace,  
in love, all love excelling, our lost and troubled race.*

[Verse 3]

*Thou comest, Lord, with gladness, in mercy and good will,*

*to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.*

*We welcome thee, our Savior; come gather us to thee,  
that in thy light eternal our joyous home may be*

**A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN**

**PRAISE BAND** "Shine Jesus Shine"

*First Sunday of Advent*



Hagerstown  
Church of the Brethren  
15 S. Mulberry Street,  
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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 ministry  
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      December 3, 2023**

**If you placed someone** on the prayer list and they are now celebrating a recovery and would like their name taken off the list, please contact the church office.

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

**"Take a Moment"** Let this be our "Take a Moment" prayer for the week beginning Sunday, December 3 - Shine your light, Jesus...into my life as I begin the journey to the manger again this Advent season. Shine brightly, pushing away the darkness that could threaten to hide you from my sight. Send your light to shine brightly into my heart...filling it with peace, hope and joy. Shine your light through my words and deeds...leading those who see the light through me, to the manger and the gift of salvation that you bring. Amen.

**Our thanks** to Julie Herman for being our worship leader today, to the Brethren Bells, Temple Choir, and Praise Team for our morning music. Thanks also to Arn & Ann Platou for lighting our advent candle.

**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.

**Today is our Advent Congregational** Christmas Dinner following worship.

**December Tidings** are now available. If you did not receive an electronic copy please notify the Church office and you will be added to the emailing list. Printed copies can be found on the credenza in the wing of the sanctuary or in the fellowship hall.

**Advent Blessing Bags** are ready for you to pick up! They can be found in the Fellowship Hall and on the table in the west entrance.

**Today is Food Pantry Sunday.** Thanks to all for your gift(s) of non-perishable food items and your continued support of this ministry to our community.

**The Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screenings** will be held next Sunday, December 10th. The screenings will take place in the Fellowship Hall before the 8:30 AM Morning Praise Worship Service and in the Mullendore room before the 10:45 AM worship.

**Drivers Needed:** HCOB has some members who are in need of a ride on certain Sundays to church and back home. We are making a list of names of people in our congregation who would be willing to give a ride to an older member on occasion. Can you help? It is not a permanent job, hoping to have enough volunteers, so that it will only be once and awhile. You may sign up in the West Entrance to be a driver, or call/email Allyson. Thanks so much for your help.

**Our annual Stewardship emphasis is underway.** You should have received a letter with a pledge card, and a copy of the Gifts for the Body of Christ survey. We ask that you prayerfully consider making a pledge to church. All pledges are private. You may mail your pledge card or place it in the Offering. Thank you for your financial support of the church and its ministries.

**NEEDED:** A men's 26 or 27 inch bike for transportation. If someone has a gently used bike in their garage that is no longer used, please contact Jan Young. Thank you.

**Needed for December Holiday Brunch.** For our December 9th Holiday Brunch we will serve festive waffles, Chick-fil-a chicken sandwiches, fresh fruit trays and cheese platters. We need your help to add hash brown casseroles to top that off. We served 185 guests in November so again expecting a large crowd so we will need several. If you can help, please see Jenny or Jan. If anyone wants to bake a bread, please also let us know. They went in a hurry in November. Christian Education is preparing a Christmas activity for the children. Thanks to all!

**Fellowship Time.** We're in need of volunteers to provide goodies for Fellowship Time, held the first Sunday of each month from 10:20 am—10:40 am. Goodies may be your favorite recipe or a delicious store bought treat. Suggestions include cookies, muffins, or doughnuts (3-4 dozen of whatever you choose) and may be dropped off in the Mullendore Room (the room behind the wing of the sanctuary) that morning. Beverages and paper products are provided. Please sign up on the sheet located in the west entrance, or contact Kristal Bricker or Amy Hardy. Thank you for helping to make Fellowship Time possible!

## **THE BIG ASK / THE BIG GIVE**

You are probably wondering what this means. Let me explain:

### **THE BIG ASK**

Is me asking anyone willing to spread the word about becoming a living donor. Due to a 46-year battle with a rare form of kidney stones and dozens of surgeries and procedures, I am in stage 5 kidney failure. I am on a waiting list for a kidney transplant, but the wait is currently 4-5 years. By finding a living donor, it would eliminate the wait and provide me a better chance of a successful transplant and longer life span.

### **THE BIG GIVE**

The big give is you or someone you know willing to consider becoming a living donor. There is a completely confidential electronic questionnaire to fill out. The transplant team will review each submission to see if further testing is needed. If you fill out the questionnaire, there is no obligation to be a donor. The web site for the questionnaire is:

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

Through the entire process, there is no financial burden on the donor. Everything would go through my insurance.

Thank you for your consideration,

Donnie Maas