

How lovely is your dwelling place

In our busy and chaotic lives, we sometimes yearn to be able to pause and seek solace in a sacred space to be in communion with almighty God. You do not have to go out of your way to find a sacred place where you can be in communion with God. God is everywhere! God is in our hearts too. You could feel him under a tree. In the chaos of the world we live in, there is a place of beauty and peace where our souls can find rest.

My soul has found rest in my wonderful church—Freeport Church of the Brethren. My church inspires me to do my utmost for the Almighty and supports me in all my efforts. God is doing amazing things in our church!

Psalm 84 says, “How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!” These words capture the awe and reverence we feel when we are in his house. We have wonder and admiration for the sacred space where our God resides. It doesn’t have to be a physical church for us to be in awe of God’s sacred space. That sacred space could be the inner chambers of our hearts!

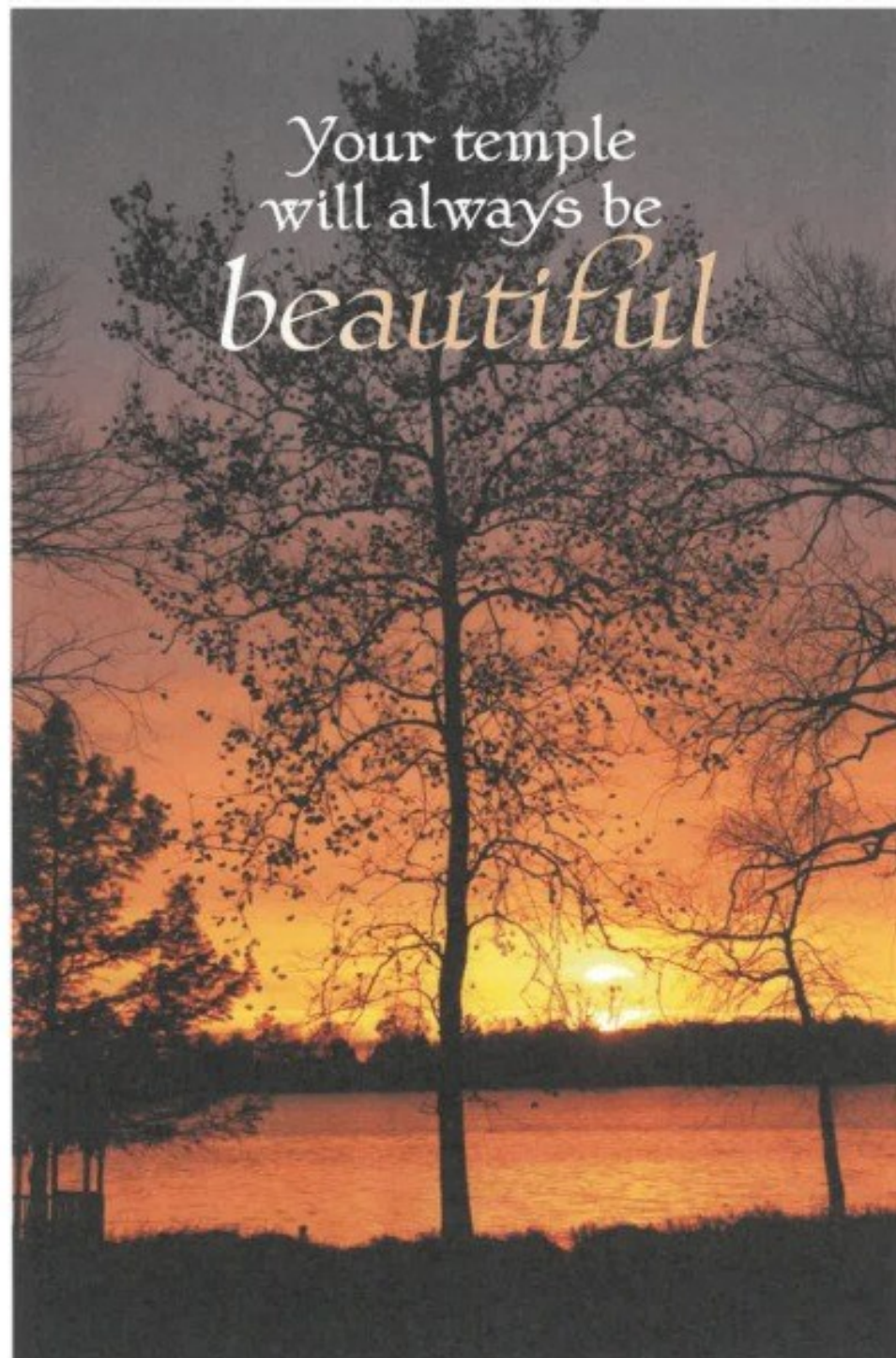
That is the beauty of having a personal relationship with God. The beauty lies in having a connection with God, not “where” we connect with him. I connect with him even while I am driving. I do not restrict myself in any way in connecting with God.

The text ends with the words, “Holiness adorns your house for endless days, O Lord!” God’s holiness is in his house, whether it is a physical church or the quiet corner of your heart. Just pause and appreciate the fact that we are blessed with the access to God’s sacred place where we can find rest for our weary souls. Let us all thank God for this provision!

—Christina Singh
Freeport, Illinois

“Your decisions are firm, and *your temple will always be beautiful and holy*” (Psalm 93:5, CEV). **Today’s Bible readings from the lectionary:** 2 Samuel 23:1-7 and Psalm 132:112, (13-18); Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 and Psalm 93; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37.

November 24, 2024, Thanksgiving. Photo of Camp Mack © David Sollenberger. Used by permission. Living Word Bulletin Series © 2024 Brethren Press. Printed in the USA.



CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45 AM

November 24, 2024
Thanksgiving Sunday

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Amy Hardy, Worship Leader

WHERE DID YOU SEE GOD?

PRELUDE "Sing to the Lord of Harvest" (Eliot)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Though we could be resentful,

All: we come to give thanks.

One: Though we could be complaining,

All: we come to offer appreciation.

One: Though we could be upset about what we lack,

All: we come in gratitude for what we have.

One: We enter now into this time of worship

All: carrying seed to sow, singing songs of joy, rejoicing together.

***HYMN #94**

"Come, ye thankful people"

[Verse 1]

Come, ye thankful people, come! Raise the song of harvest home. All is safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin. God, our maker, doth provide for our need to be supplied. Come to God's own temple, come. Raise the song of harvest home.

[Verse 2]

All the world is God's own field, fruit unto God's praise to yield; wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown. First the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear. Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain

and pure may be.

[Verse 3]

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the harvest home, from the field shall in that day all offenses purge away, giving angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast, but the fruitful ears to store in God's garner evermore.

[Verse 4]

Then, O church triumphant, come. Raise the song of harvest home. All are safely gathered in, free from sorrow, free from sin; there forever purified in God's presence to abide. Come, ten thousand angels, come! Raise the song of harvest home.

***LITANY OF THANKSGIVING**

One: Gracious God, you supply us with blessings beyond our deserving. We thank you for your creation, and every sign of your presence within it, for your everlasting grace and forgiveness, for the risen Lord who has gone before us and calls us to follow him.

All: Accept our thanks, O God.

One: For our homes and our loved ones, for work to do and strength to do it, for moments of gladness that sparkle our day,

All: accept our thanks, O God.

One: For our faith and all that sustains it, for all whose lives and examples have persuaded us that the journey is worth the taking, for your caring discipline that keeps our faith pure,

All: accept our thanks, O God.

One: For the depths of the sea where our falseness lies buried, for the guiding comfort of your Holy Spirit, for the powerful promise of life everlasting,

All: accept our thanks, O God. for yours is the glory forever. Amen.

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

As we prepare to worship God through the giving of our offerings, let us focus our attention on these thoughts: We give in grateful thanksgiving for all that God has given us. In the upside-down world of the gospel, we measure our wealth not by what we have, but what we can give away. Let us give away generously, in this offering, to bless God's church, God's people, and God's creation.

As we pass the offering plate here in the sanctuary, we also pass a virtual offering plate to those worshiping with us on Facebook Live. We invite you to give by mailing your offering to the church or dropping it off at the church during the week, or by going to the Hagerstowncob webpage and using Paypal.

Offertory "To Render Thanks Unto the Lord " (Arr. Powell)

***Doxology #119** "Praise God from whom"

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray. Receive now these gifts we bring, with hearts full of gratitude, O God. We offer them to you for your use to bless others. We also offer ourselves to the empowerment of your Holy Spirit for the giving of your love and hope through the ministries of this church. Amen.

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

“Thank You, God”
Temple Choir

(Lantz)

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 126

OT 572

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”
The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.
Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.
May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.
Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.

VIDEO

MESSAGE

“Gratitude”

Pastor Twyla Rowe

*HYMN #89

“For the beauty of the earth”

[Verse 1]

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

[Verse 2]

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flow’r, sun and moon, and stars of light: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

[Verse 3]

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind’s delight, for the mystic harmony, linking sense to sound and sight: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

[Verse 4]

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

[Verse 5]

For thy church that evermore lifteth holy hands above, off’ring up on ev’ry shore her pure sacrifice of love: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

*BENEDICTION

After the Benediction, you may be seated.

Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.

*POSTLUDE

“Now Thank We All Our God”

(Ashdown)

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

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

[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 November 24, 2024

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 daily "Take a Moment" prayer beginning Sunday, November 24 - O Lord, as we prepare to celebrate and give thanks this year, may we find it in our hearts to be grateful no matter what. May we praise you for what we can do and praise you in spite of what we can't. May we thank you for what is and what isn't, for what is going well and for what is not. May we thank you for what brings us joy and even for that which brings us grief, for if our grief testifies to anything, it testifies to the depths of our love. Bless us and keep us, dear God, we pray, and turn our hearts ever and always toward your all-encompassing light, you who are our Creator and Savior, our Redeemer and Friend. Amen.

Our thanks to Amy Hardy for being our worship leader today and to the Temple Choir for our morning anthem.

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.

The church office will be closed on Thursday, November 28th for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Happy Thanksgiving!

It's time to place orders for Christmas Eve poinsettias. All orders are due **TODAY**. Please see the insert in the bulletin.

Date Change—Would you like to place flowers on the altar in honor or memory of a loved one or for a special event in a loved one's life? The Flower & Altar Committee has openings on **December 15th and 29th**. If you are interested, please contact Susan Hughes at 717-749-7017.

Junior Church will be held today for children ages Kindergarten through the sixth grade. **We will gather in the Rainbow Room (Room #205)**. (Parents may, of course, opt to keep their child in worship with them especially if the child is uncertain about going.) Parents/grandparents should pick up their children afterward at the stair/elevator area outside the sanctuary in the west entrance. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Brenda Shane. **Junior Church is held the second and fourth Sunday of each month.**

The Hanging of the Greens will be today directly following the late service. We will be decorating the Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary. Please join us for some fun fellowship as we decorate our worship space at this meaningful Advent Season.

Advent Christmas Dinner—Our Advent Christmas dinner will be held next Sunday, December 1st in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service. A sign-up sheet has been placed in the west entrance and Fellowship Hall for those wishing to attend. Spiritual Nurture will provide the chicken, paper products and drinks.

Next Sunday is our regular Food Pantry collection. Bring in your gift(s) of non-perishable food items and place them on the cart as you enter the west entrance, and a volunteer delivers the food. We thank everyone for their continued support of this ministry to our community! Just a reminder - all items should be either dry, boxed, or in cans. Please do not bring in anything in a glass jar that could break and injure a recipient or our volunteers. Thank you!

Community Breakfast items needed:

- * Gently used men's coats
 - * Gently used toys, games, and books (for families in need)
 - * Gently used Christmas decorations, Christmas bags, etc. (for give-away table)
- Donations can be placed in a box in the west entrance. Thank you!

Christmas Caroling at Fahrney-Keedy—Sunday, December 8th at 2:00 pm. We will meet at Fahrney-Keedy and begin caroling in the Chapel, then caroling through the village. Please join us! If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Ferguson.

All children are invited to a "Happy Birthday, Jesus" party on Saturday, December 21st from 12:00 - 2:00 PM in the church Fellowship Hall. There will be food, games, the Christmas story, and lots of fun. We would love to see our friends from Vacation Bible School, so if you brought grandchildren, friends, or neighbors to VBS, please invite them to join us. All children are encouraged to bring a friend. Questions? Please reach out to any member of the Christian Education Ministry Team: Debbie Long, Tina Mills, Kay Ogilvie, Tracie Poteet, or Brenda Shane.

The Christian Education Ministry Team is looking for a volunteer to coordinate the craft for Junior Church on the 4th Sunday of each month. If you're interested or think you might be, please see any member of the Christian Education Team: Deb Long, Tracie Poteet, Tina Mills, Kay Ogilvie, or Brenda Shane. Thank you!

Our church is partnering with Mt. Hope Prison Ministries again this year, to purchase \$50.00 dollars in gifts, for an inmate's child, who has been left behind with an aunt, uncle or grandparent etc. We hope to get the children's gift lists by the second week in November. If you would like to participate, please sign up in the west entrance. You will need to purchase your child's gifts and drop them off in a bag, to the church, by the end of November with your numbered ticket stapled to the bag. If you have any questions, please see someone on the Service & Outreach Team.

College Students—The Christian Education Ministry Team needs the names of current college students. If you have a child who is a member or regular attendee of HCOB, please give his or her name to any member of the CEMT: Debbie Long, Tina Mills, Kay Ogilvie, Tracie Poteet, or Brenda Shane. Thank you!

Hagerstown Choral Arts invites you to “Noel We Sing” on Sunday, December 15th at St. Ann Roman Catholic Church (1525 Oak Hill Ave., Hag., MD 21742) from 3-4:30 pm. There is no ticket required to attend and all performance are free but there is a free will offering taken during the event if you wish to support HCA.

The Church Directory. Now is a good time to update your information in the church directory. Please send any changes/updates/additions to secretaryhcob@gmail.com, or leave a note in Allyson's mailbox. Also, if you're not on the birthday and anniversary lists, please email that information, too! Please include the year, even though it is not published. If we don't have the year, that piece of software defaults to the year 1900. The 2025 Directory will be printed the first of the year. Thank you!

We're entering the season for high heating costs. We remind everyone to please keep doors closed to the sanctuary, fellowship hall, church entrances, hallways, and church office. All classroom doors (2nd and 3rd floor) should stay open. Thank you for your awareness and cooperation.

Deadline for bulletins and newsletters. Announcements for the weekly bulletin need to be given to the administrative assistant before noon on Wednesday. Announcements for the monthly newsletters need to be given to the administrative assistant before the 15th of each month. Let's help her out by meeting deadlines, and also by not asking for special exceptions. Announcements should continue to be emailed to secretaryhcob@gmail.com. Thank you!

CALENDAR

Sunday, November 24

Junior Church
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 Hanging of the Greens/Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary

Monday, November 25

Church office closed
6:30 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

Tuesday, November 26

6:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting/Room 302
7:00 pm Hag. Choral Arts/Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, November 27

Administrative Assistant/Work from home
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcements submissions

Thursday, November 28

Church office closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday
Thanksgiving Day

Friday, November 29

8:00 am Bulletin preparation time/Church office
1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3pm)

Saturday, November 30

Pastor Twyla's day off
1:00 pm Young Holiday Party/Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 1

Food Pantry Sunday/First Sunday of Advent
8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms
10:20 am Fellowship Time/Mullendore Room
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live
12:00 pm Advent Christmas Dinner/Fellowship Hall

Remember our weekday schedule is subject to rapid change.

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

The church calendar is online at
www.hagerstowncob.org
Click the calendar tab.



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 **today, November 24**. 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 TODAY

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:

- Red
- White
- Marble varieties

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:** _____

