

I will fulfill my gracious promise

Choral Reading

Reader 1: The time is coming
Reader 2: The time
Reader 3: Where can we find the time?
Reader 4: How can we find the time?
Reader 1: The time is coming
Reader 2: Declares the Lord
Reader 3: Can we find the time to declare?
Reader 4: To declare
Reader 1: God will fulfill the promise
Reader 2: The gracious promise
Reader 3: Grace-cious
Reader 4: Kind, compassionate, divine,
Reader 1: The time is coming
Reader 2: To discover the miraculous
Reader 3: In ordinary things
Reader 4: To seek the baby in the stable
Reader 1: The time is coming
Reader 2: To discover, to declare,
Reader 3: With delight, with hope
Reader 4: The promise is fulfilled

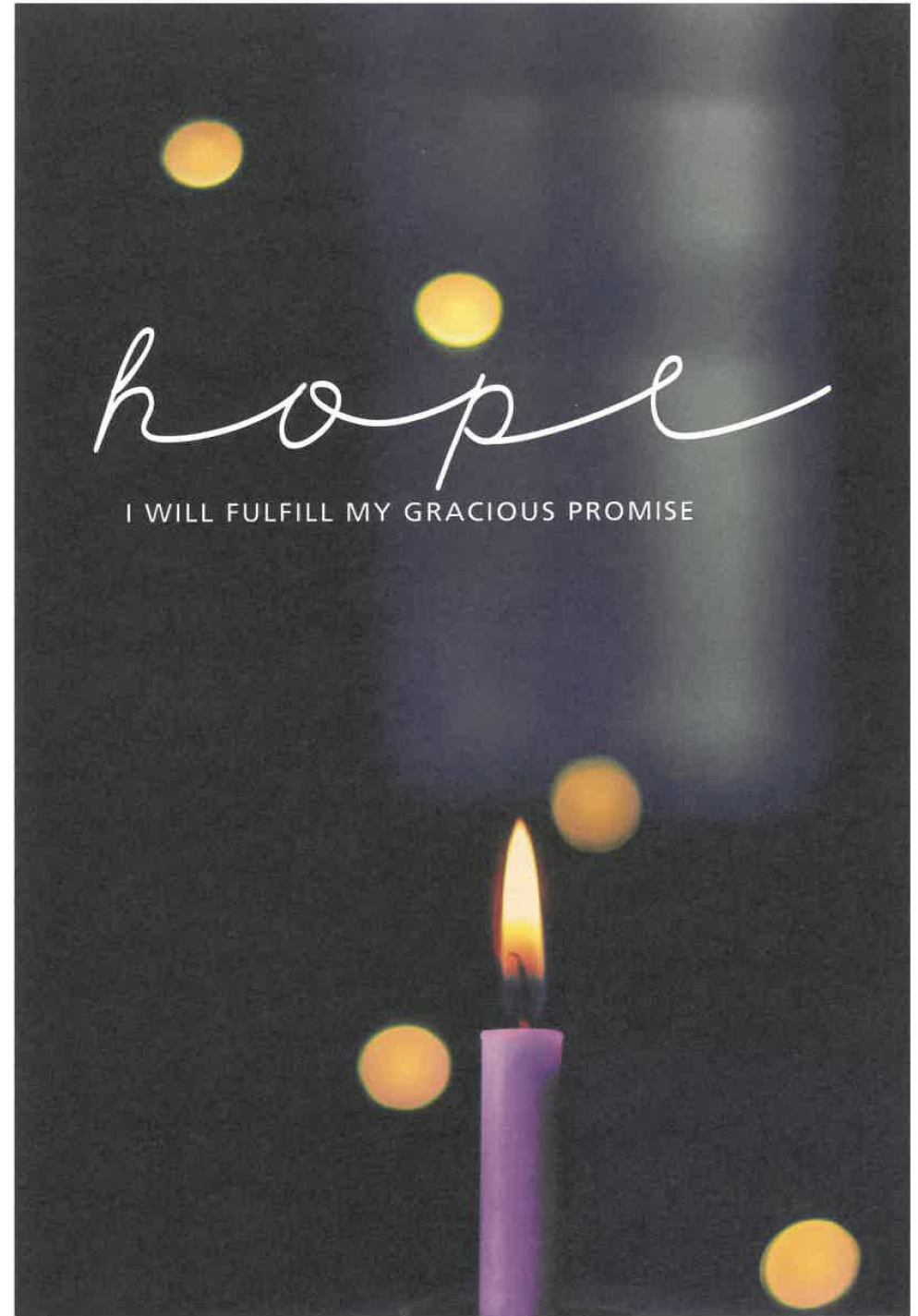
Prayer of Invocation

God who created a time for every season under heaven,
gentle our spirits in this Advent season
that we may know the time for hope has come.
In the name of the baby in the manger, we pray.
Amen.

— *Audri Soay*
North Manchester, Indiana

“The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill my gracious promise with the people of Israel and Judah” (Jeremiah 33:14, *CEB*). **Today’s Bible readings from the lectionary:** Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36.

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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP **10:45 AM**

December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Brenda Shane, Worship Leader

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?

PRELUDE "Come Blessed One, Come" (Paxton)

***CHORAL READING** (on the back of the bulletin)

Reader 1 – Pastor Twyla
Reader 2 – Choir
Reader 3 – Worship Leader
Reader 4 - Congregation

***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.*

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION** (on the back of the bulletin)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

Congregation: Dear God, on this first Sunday in Advent, let this light shine brightly as the days grow shorter, so that we will be ready for your face to shine upon us at Christmas. In the Savior's name we pray. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL ADVENT SONG "We are people of Hope"

*We are a people of hope; we are a people of hope.
Lighting a candle, we wait for the dawn;
we are a people of hope.*

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

MORNING ANTHEM "Look Toward Christmas" (Murry)
Temple Choir

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: As our love for one another increases and abounds, so does our generosity. The circle of our concern widens. Our passion for justice expands. Our desire to join in Christ's redeeming work extends to the whole family. What a privilege to have so much to share.

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 "In the Bleak Mid-Winter" (Boyles)
***Doxology #119** "Praise God from whom"

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray. Thank you, God, for this faith family, which enriches our lives and enables us to share. Thank you for making us aware that some faint with fear and others dwell in hopelessness. We are grateful that you show us ways to lift the burdens of our sisters and brothers. May our offerings further this ministry among us and beyond our community. 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

HANDBELL ANTHEM "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"
Brethren Bells

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 21:25-36

NT 85

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

MESSAGE

“Hope”

Pastor Twyla Rowe

HYMN #172“O come, O come, Immanuel”**[Verse 1]*

O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

[Chorus]

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

[Verse 2]

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan’s tyranny. From depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict’ry o’er the grave.

[Chorus]

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

[Verse 3]

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here. Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadow put to flight.

[Chorus]

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

[Verse 4]

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heav’nly home. Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

[Chorus]

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

[Verse 5]

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh. To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in thy ways to go.

[Chorus]

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

[Verse 6]

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind. Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease. Fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.

[Chorus]

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

BLESSING FOR THE MEAL AND BENEDICTIONAfter the Benediction, you may be seated.**Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.****POSTLUDE***“Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying”*

(Manz)

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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

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 December 1, 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, December 1 - Glorious God, as the season of Advent begins and I start preparing for Christmas, I want to disallow the pressures of the busy season from overtaking my spirit that is seeking to find its way to the manger once again this year. I will look to you for help to remain calm and focused on the true meaning of the season. I pray for those who are overcome with challenging circumstances in their lives and feeling without hope for the future. I pray for our world ridden with wars, violence, poverty and illness. May the celebrations of the birth of our Savior by Christians everywhere shine a light that guides those in need to the manger where they too can find hope for their darkened troubled lives. We praise You, O God, for this wonderful gift you've given...our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our thanks to Brenda Shane for being our worship leader today, to the Temple Choir and Brethren Bells for our morning music. Thanks also to the GriefShare Facilitators and Participants 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.

Pastor Twyla will be away on vacation December 2nd through the 4th. If you are in need of regular pastoral care, please contact your deacon.

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 an opening on December 15th. If you are interested, please contact Susan Hughes at 717-749-7017.

Our Advent Christmas dinner will be held today in the Fellowship Hall following our late service worship.

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.

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 Cards. Please remember to use the mailboxes in the hall outside the church office if you are giving Christmas cards to your church family. Please check your mailbox often. You never know what might be in there. Blessings and Have a Merry Christmas! - *Your Spiritual Nurture Team*

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.

Christmas Eve Service—Everyone is invited to the Christmas Eve celebration service of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Come and worship the newborn King through a traditional service of singing carols, listening to the angelic voices of the choir and the heavenly tones of the bell choir and the organ, and hearing the Christmas story, and we will also celebrate communion. Symbolizing the Light that came to the world on that holy night long ago, we will hold light high as we recommit our faithfulness to carry the light into the world. The Christmas Eve offering will be going to the Good Samaritan Fund and the service will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Come...let us adore Him...Christ the Lord!

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!

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!

Inclement Weather Policy—If inclement weather is forecasted, be sure to:

- * Check your email—we will send out a group email as quickly as possible if the decision to cancel in-person worship is made.
- * Check our Facebook page—Hagerstown Church of the Brethren ([facebook.com/hagerstowncob](https://www.facebook.com/hagerstowncob)) we will post updates there as well.

If we do hold in-person worship, and if you are uncomfortable driving in bad weather, please join us on Facebook Live. Be safe first and check your email!

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.

When you leave items at the mailboxes for someone else to retrieve, please call or email them to alert them the item is there. Remember you may need to follow up with them to make sure they've gotten the item. Thank you!

Year-end Giving Guidelines

The Internal Revenue Service states under the heading of Timing of Contributions: *Contributions must actually be paid in cash or other property before the close of your tax year to be deductible, whether you use the cash or accrual method.*

This means all contributions for any given year must be physically at the church no later than December 31st to be applied to the year's contribution statement.

<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/charitable-organizations/charitable-contribution-deductions>

CALENDAR

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

Monday, December 2

Pastor Vacation/Church Office Closed
6:30 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

Tuesday, December 3

Pastor Vacation
7:00 pm Hag. Choral Arts/Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 4

Pastor Vacation/Administrative Assistant/Work from home
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

Thursday, December 5

5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall
6:30 pm Brethren Bells/Choir Room
7:30 pm Temple Choir/Fellowship Hall

Friday, December 6

Hood & Forsythe Wedding Rehearsal Dinner/HCOB
8:00 am Bulletin preparation time/Church office
1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3pm)

Saturday, December 7

Hood & Forsythe Wedding/HCOB
Pastor Twyla's day off

Sunday, December 8

Second Sunday of Advent/Junior Church
8:15 am Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screening
8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms
10:15 am Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screening
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live
2:00 pm HCOB Caroling at Fahrney-Keedy

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.