

Love may overflow

Choral Reading

- Reader 1:** Let us pray
Reader 2: Let us begin in prayer
Reader 3: Praying together
Reader 4: With joy
Reader 1: Let us hold each other in our hearts
Reader 2: As we enter into worship
Reader 3: Let us pray
Reader 4: Sharing in God's grace
Reader 1: With the compassion of Christ Jesus
Reader 2: Let this be our prayer
Reader 3: That our love overflow
Reader 4: Love overflowing
Reader 1: With knowledge and insight
Reader 2: For the glory of God
Reader 3: For the praise of God
Reader 4: Let us pray

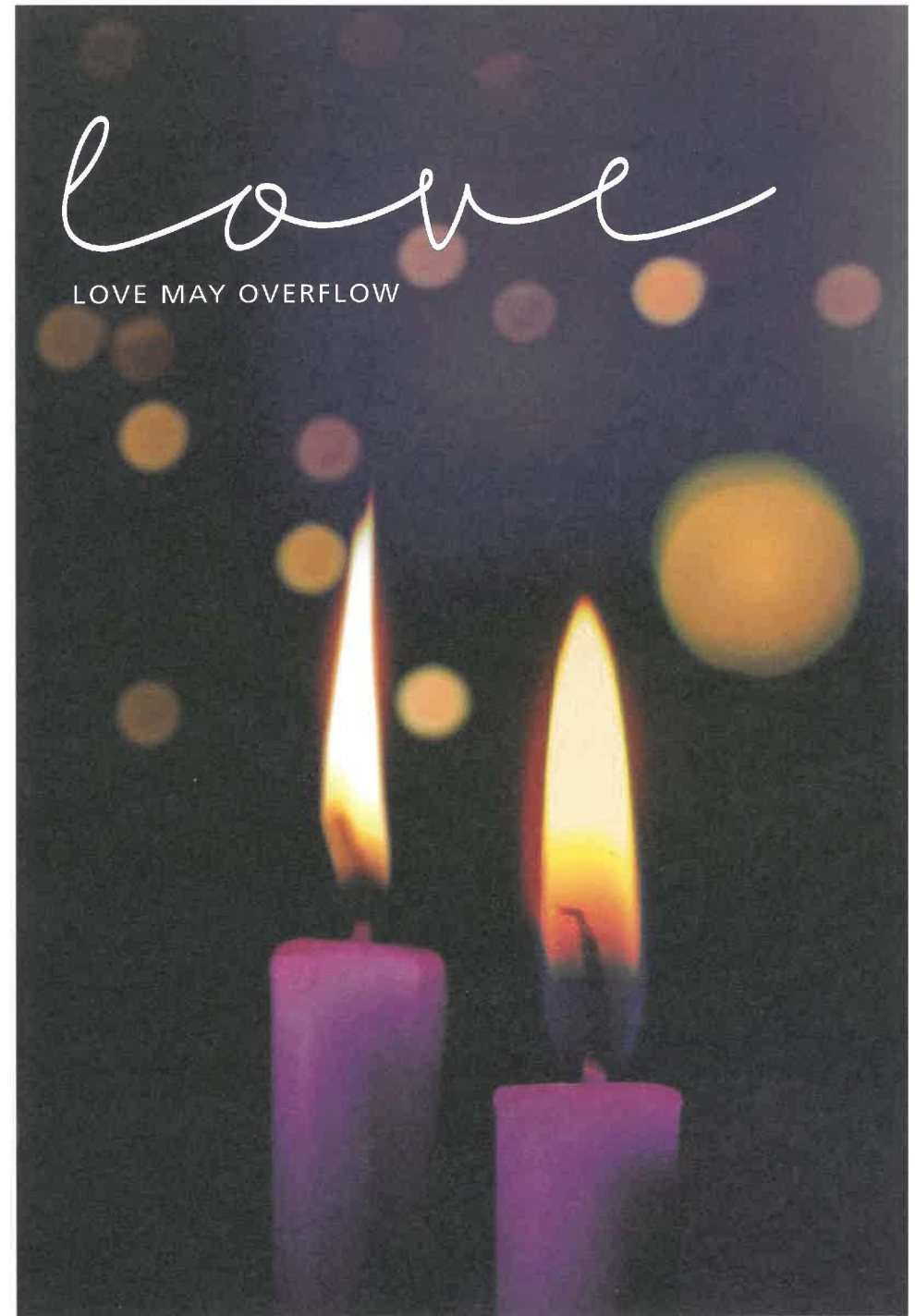
Prayer of Invocation

God who gifted us with language and taught us how to pray,
open our hearts in this Advent season
that we might pray with love overflowing.
In Jesus' name, we pray.
Amen.

— *Audri Soay*
North Manchester, Indiana

"And this is my prayer, that your *love may overflow* more and more with knowledge and full insight" (Philippians 1:9, *NRSVue*). **Today's Bible readings from the lectionary:** Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6.

December 8, 2024, Second Sunday of Advent. Cover design by Paul Stocksdale © Brethren Press.
Living Word Bulletin Series © 2024 Brethren Press. Printed in the USA.



CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45 AM

December 8, 2024
Second Sunday of Advent

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Larry Wisherd, Worship Leader

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?

PRELUDE "Prepare the Way, O Zion" (Paxton)

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

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

***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.*

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

God who gifted us with language and taught us how to pray, open our hearts in this Advent season that we might pray with love overflowing. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

*(Organizers and volunteers for the Community Breakfasts: Jan Young,
Jo Ellen Wisherd, Jenny Ferguson, Eddie Edmond, Jack Finniff)*

All pray: Dear God, your faithfulness has been great, leading us to this day of anticipation and celebration. May the glorious light of your steadfast love shine brightly in us and through us, that all may give you praise and glory. In the Savior's name we pray. Amen.

ADVENT SONG "We are people of Hope" (Love)

*We are a people of love;
We are a people of love.*

*Lighting a candle, we welcome the dawn;
We are a people of love.*

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: What is a fitting offering that is pleasing to God? When we sense the wonder of God's majesty and realize the amazing extent of God's concern for us, we can only respond with all that we have and all we are. What we place on the altar is a small measure of our gratitude.

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 "Of the Father's Love Begotten" (Martin)

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray. How good you have been to us, gracious God! How meagerly we have responded. You have restored our fortunes when we felt all was lost. You have filled our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy. We give thanks, not only with a portion of our income, but also with renewed commitment to righteous living. By your grace, we share in the work Christ came to accomplish among us. May love abound in and through us. 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 “Bethlehem Wind” (Martin)
Temple Choir with Sharron Keesecker, flute

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 3:1-6 NT 60

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

HYMN #183 “On Jordan’s banks the Baptist’s cry”
[Verse 1]

On Jordan’s banks the Baptist’s cry announces that the Lord is nigh. Awake and harken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

[Verse 2]

Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin! Make straight the way for God within, and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

[Verse 3]

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more. Oh, let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.

[Verse 4]

All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won, whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.

MESSAGE “Love” Pastor Twyla Rowe

***HYMN #191** “O little town of Bethlehem”

[Verse 1]

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

[Verse 2]

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond’ring love. O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth! and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

[Verse 3]

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv’n! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of the heav’ns. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in.

[Verse 4]

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray, cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today! We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell. O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

***BENEDICTION**

After the Benediction, you may be seated.

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

***POSTLUDE** “Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord” (Blake)

~~~~~

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

~~~~~

Second 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 8, 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 for the week beginning, Sunday, December 8 - Gracious God, I come before you today with a longing to please you with all that I say and do. Somehow, it seems I find myself...many times without even thinking...messing up. Forgive me merciful God. I am overwhelmed by your gift of unconditional love for me that washes away all my sin and draws me close to your glorious presence. During this Christmas season, I am reminded that this unimaginable love came to touch earth through a baby...Your only Son, Jesus. I look into the manger and I cannot dismiss the sacrifice made to unveil the depth of Your love for us. And so, I lift my heart in worship and thanksgiving to You for this incredible gift. May my loving of others be evidence that your love fills me to overflowing, and seeks to embrace all of Your holy creation...today, tomorrow and everyday. Amen.

Our thanks to Larry Wisherd for being our worship leader today, to the Temple Choir and Sharon Keesecker for our morning music. Thanks also to the Organizers and Volunteers of the Community Breakfast 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.

HCOB Website: Our new website will be live starting today, Sunday, December 8th. You can go to hagerstowncob.org to check it out. If you find any information incorrect or missing, please contact Mary Early at her email listed below. Also, if you have photos that you think could improve any of the pages, you may send them to Mary as well—webmaster@hagerstowncob.org

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.

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.**

Christmas Caroling at Fahrney-Keedy—TODAY 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.

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 outside the church office to distribute Christmas cards to your church family. If you wish to give a card to someone without a mailbox, kindly hand it to them personally or mail it directly. Any cards leftover will not be delivered by the church office or Spiritual Nurture Team. Please check your mailbox often. You never know what might be in there. Blessings and Have a Merry Christmas! - *Your Spiritual Nurture Team*

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!

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) 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 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

Monday, December 9

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 10

- 12:30 pm Elevator Inspection
- 7:00 pm Hag. Choral Arts/Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 11

Administrative Assistant/Work from home

- 12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

Thursday, December 12

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

Friday, December 13

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

Saturday, December 14

Pastor Twyla's day off

- 8:00 am Community Breakfast/Fellowship Hall
(Breakfast is open to the public 9-10:30am)

Sunday, December 15

Third Sunday of Advent/2025 Church Directory Deadline for submissions

- 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 Newsletter Deadline
- 3:00 pm “Noel We Sing” HCA Concert @ St. Ann Roman Catholic Church

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.