

## Be glad and rejoice

### Choral Reading

Reader 1: Sing!  
Reader 2: Sing!  
Reader 3: Sing!  
Reader 4: Sing!  
Reader 1: Sing with all your heart  
Reader 2: The Lord  
Reader 3: Has taken away the judgments against you  
Reader 4: The Lord  
Reader 1: Is in your midst  
Reader 2: Do not fear  
Reader 3: Rejoice and be glad  
Reader 4: Renewed in love  
Reader 1: The Lord  
Reader 2: Will save  
Reader 3: Will gather the outcast  
Reader 4: Will transform shame to pride  
Reader 1: Sing!  
Reader 2: Sing!  
Reader 3: Sing!  
Reader 4: Sing!

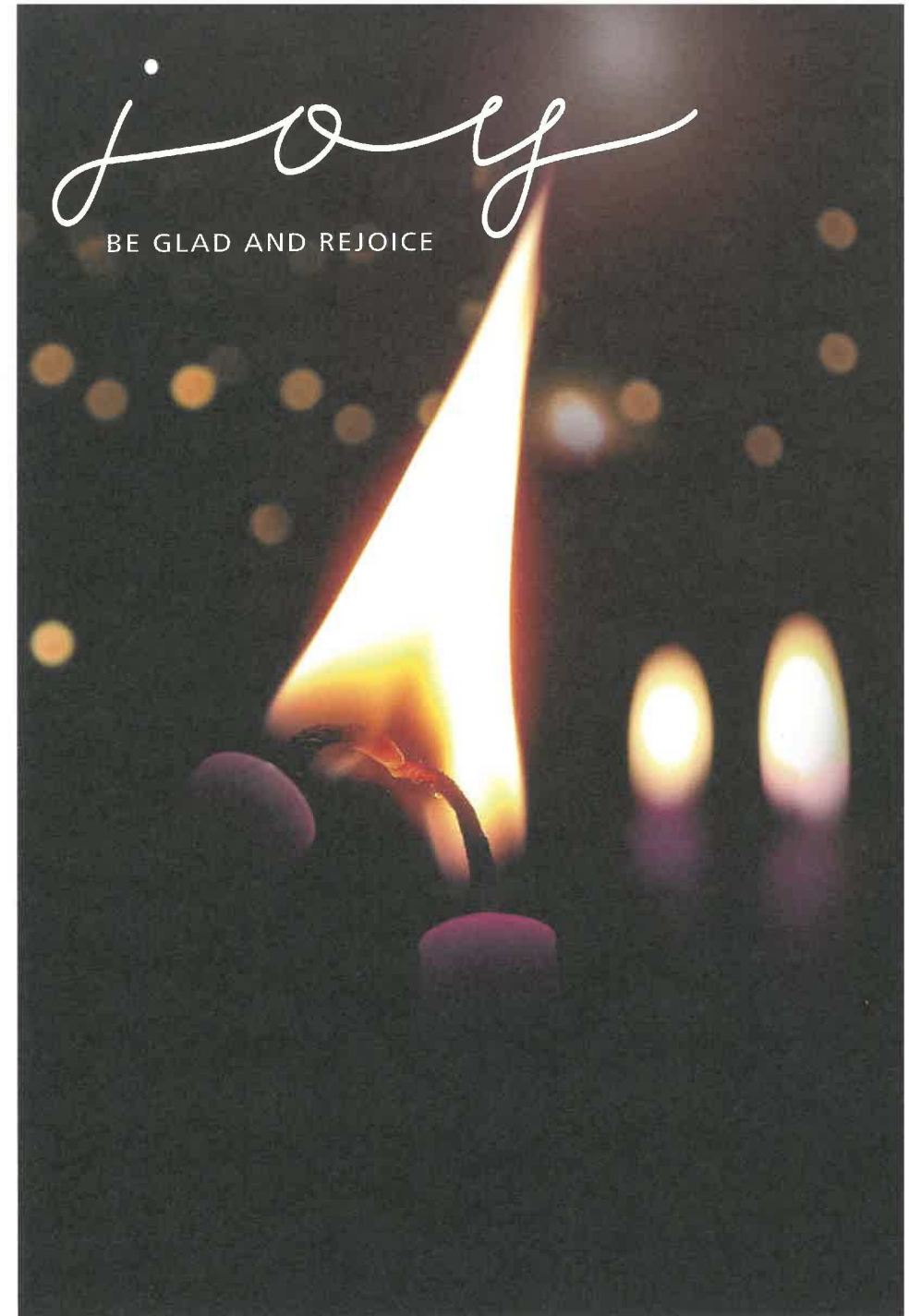
### Prayer of Invocation

God who inspired hymns of joyful praise,  
Fill our lungs and embolden us this Advent season  
that we may be unafraid to lift our voices in worshipful song.  
In your holy name, we pray.  
Amen.

— *Audri Svay*  
*North Manchester, Indiana*

“Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart,  
O daughter of Jerusalem” (Zephaniah 3:14, *KJV*). **Today’s Bible readings from the  
lectionary:** Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18.

December 15, 2024, Third Sunday of Advent. Cover design by Paul Stocksdale © Brethren Press.  
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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
Hagerstown, Maryland

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**MORNING WORSHIP**

**10:45 AM**

December 15, 2024  
Third Sunday of Advent

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Eunice Plank, Worship Leader

**WHERE DID YOU SEE GOD?**

**PRELUDE** "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" (arr. Ashdown)  
Becky Jackson, Organist

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

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

**\*HYMN #181** "My soul proclaims with wonder"  
[Verse 1]

*My soul proclaims with wonder the greatness of the Lord, rejoicing in God's goodness my spirit is restored. To me has God shown favor, to one the world thought frail, and every age shall echo the angel's first "All hail!"*

[Verse 2]

*My soul proclaims with wonder the greatness of the Lord, rejoicing in God's goodness my spirit is restored. God's mercy shields the faithful and saves them from defeat, with strength that turns to scatter the proud in their conceit.*

[Verse 3]

*My soul proclaims with wonder the greatness of the Lord, rejoicing in God's goodness my spirit is restored. The mighty have been vanquished, the lowly lifted up. The hungry find abundance, the rich, an empty cup.*

[Verse 4]

*My soul proclaims with wonder the greatness of the Lord, rejoicing in God's goodness my spirit is restored. To Abraham's descendants, the Lord will steadfast prove, for God has made with Israel a covenant of love.*

[Ending]

*My soul proclaims with wonder the greatness of the Lord, rejoicing in God's goodness my spirit is restored.*

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

God who inspired hymns of joyful praise, Fill our lungs and embolden us this Advent season that we may be unafraid to lift our voices in worshipful song. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY**

*(Church staff is lighting the candles today.)*

**All pray:** Dear God, we carry many burdens and worry over many things. Help us to hear your promise in this Advent season, that in hearing, we may receive the Spirit's gift of joy. And may our spirits be kept sound at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

**ADVENT SONG**

*"We are people of Joy"*

*We are a people of joy;*

*We are a people of joy.*

*Lighting a candle, we watch for the dawn;*

*We are a people of joy.*

**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: Whether we face plenty or hunger, abundance or want, we are in debt to God for all we have and all we are. In these moments of thankfulness, we remember how God has blessed us. We give with joy because we trust the God of our salvation.

As we pass the offering plate here in the sanctuary, we also pass a virtual offering plate to those worshipping 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** "Joyful Yuletide Carillons"

(Koury)

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

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Let us pray. We rejoice, O God of peace, in the privilege of giving without fear. You come to us daily with blessings too numerous to count. You are the Holy One whose presence relieves our anxieties, feeds our hungers, and stirs our compassion. Through our offerings, we express our gratitude. As we

give of ourselves, we respond to your call to bear fruit and to make your name known among the nations. Thank you for accepting all we offer. Amen.

**HYMN #184** "Hark! The glad sound!"

[Verse 1]

*Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes! The Savior promised long! Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne, and ev'ry voice a song. On him the Spirit largely poured, exerts its sacred fire, wisdom and might and zeal and love, his holy breast inspire.*

[Verse 2]

*He comes the prisoners to release, in Satan's bondage held. The gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield. He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure, and with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor.*

[Verse 3]

*His silver trumpets publish loud the jub'lee of the Lord. Our debts are all remitted now, our heritage restored. Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace, thy welcome shall proclaim, and heav'n's eternal arches ring with thy beloved name.*

**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 Tiny Child will Come" (Besig)  
Temple Choir

**SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 3:7-18 NT 60

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money

from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

**MESSAGE** "Joy" Pastor Twyla Rowe

**\*HYMN #210** "Good Christian friends, rejoice!"

[Verse 1]

*Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice. Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today! Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!*

[Verse 2]

*Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice. Now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are bless'd forever more. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!*

[Verse 3]

*Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice. Now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!*

**\*BENEDICTION**

*After the Benediction, you may be seated.*

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

**\*POSTLUDE** "Carols of Joy and Gladness" (Smith)

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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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*Third 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](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 15, 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 15 - I come to you this day, O God, with joy in my heart. As I journey through this Advent season, I seek to remain focused on the path that leads me to the manger. Even as holiday busyness places many distractions before me, You graciously send your Spirit to shine like the star over Bethlehem to guide me. Thank you, God, for helping me on this journey. With my seeking heart, I love to look upon and worship the precious baby in the manger. Truly I know him as my Savior and Friend. Because of this precious gift you have given me, joy will always fill my heart no matter what comes my way. Amen.

**Our thanks** to Eunice Plank for being our worship leader today and to the Temple Choir for our morning anthem. Thanks also to the Church staff 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.

**The flowers on the altar this morning** are to the Glory of God.

**Our new website is live!** You can go to [hagerstowncob.org](http://hagerstowncob.org) to check it out. If you find any information incorrect or missing, 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](mailto:webmaster@hagerstowncob.org)

**Newsletter Deadline!** All articles should be submitted to the Administrative Assistant **on or before December 15th**. You can submit articles by email or leaving a note in Allyson's mailbox. Thank you!

**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!

**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 Potect, or Brenda Shane.

**Hagerstown Choral Arts invites you** to "Noel We Sing" today, 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.

**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](http://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!

**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!

**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.

**Because winter weather is almost here,** we'd like to pass along a gentle reminder to drive slowly in our parking lot, especially when it's snow-covered or icy. Always be on alert for children, pedestrians, dogs, cats, and those less mindful than you are of the pavement surface conditions.

**Printed copies of Leadership and Ministry team meeting minutes** are available in the west entrance. The holders are located on the wall beside the bulletin board.

**The last Offering Count for the 2024 year** will be for Sunday, December 29th's collection. **However, additional contributions for the 2024 year will be accepted until December 31st.** If dropping off or mailing your contribution, please clearly mark your contribution as "2024 Contribution" or "2024 Offering" to ensure your contribution is not counted towards the 2025 year. The Administrative Assistant will not be available in the office on December 31st, but you may use the offering drop-off box located in the west entrance. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Heather Kees, Financial Secretary.

**Please remember** to keep the administrative assistant updated on when and where meetings/events are being held. Please email or call the Administrative Assistant with information that needs added to the church calendar. **301-733-3565 or secretaryhcob@gmail.com.** 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 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

#### **Monday, December 16**

Church Office Closed

#### **Tuesday, December 17**

12:00 pm Mary Martha Group/Mullendore Room

6:30 pm CE Meeting/Room 302

7:00 pm Hag. Choral Arts/Fellowship Hall

#### **Wednesday, December 18**

Administrative Assistant/Work from home

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

4:00 pm Kiwanis Club Meeting/Fellowship Hall

#### **Thursday, December 19**

5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall

6:30 pm Brethren Bells/Choir Room

7:30 pm Temple Choir/Fellowship Hall

#### **Friday, December 20**

8:00 am Bulletin preparation time/Church office

1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3pm)

#### **Saturday, December 21**

Pastor Twyla's day off

12:00 pm Christian Ed/Christmas Party "Happy Birthday Jesus"/Fellowship Hall

2:00 pm Poinsettia delivery/HCOB

6:00 pm Adult Sunday School Christmas Party

#### **Sunday, December 22**

Fourth Sunday of Advent/Junior Church

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall

9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms

10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live

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

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

### **2025 Church Directory**

If you would like your information add to the church directory or if you have any changes to your current information, please let Allyson know by TODAY. Thank you!