

## Precious in God's sight

### Responsive Reading

One: Jesus loves the little children

**People: All the children of the world**

One: Every color, every race

**People: They are precious in God's sight**

One: Housed and homeless, enslaved and free

**People: They are precious in God's sight**

One: Clothed and naked, hungry and well-fed

**People: They are precious in God's sight**

One: Immigrant and native-born, educated and illiterate

**People: They are precious in God's sight**

One: Well and sick, old and young

**People: They are precious in God's sight**

One: Named and nameless, unseen and seen

**People: They are precious in God's sight**

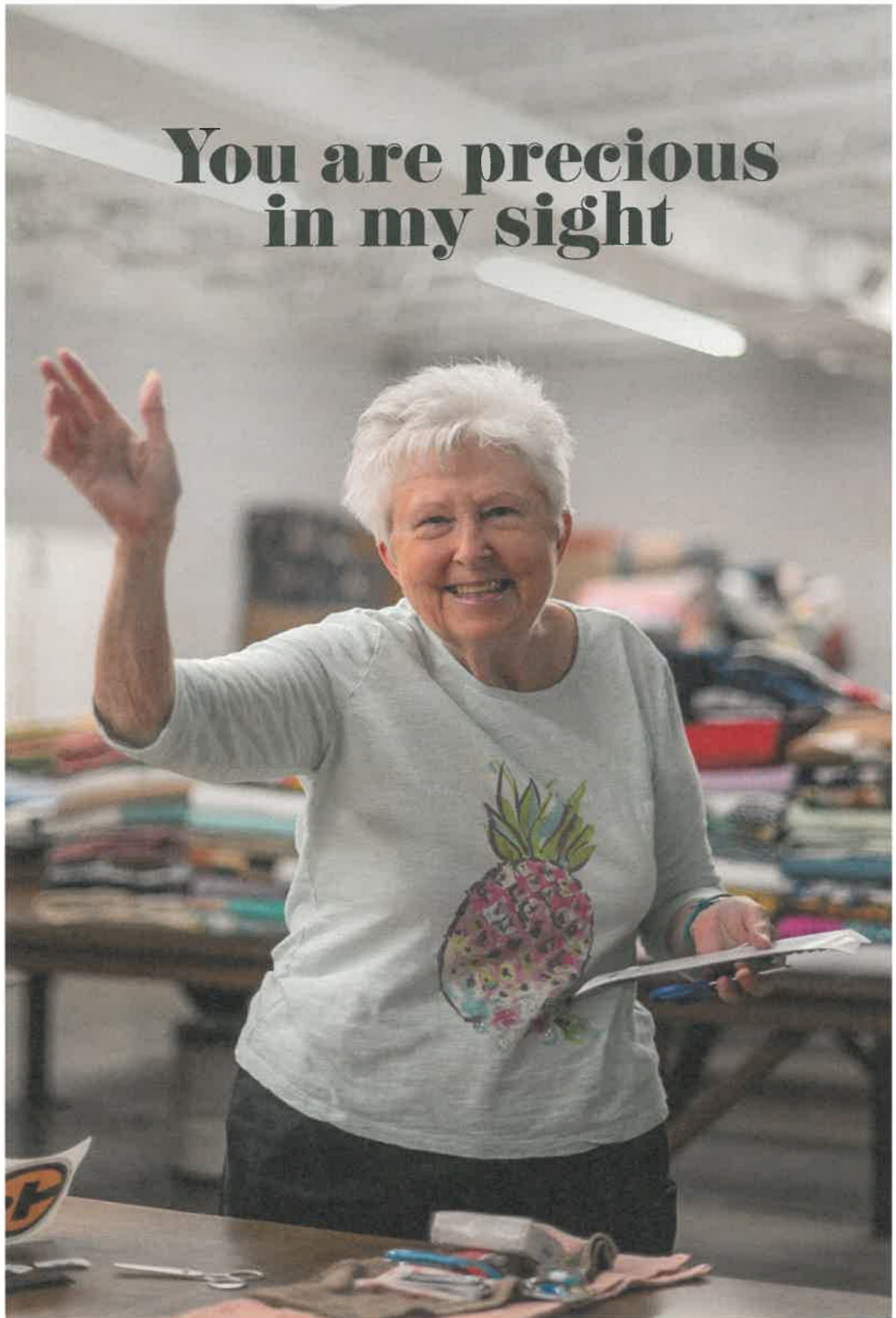
One: Jesus loves the little children of the world

**All: We are precious in God's sight**

— Linetta Alley  
Keezletown, Virginia

"Because *you are precious in my sight* and honored and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life" (Isaiah 43:4, *NRSVue*).  
**Today's Bible readings from the lectionary:** Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22.

January 12, 2025. Photo of Brethren Service Center volunteer by Benjamin Hoffmann © Church of the Brethren. Living Word Bulletin Series © 2025 Brethren Press. Printed in the USA.



CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
Hagerstown, Maryland

---

**MORNING WORSHIP**

**10:45 AM**

January 12, 2025

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Jan Young, Worship Leader

**WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?**

**PRELUDE** "If You Will Only Let God Guide You" (Limbaugh)

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: God is with us always and calls us each by name.

All: *When we pass through difficulties and stress,*

One: God is with us and calls us by name.

All: *When we are discouraged and feel lost and alone,*

One: God is with us and calls us by name, and heals us.

All: *Blessed be God who knows us and calls us by name.*

**\*HYMN #71** "Joyful, joyful, we adore thee"

[Verse 1]

*Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love. Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee their sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!*

[Verse 2]

*All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays, stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, blooming meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.*

[Verse 3]

*Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever bless'd, well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest! Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine. Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.*

[Verse 4]

*Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began. Love divine is reigning o'er us, leading us with mercy's hand. Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife. Joyful music lifts us sunward in the triumph song of life!*

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

Holy God of glory and majesty, you have called us by name. We pray in this moment for the courage and the strength to answer your call. As we open our ears to hear your Word, open our hearts also, that we may experience again the renewing power of rebirth in the Holy Spirit. Inspire us in this time of worship, that we may claim our own identity as your beloved children. We pray in the name of our brother, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN**

**OFFERING AND DOXOLOGY**

**Invitation**

Let us hear these words from Psalm 96:8 as we worship God with the giving of our offerings, "Ascribe unto the LORD the honor due unto his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts."

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** "God's Care" (Logan)

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

**PRAYER**

Accept these gifts we humbly offer, gracious God. Use them, and use us, to reach into places where your mystery remains hidden, where your goodness is not yet known. Make us good stewards of your word. Make us responsible heirs of your promises, in Jesus' name. Amen.

**SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS**

*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.*

**CALL TO PRAYER** "Cast Thy Burden"  
Temple Choir

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**HYMN***"In the Garden"**[Verse 1]*

I come to the garden alone,  
 While the dew is still on the roses  
 And the voice I hear falling on my ear  
 The Son of God discloses.  
 And He walks with me, and He talks with me,  
 And He tells me I am His own;  
 And the joy we share as we tarry there,  
 None other has ever known.

*[Verse 2]*

He speaks, and the sound of His voice,  
 Is so sweet the birds hush their singing,  
 And the melody that He gave to me  
 Within my heart is ringing.  
 And He walks with me, and He talks with me,  
 And He tells me I am His own;  
 And the joy we share as we tarry there,  
 None other has ever known.

*[Verse 3]*

I'd stay in the garden with Him  
 Though the night around me be falling,  
 But He bids me go; through the voice of woe  
 His voice to me is calling.  
 And He walks with me, and He talks with me,  
 And He tells me I am His own;  
 And the joy we share as we tarry there,  
 None other has ever known.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Isaiah 43:1-7

OT 672

But now thus says the Lord,  
 he who created you, O Jacob,  
 he who formed you, O Israel:  
 Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
 I have called you by name, you are mine.  
 2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
 and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
 when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
 and the flame shall not consume you.  
 3 For I am the Lord your God,  
 the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,  
 Ethiopia[a] and Seba in exchange for you.  
 4 Because you are precious in my sight,  
 and honored, and I love you,  
 I give people in return for you,  
 nations in exchange for your life.  
 5 Do not fear, for I am with you;  
 I will bring your offspring from the east,  
 and from the west I will gather you;  
 6 I will say to the north, "Give them up,"  
 and to the south, "Do not withhold;  
 bring my sons from far away  
 and my daughters from the end of the earth—  
 7 everyone who is called by my name,  
 whom I created for my glory,  
 whom I formed and made."

**MESSAGE***"What's In a Name?"*

Pastor Twyla Rowe

**HYMN #567***"How firm a foundation"**[Verse 1]*

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word! What more can He say than to you He hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

*[Verse 2]*

*"Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed, for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid. I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.*

*[Verse 3]*

*"When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow, for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.*

*[Verse 4]*

*"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply. The flame shall not hurt thee. I only design thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.*

*[Verse 5]*

*"The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose, I will not, I will not desert to its foes. That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"*

**\*BENEDICTION**

*After the Benediction, you may be seated.*

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

**POSTLUDE**

“God’s Love Is Forever”

(Koury)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

\*Please rise — in body or spirit — as an act of worship

Thank you for joining us in worship today.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



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 January 12, 2025**

**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, January 12- Most Merciful and Loving God, Your Word reminds me that I am precious to you as you call me by name in both the good and the bad times of my life. The Word assures me that in knowing my name, this includes the truth that you intimately know everything about me. You and I celebrate together, the joys in my life; and we walk together through the trials of my life. This brings peace and hope to my soul. I pray for all of those who do not know or welcome the assurance, the guidance and the hope that your intimate presence could bring to their lives. I pray for peace of mind, guidance and healing for all who are navigating murky and rocky waters in their life. In Your Precious Name, I pray. Amen.

**Our thanks** to Jan Young for being our worship leader today and to the Temple Choir for our morning music.

**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 and given in loving memory of husband, Mike Hovis, and daughter, Joni Kline, given by Nancy Hovis and family.

**We regret to inform you that the elevator** is out of service, effective immediately, until further notice. We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause. The Property & Finance Team are hard at work to get this matter taken care of and to get the issues fixed. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Donnie Maas. Thank you for your understanding and patience. The church office and the P&F Team will keep you updated with any changes or progress.

**The Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screenings** have been rescheduled for next Sunday, January 19th. The screenings 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.

**Year-End Contribution Statements** can be found in the church mailboxes. If you do not have a church mailbox, the statements will be mailed. If you're new to HCOB and have been using an envelope and didn't get a statement, please email or call the church office.

**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.**

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

**It's time to sign up for a Patron ad** for in the 2025 Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response auction booklet. Patron ads are for those individuals who want to support disaster relief. The annual auction is the district's largest fundraiser for this. Patron ads can be purchased for ten or more dollars. Please contact Daryl Long or Arn Platou to place your ad, but do it quickly. We have an early deadline this year and all checks and forms need to be in Elgin before **February 7th** to be included in the booklet. Checks need to be made out to HCOB.

**Prayer Walk**—The Service & Outreach Team will be having our annual Prayer Walk on Saturday, February 8, 2025. We will be preparing 160 bagged meals which we will be distributing to our neighbors in the downtown area. We are in need of hats, gloves, socks, blankets and small personal-care items. If you would like to donate any of these items, a box will be available in the west entrance.

**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)

**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!

**A Friendly Reminder:** Meritus is encouraging the community to keep in mind that this is the season when the flu and viruses are easily spread. The hospital is currently seeing an influx of people with a very contagious virus. This reminder is not to alarm anyone, but to ask us all to keep in mind that if we become ill; or if we feel like we are coming down with something; or if you know you have been exposed to something contagious...please take care of yourself at home and worship with your church family on Sundays using Facebook Live. They also suggest avoiding hugs and handshakes during this season. Worshiping God is central to our life together. May we do so, even as we care for each other by following these preventative guidelines.

**Because winter weather is 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.

**Cash for Causes/Martin's Gift Card Program.** Purchase Martin's gift cards to take to the store to pay for your groceries or gas, and 5% of the face value of the gift card is a donation to the church and goes toward your yearly charitable contribution. To purchase a card, please contact Larry Kees, Jr. (301-331-0107). We can make arrangements to leave cards in your church mailbox or mail them to you.

**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](mailto:secretaryhcob@gmail.com). Thank you!

**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](mailto:secretaryhcob@gmail.com). Thank you!

**CALENDAR**

**Sunday, January 12**

Junior Church  
8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall  
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms  
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live

**Monday, January 13**

Church Office Closed

**Tuesday, January 14**

5:30 pm Spiritual Nurture Meeting/Mullendore Room  
7:00 pm Hag. Choral Arts/Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday, January 15**

Administrative Assistant/Work from home  
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions  
12:00 pm Newsletter deadline  
5:30 pm Service & Outreach Meeting/Mullendore Room

**Thursday, January 16**

1:00 pm Jack Walker Celebration of Life Service/HCOB  
5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall  
6:30 pm Brethren Bells/Choir Room  
7:30 pm Temple Choir/Fellowship Hall

**Friday, January 17**

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

**Saturday, January 18**

Pastor Twyla's day off

**Sunday, January 19**

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

*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.