

## So that my soul may praise you

Psalm 30 is one of abounding joy and faith, a celebratory prayer of all God's glory. When I first read it, I could almost hear it singing to me. Its melodious rhythm encourages passion, its bubbly verbiage clings to the soul. It reminds us of all the good things God provides for us, and recognizes that the world isn't perfect either.

The part that is most profound to me is verse 12: "That my heart may sing your praises and not be silent. Lord my God, I will praise you forever" (NIV). I find that it is easy to keep my faith to myself. I'm not one to press my faith on others, because that's not my style. I want everyone to experience their faith for themselves, and if they happen to ask about mine, that's great!

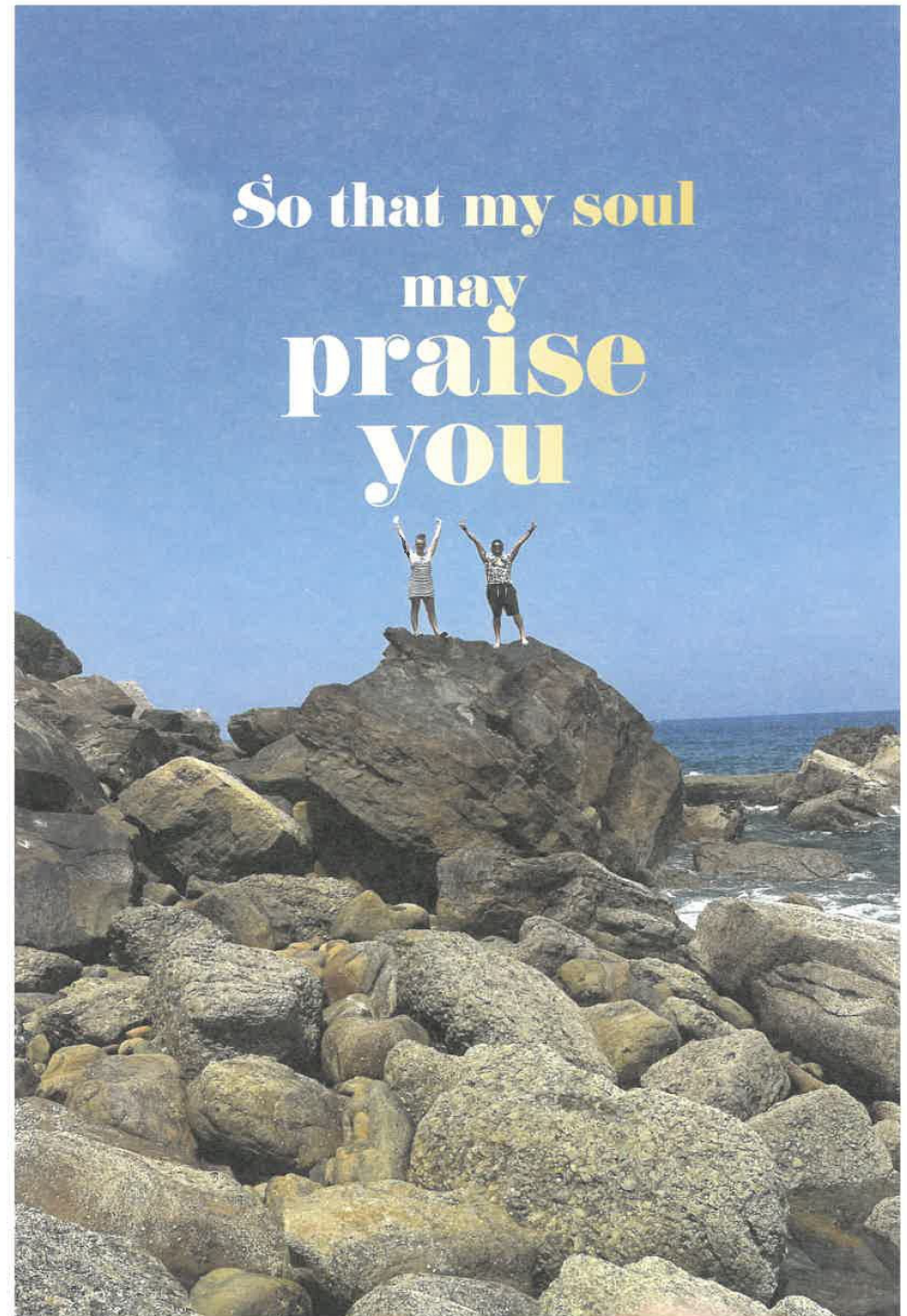
But most likely this approach to sharing God's praise won't bring new people to God. If I don't share about God's praise, how will others know about God's amazing presence? I cannot allow myself to be quiet, for if I am to praise God forever, does that doom me to a lifetime of silence? Openly praising God for all things good isn't pressing my faith to others, it simply shares it. Why would I want to stifle that love and joy within me?

Sharing about the Church of the Brethren is important, not just for the future of the denomination, but for the greater good of God's children. Because of this, I choose to thank God for all that God has enabled me to be, do, and feel. I will not be silent, and I encourage you to do the same.

—Colby Patton  
Wichita, Kansas

*"So that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever"* (Psalm 30:12, *NRSVue*). **Today's Bible readings from the lectionary:** Acts 9:1-6, (7-20); Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19.

May 4, 2025, Youth Sunday. Photo © Kendrick Imler. Used by permission.  
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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
Hagerstown, Maryland

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**MORNING WORSHIP**

**10:45 AM**

May 4, 2025

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WHERE DID YOU SEE GOD LAST WEEK?**

**PRELUDE** "My Lord, What a Morning" (Wilson)

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Chris Stockslager, Worship Leader

One: The realm of God has come near. Enter this time of worship with joyous expectation.

*All: We will extol you, O God, for you have drawn us up. You rescued us from the pit and restored us to life.*

One: Sing praises to God, all faithful ones. Give thanks to God's holy name.

*All: We have known your favor, O God, in many ways. You have healed us and turned our mourning to dancing.*

One: Rejoice in the work you are given to do. Give thanks that your names are known to God.

*All: We will praise you, O God, and not be silent. We will give thanks to you forever.*

**\*HYMN #70** "Immortal, invisible, God only wise"

[Verse 1]

*Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible, hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.*

[Verse 2]

*Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might, thy justice like mountains high soaring above thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.*

[Verse 3]

*To all, life thou givest, to both great and small. In all life thou livest, the true life of all. We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree, and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.*

[Verse 4]

*Great God of all glory, great God of all light, thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight. All praise we would render; O help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.*

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

Gracious God, our helper, we greet you this morning with joy and thanksgiving. We feel your welcome and anticipate your teaching. Show us this day what you would have us do. Whether it be great or small, we want to do what you command. Let our ears be attentive to your Word, and our hearts be responsive to the opportunities you grant us to bear one another's burdens in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**MORNING ANTHEM** "O Magnify the Lord with Me" (Pethel)

**SERVICE OF GIVING**

**Call to Giving**

Our offerings support the ministry of this church as we reach out together to announce the better way God intends for all of us. In our giving, we extend a welcome, practice hospitality, offer healing, become reapers in God's harvest, and extend the peace of God to the world. May our offerings honor the one who gives us all we have.

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.

**Offertory** Holy God, We Praise Your Name" (Hebble)

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

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Let us pray. With gratitude for your gracious favor, we dedicate these gifts. May they help others as we have been helped. May they reach out in a spirit of gentleness to restore to community those who have been alienated. May they announce to the world that the realm of God is among us, waiting to be claimed. By these resources, may your name be praised here and in many other places. Amen.

**A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN**

## CONSECRATION OF CHILDREN

**Unison Prayer:** God, you have blessed us with the wonders of creation, and today we celebrate your gift of creation in the form of these three beautiful little girls. May we, being mindful of your presence at all times, remember Jesus' words when he said, "Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." Make your presence known in the life of Hazel, Serenity and LaNylah and in the life of their mother. Bless these girls and all children. We pray in the name of Christ, whose love for all your children brings us here. 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

### HYMN

*"How Great Thou Art"*

*[Verse 1]*

*O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder,  
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed.*

*[Refrain]*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!*

*[Verse 2]*

*When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;*

*[Refrain]*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!*

*[Verse 3]*

*And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,*

*sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;  
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
he bled and died to take away my sin;*

*[Refrain]*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!*

*[Verse 4]*

*When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.*

*Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!*

*[Refrain]*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!*

## SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 30

OT 505

I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me. O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me. O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit. Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning. As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved." By your favor, O Lord, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed. To you, O Lord, I cried, and to the Lord I made supplication: "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness? Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me! O Lord, be my helper!" You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

## MESSAGE

"God Can Do It!"

Pastor Twyla Rowe

**\*HYMN #328**

*“O God, our help in ages past”*

*[Verse 1]*

*O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home;*

*[Verse 2]*

*under the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure.*

*Sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.*

*[Verse 3]*

*Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,  
from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.*

*[Verse 4]*

*A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.*

*[Verse 5]*

*Time, like an ever-rolling stream soon bears us all away.*

*We fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the op'ning day.*

*[Verse 6]*

*O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
be thou our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home!*

**\*BENEDICTION**

*After the Benediction, you may be seated.*

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

**POSTLUDE**

*“Sing Aloud to God Our Strength”*

*(Hughes)*

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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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Welcome

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                      May 4, 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, May 4 - Each day I come to you, Lord, and you listen. You welcome to your listening ear, my praises and gratitude, my complaints and longings, my concerns and requests for others. I offer prayers of healing now for \_\_\_\_\_ . Thank you, Almighty and Compassionate God. Your Word says you will respond whenever I pray; but I confess that I am not always pleased with your response...nor am I always patient in waiting for your response. Help me, O God, to be patient and to trust you. Help me to remember that you are always faithful and righteous with your response. Help me to faithfully follow Christ's example. Amen.

**Our thanks** to Chris Stockslager for being our worship leader today.

**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 given to the Glory of God and in honor of Brian Shay's 55th birthday by his family.

**If you would like to place flowers** on the altar on May 11th, please contact Rebecca Jackson at [rebeccajackson0314@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccajackson0314@gmail.com)

**Pastor Twyla** will be away on vacation starting today, May 4th through May 11th. If you are in need of regular pastoral care, please contact your Deacon. Pastor Eddie Edmonds will be on call for emergencies. His contact information can be found in the church directory.

**This morning** we dedicate and bless Hazel Amara Whitfield, Serenity Amya Whitfield, and LaNylah Anique Crosby. Hazel, Serenity and LaNylah are the daughters of Brook Crosby.

**Today is our May Congregational Business Meeting.** We will have a potluck lunch in the fellowship hall following our 10:45 am Worship and following lunch, we will have our Congregational Business Meeting.

**Today is Older Adult Sunday!** Cookies and cards from our youth will be handed out as you leave the sanctuary.

**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. All items collected will go to the Community Picnic.

**May Tidings** are now available. If you did not receive an electronic copy please notify the Church office and you will be added to the emailing list. Printed copies can be found on the credenza in the wing of the sanctuary or in the fellowship hall.

**The Novel Bunch Presents...** Looking for Salvation at the Dairy Queen by Susan Gregg Gilmore. Saturday, May 17th from 10:00 AM—12:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Light refreshments will be served. If you would like to attend, please see the insert in the latest Tidings or you can find copies of the sign up sheet on the credenza in the wing of the sanctuary or in the Fellowship Hall.

**All Music Sunday will be held May 18th.** There will be no Morning Praise Worship Service. Sunday School starts at regular time and we will have a combined worship at 10:45 am in the sanctuary.



**It's time for Messenger Magazine renewals!** Renewal is \$14.50 for one year, or \$27.00 for two years. Never before subscribers - \$10.00 for the first year only. Should you choose to subscribe (or renew) to Messenger, your check should be made out to Hagerstown Church of the Brethren and should be placed in the offering or forwarded to the Church Office no later than May 21, 2025. Be sure to write "Messenger" on the memo line of your check. This deadline is firm. The paperwork has to be mailed to the Messenger office before their deadline. CURRENT SUBSCRIBERS: Check your email for a note! Messenger now offers an online option. If you would like more details on this, please contact the church office at secretary-hcob@gmail.com or call 301-733-3565.

**The Community Picnic** will be held on Saturday, June 7th. We need a lot of help from our members and friends to help us with this event. We also need baked beans. A sign-up sheet will be available beginning May 4th. The Service & Outreach Team thanks you in advance.

**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!

**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!

**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.

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**Grief Writing Workshop**—Award-winning local author and former grief counselor Lisa V. Proulx will be conducting a workshop entitled *Writing Through Grief: Finding Light After Loss* at HCOB on Wednesday, May 7, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. This workshop is being hosted through the GriefShare group, but it is not limited to GriefShare participants. It is open to anyone who is interested in attending.

**Content:** The workshop will include guided writing prompts, exercises for emotional release, and techniques for using writing as a healing tool. It's designed to create a safe, supportive space for self-reflection and connection with others on a similar journey.

**Location:** Mullendore Room

**Cost:** \$35.00/person

**Registration:** Make check payable to HCOB with "GriefShare Workshop" on the memo line.

If you have questions, contact Debbie Nycum.

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## **CALENDAR**

### **Sunday, May 4**

Food Pantry Sunday/Older Adult Sunday  
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 Congregational Business Meeting/Fellowship Hall

### **Monday, May 5**

Church office closed/Pastor Twyla Vacation  
6:30 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

### **Tuesday, May 6**

Pastor Twyla Vacation  
7:00 pm Hag, Choral Arts/Fellowship Hall  
7:00 pm Worship Meeting/Mullendore Room

### **Wednesday, May 7**

Pastor Twyla Vacation  
Administrative Assistant/Work from Home  
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions  
12:30 pm Hag, Choral Arts Women's Ensemble/Fellowship Hall  
6:30 pm Grief Writing Workshop/Mullendore Room

### **Thursday, May 8**

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

### **Friday, May 9**

Pastor Twyla Vacation/Admin. Assistant Out of Office  
1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3pm)

### **Saturday, May 10**

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

### **Sunday, May 11**

Pastor Twyla Vacation/Junior Church/Mother's Day  
Pastor Steve Robinson Guest Preacher  
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  
Breeze [www.hagerstowncob.org](http://www.hagerstowncob.org)

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