

Lectio divina: Seek the things above

Jeremiah 29:13 says, “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” In Colossians 3:1-3, Paul says to “set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.”

One way Christians have done this for centuries is through a spiritual discipline called *Lectio divina*—“divine or spiritual reading.” The practice includes close reading of scripture, meditation, and prayer.

Take some time to practice Lectio divina using Colossians 3:1-11. Follow these traditional steps to help you along the way:

Pray: Start by spending time in silence before God. Expect to hear God speak and ask him to do so through his word.

Read: Read Colossians 3:1-11 aloud. Read it silently, then aloud again.

Meditate: Ruminates or “chew” on the passage as you slowly look it over and think about it deeply. Consider individual phrases. Words. Touch the page if that helps. What does the passage mean? What does it mean for you? Journaling can accompany this step.

Pray: Use the passage as a framework for more prayer. Praise God for truths about him in each verse. Ask God to enable you to follow each of Paul’s instructions.

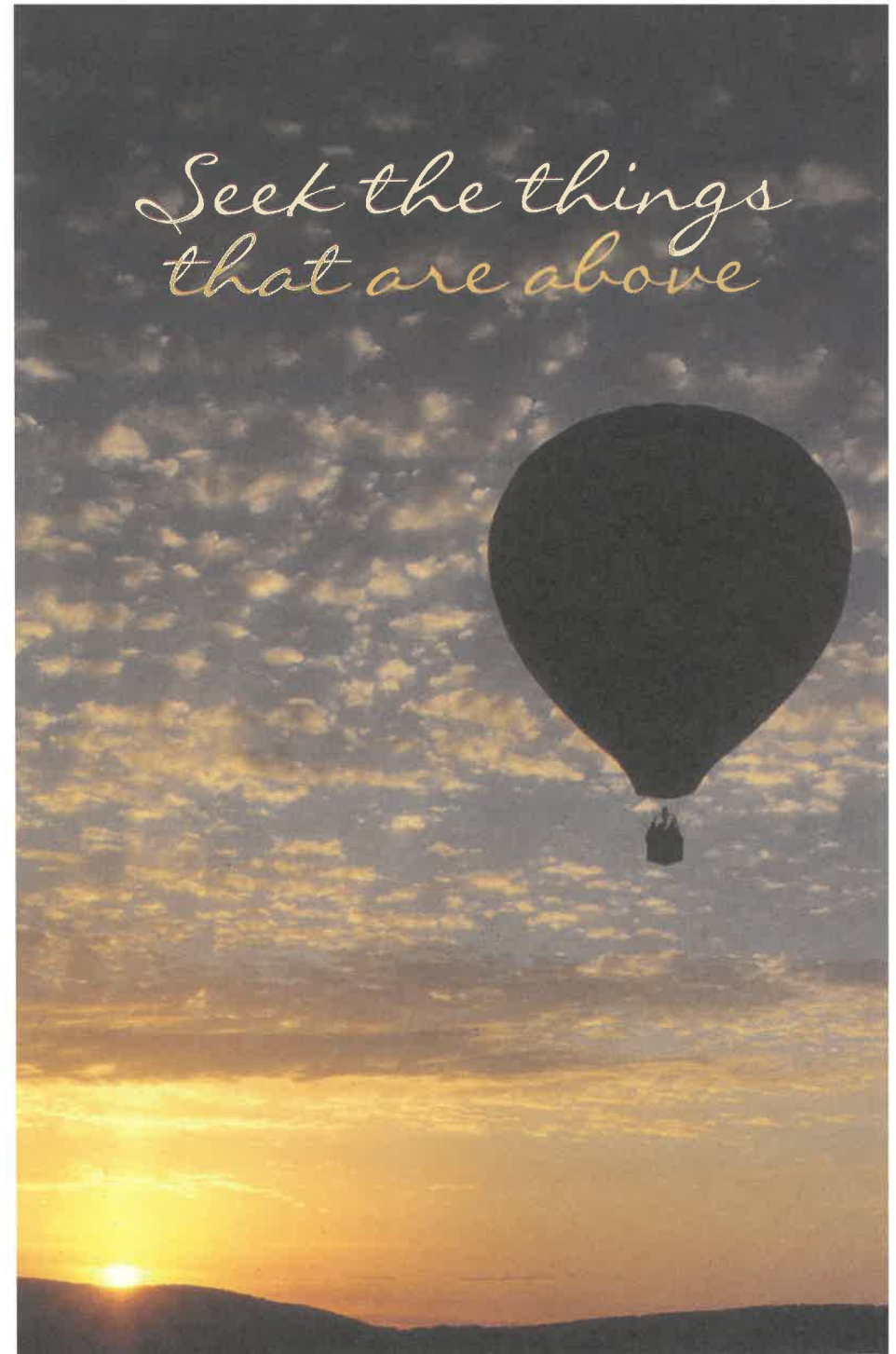
Contemplate: Think on the scripture again. This time, focus on ways you’re living in line with this passage . . . and ways you aren’t. What might you do to embody it better? To “seek the things above” more fully?

Pray: As a final prayer, thank God for his word. Thank him for any practical insights you’ve gained during this time. Ask him for grace, faith, wisdom and strength to live out Colossians 3:1-11 every day.

—Matt Hill
Saginaw, Michigan

“So if you have been raised with Christ, *seek the things that are above*, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God” (Colossians 3:1, *NRSVue*). **Today’s Bible readings from the lectionary:** Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9, 43; Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23; Psalm 49:1-12; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21.

August 3, 2025. Photo © Steve Vogel. Used by permission.
Living Word Bulletin Series © 2025 Brethren Press. Printed in the USA.



CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45 AM

August 3, 2025

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don Maas, Worship Leader

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?

PRELUDE

"Praise God in His Holy Temple"

(Scott)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Our lives are in the care of God.

All: God has given us abundance and hope.

One: This day we have come to praise and thank God for all that God has done for us.

All: We gather to celebrate God's love and to offer our lives in service.

One: Come, let us open our hearts to the Lord!

All: Let us rejoice in God's goodness and love.

*HYMN #86

"Now thank we all our God"

[Verse 1]

*Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices,
who, from our mothers' arms, has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

[Verse 2]

*Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us safe in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world in the next.*

[Verse 3]

*All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore,
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.*

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, in whose arms we have found our identity, come among us to direct our faltering steps in the ways you would have us go. Teach us to

walk with Christ through the distractions that beckon on us in other directions. Turn our vain striving into meaningful service, our foolish greed to the fulfillment of sharing, our confusion to clarity of vision, that we might worship you truly this hour. Amen.

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

HYMN #324

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God"

[Verse 1]

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!*

[Verse 2]

*Ask, and it shall be given unto you. Seek, and ye shall find.
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia!*

[Bridge]

Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, allelu, alleluia!

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

Life does not consist in the abundance of our possessions. All that we currently possess will someday belong to others. We have the privilege in this life to do good with all that God has entrusted to us. We bring a portion now to be blessed by God in the work of our church, Christ's church, here and in other places.

As we pass the offering plate here in the sanctuary, we also pass a virtual offering plate to those worshipping with us on YouTube 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

"Song of Devotion"

(Hughes)

*Doxology #119

"Praise God from whom"

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray. Help us, O God, to give enough of ourselves and our substance every day that we will not be tempted to embrace the idolatry of greed. We here dedicate not just our offerings but all we possess to causes far greater than our own security. Before all our attachments require "larger barns," help us to reflect on how they might better be used by others than stored by us. Thank you for the abundant opportunity to share. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, AND HOPES

Please remember our worship is also on YouTube 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

SPECIAL MUSIC “His Eye Is on the Sparrow” (Gabriel)
Ed Plank

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 12:13-21 NT 74

Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, “‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” ’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

MESSAGE “Pleasing God” Pastor Twyla Rowe

***HYMN #389** “Take my life and let it be”
[Verse 1]

*Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee. Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise, let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

[Verse 2]

*Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love. Take my feet, and let them
be swift and beautiful for thee, swift and beautiful for thee.*

[Verse 3]

*Take my voice, and let me sing, always, only for my King. Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee, filled with messages from thee.*

[Verse 4]

*Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold. Take my intellect and use
ev’ry pow’r as thou shalt choose, ev’ry pow’r as thou shalt choose.*

[Verse 5]

*Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is
thine own, it shall be thy royal throne, it shall be thy royal throne.*

[Verse 6]

*Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store. Take myself, and I
will be ever, only, all for thee, ever, only, all for thee.*

*BENEDICTION

After the Benediction, you may be seated.

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

POSTLUDE “Epilogue of Praise” (Ritter)

(Worship Resources by Lavon Bayler, “Gathered By Love”, Year C)

~ ~ ~ ~

*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 YouTube Live at
10:45 AM

www.hagerstowncob.org

[www.facebook.com/
hagerstowncob](http://www.facebook.com/hagerstowncob)

[www.youtube.com/
@hagerstowncob](http://www.youtube.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 August 3, 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 starting on Sunday, August 3 - You, O God, give me a purpose for each day that I live. From the smallest detail of every day living to the unforeseen opportunities to minister to others, I find your presence nudging me and calling me. How marvelous is your Spirit that points me in the right direction...empowers and guides me. And with humility, I express through my words and my heart, my gratitude for your forgiveness for those times when I am not obedient to your will and I don't get things right. This is a new day...and today...I will seek You. I will listen for your voice. I will pursue, with faithfulness, your will. For I want nothing more than to be an active participant in your work; using the gifts you've given me to magnify Your Name and direct others to you. Amen.

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.

Our thanks to Donnie Maas for being our worship leader today and to Ed Plank for special music this morning.

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God and in memory of our parents, Atlee & Louise Keesecker and George & Mary Plank from Ed & Eunice Plank.

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 Holly Place.

August 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.

Fellowship Time will be held today in the Mullendore Room from 10:20—10:40 am. We are also in **need of volunteers** to provide goodies for Fellowship Time, held the first Sunday of each month. Goodies may be your favorite recipe or a delicious store bought treat. Suggestions include cookies, muffins, or doughnuts (3-4 dozen of whatever you choose) and may be dropped off in the Mullendore Room (the room behind the wing of the sanctuary) that morning. Beverages and paper products are provided. Please sign up on the sheet located in the west entrance, or contact Kristal Bricker or Amy Hardy. Thank you for helping to make Fellowship Time possible!

Please check your church mailbox for the second quarter contribution statement. All statements left in the mailboxes after today will be mailed. Please help us save money on postage by checking your mailbox.

We are now streaming our services through YouTube! If you have not done so already, subscribe to HCOB's YouTube Channel and share it with others. You can do so by going to: www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob

We will be welcoming new members to our congregation during the late service on Sunday, August 24th. If you have taken the class and are interested in joining, please let Pastor Twyla know by Sunday, August 17th.

Susan Hughes and Jeremy Springer are going to have cantaloupes again this year in the west entrance on Sunday, August 24th starting at 9:30 am. She gets them in Shippensburg, PA at a Mennonite farm and they are very tasty. Once again she will be taking donations for the cantaloupes and all proceeds will go to the Good Samaritan Fund.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace—Jenny Ferguson is collecting used or new children's books for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. The children love to receive a book along with their new bed. There will be a box set up under the table in the west entrance, marked for the children's books. You will make the children so happy! Thank you!

MUSIC PROGRAM – Music rehearsals will begin on September 4th with Praise Band at 5:30, Brethren Bells at 6:30 and Temple Choir at 7:30. If you're thinking about joining, or have a musical gift to share, this would be a great time to get started! See Burt with any questions.

Widows/Widowers Luncheon—You are invited to attend a luncheon for the Widows/Widowers at Hagerstown COB. The luncheon will take place on Thursday, September 18, 2025 in the Fellowship Hall. We ask ALL that attend to bring a pot luck dish to share. We will provide paper goods and drinks. A sign up sheet will be placed in the west entrance for everyone to please sign up so we can get a head count. If you have questions, please contact Robin Davies, Ann Platou, Suzie Wolfe or Mary Means.

SAVE THE DATE—Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat at HCOB—October 18, 2025

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.

Our fall session of GriefShare will begin on Wednesday, September 17, and continue each Wednesday evening through December 17, from 6:30—8:30 in the Mullendore Room. There will be no class on November 26 due to the Thanksgiving holiday. You may join at any time during the 13 weeks, but we ask that you commit to attending at least 3 consecutive weeks. Cost is free, but we gladly will accept a \$10 donation towards materials.

The grief journey after losing a loved one is very painful, difficult, and lonely. Since everyone grieves differently, there is no magic endpoint to the grieving process. Fortunately, HCOB offers GriefShare, an international, faith-based 13-week seminar offering support after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend, no matter how recent. The GriefShare ministry team provides a safe, welcoming space where people understand the heavy emotions of grief. As a participant, you will receive valuable tools to help you navigate your personal path, as well as gain support from others also in their grief journeys. If you or someone you know has lost a loved one, please share this information with them and consider attending. We encourage you to bring a family member or friend so they can better understand your loss and become a greater support for you.

Register at www.griefshare.org. If you have any questions about the program, see Pastor Twyla or Debbie Nycum.

*We also will offer two special 2-hr evening seminars:

1. *Loss of a Spouse*—Wednesday, August 13, 6:30—8:30 pm (see separate listing)
2. *Surviving the Holidays*—Monday, November 3, 6:30—8:30 pm

CALENDAR

Sunday, August 3

Food Pantry 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 & YouTube
(www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob)

Monday, August 4

Church office closed

Tuesday, August 5

5:30 pm P&F Meeting/Mullendore Room
7:00 pm Worship Meeting/Mullendore Room

Wednesday, August 6

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

Friday, August 8

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

Saturday, August 9

Pastor Twyla's day off

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

Sunday, August 10

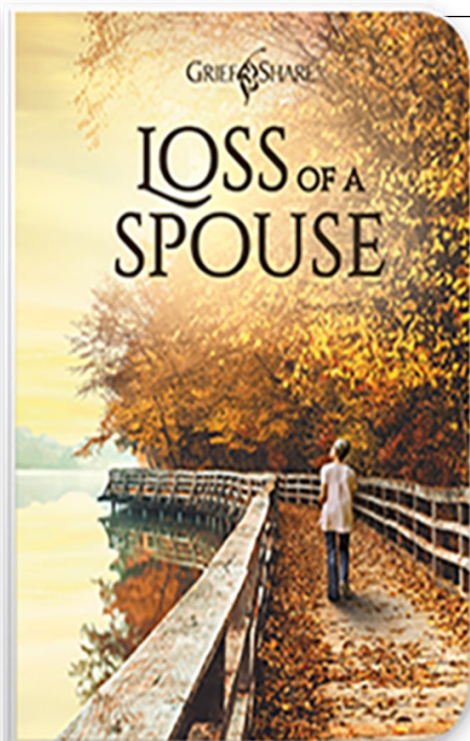
Junior Church

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 & YouTube
(www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob)

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

The church calendar is online at
www.hagerstowncob.org.
Click the calendar tab.



Grieving the death of a spouse?
Or do you know someone who is?

The death of a spouse brings a unique kind of pain. People who are widowed haven't just lost a loved one—they've lost an entire lifestyle once enjoyed with that special person.

We hope you will consider joining the HCOB GriefShare Team for a special 2-hr seminar which will address the challenges of this type of loss.

You may wish to bring a family member or friend so they can better understand your loss and become a greater support for you. If you have questions, please see Pastor Twyla or Debbie Nycum.

Date: Wednesday, August 13
Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Place: Mullendore Room

Register at www.GriefShare.org