

## Take heart

People often say they don't dream, simply because they can't remember their dreams. I usually can, even when I'd prefer not to. Sometimes, frightening dreams wake me as I try—unsuccessfully—to scream; all that comes out is a faint squeak. The inability to vocalize my fear in those moments leaves me more afraid than the dream itself. Therefore, my greatest fear is having no voice.

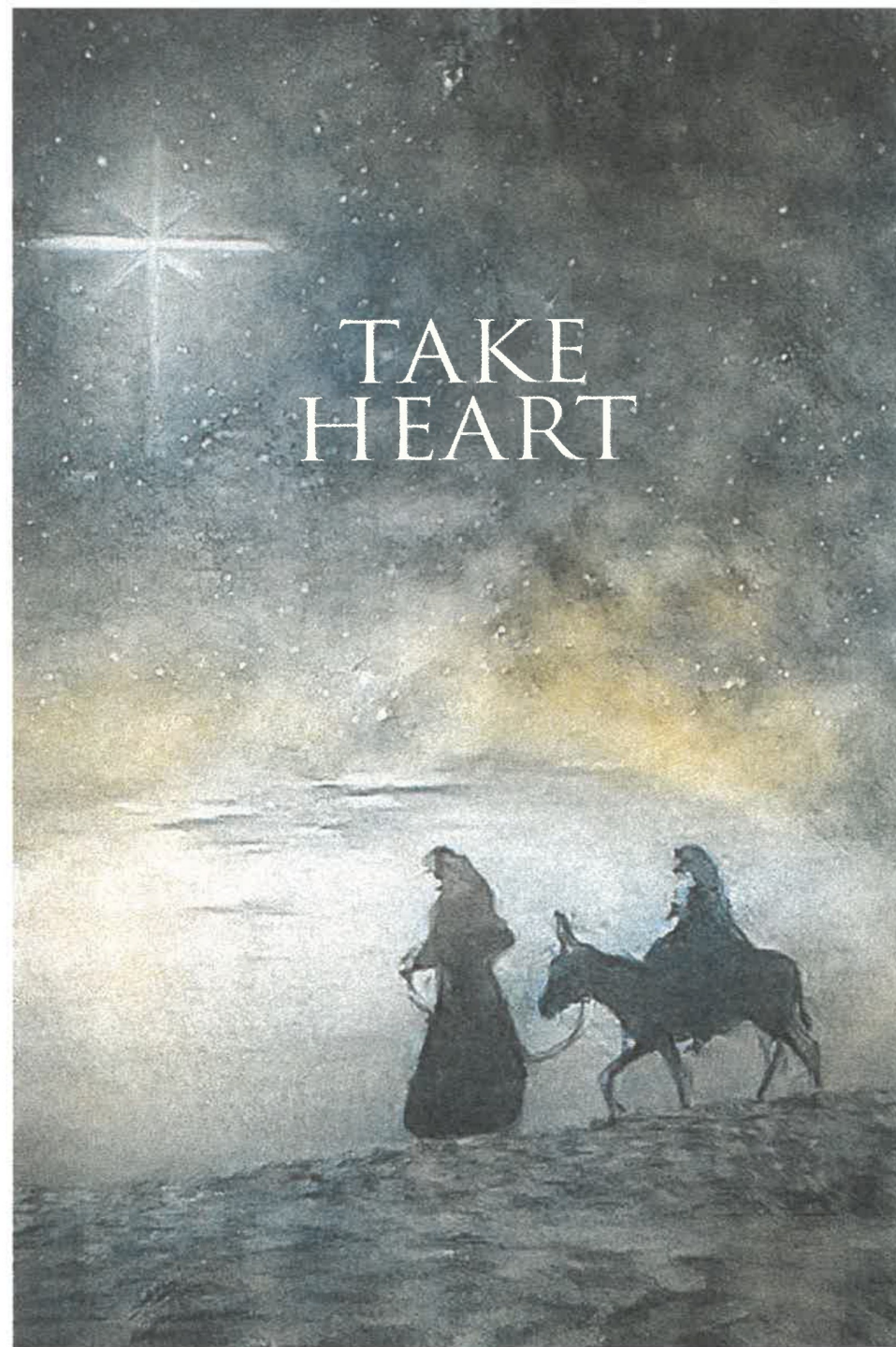
The Judean exiles were people without a voice as they dwelt in a foreign country, so Isaiah portrays the joyful return to Zion as a vivid scene of song and color. A dry, dull wilderness explodes with gurgling fountains accompanied by the bright songs of blossoms. However, creation is not alone in acquiring a voice. The redeemed will be given a voice to sing and shout on the Holy Way. Those who trembled in the margins—the speechless, the lame, and the blind—will have a voice and the ability to dance their way home.

Numerous individuals within our communities lack the opportunity or permission to voice their perspectives. It is common to find ourselves among such neighbors. Together, we can take heart; God is here among us writing a new song for us to sing, rearranging the notes in the melody to create a song of mercy and justice. We can take heart; God has redeemed us through his anthem of love—Jesus Christ!

—Cindy Sanders  
Cabool, Missouri

"Energize the limp hands, strengthen the rubbery knees. Tell fearful souls, 'Courage! *Take heart!* God is here, right here, on his way to put things right and redress all wrongs. He's on his way! He'll save you!'" (Isaiah 35:3-4, *The Message*).  
**Today's Bible readings from the lectionary:** Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11.

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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
Hagerstown, Maryland

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**MORNING WORSHIP**

**10:45 AM**

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December 14, 2025  
Third Sunday of Advent

**GATHERING MUSIC**      Historical Brass  
*(Please gather quietly so everyone can enjoy the music)*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Candice Summers, Worship Leader

**WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?**

<b>PRELUDE</b>	"Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella"	(Kimball)
	"In the Bleak Midwinter"	(Kimball)
	"Joy to the World"	(Kimball)
	Handbell Quartet	

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Be patient! Wait and Watch for the Lord is drawing near to us.

*All: We have gathered here this day to hear the good news and to  
gather strength for the times to come.*

One: Be at peace with one another.

*All: Let love and wisdom prevail.*

One: Open your hearts and souls to God's healing word.

*All: Lord, touch our hearts. Teach us to patiently listen for your words  
of love.*

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

*My soul proclaims with wonder the greatness of the Lord, rejoicing in God's good-  
ness 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 good-  
ness 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 good-*

*ness 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.*

**OPENING PRAYER**

O Lord, you know the deserts and the parched places in our lives. We seek your healing power. Lead us on this Advent journey to the place of new birth and to the place of our redemption; for we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

One: The Lord is our and our salvation, whom shall we fear? The Lord is the stronghold of our life; of whom shall we be afraid?

*All: As we long for the light, let us lay aside every weight and the sin  
that clings so closely. Let us be glad and rejoice in the Lord's  
salvation.*

One: Let us pray: Eternal God, you are our salvation, our strength, our shield. In this season of expectancy, open our eyes to our sin. Let your Spirit reveal the darkness of our souls; let daybreak come through your deliverance. Come in the glory of your saving light and shine upon our pathways. Amen.

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

Christ be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ be our light!  
Shine in your Church gathered today.  
Christ be our light!

**SERVICE OF GIVING**

**Call to Giving**

God continues to lift up the lowly and to topple the powerful from their thrones. God judges us, not by worldly standards of greatness but

according to the genuineness of our compassion and the extent of our faithfulness. Our offerings are one measure of our priorities.

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 website.

**Offertory** "People, Look East" (Lasky)

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

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Majestic God, thank you for inviting us to share the blessings you pour out on us. We want to extend the healing ministry of Jesus who gave sight to those who were blind and new insight to some who only pretend to see. Use our resources to heal attitudes as well as bodies, to bring wholeness, not just cures. Help us to address the inequities of the earth that leave so many without food or shelter or hope. Lead us into your realm in the midst of our daily living. Amen.

## A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE A CHILD

**HYMN #185** "Hail to the Lord's anointed"  
[Verse 1]

*Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!*

*Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!*

*He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,  
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.*

[Verse 2]

*He comes with justice surely to those who suffer wrong,  
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong,  
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.*

[Verse 3]

*He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth.  
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.  
Before him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go,  
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.*

[Verse 4]

*To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,  
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.*

*The tide of time shall never his covenant remove.*

*His name shall stand forever; that name to us is love*

## RECEIVING IN MEMBERSHIP BETH DAVIS-REINHOLD

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: We welcome you with joy and affection into this household of faith. We pledge to you our help, our prayers, our concern, that we may all increase in knowledge and love of God. We trust God for strength to follow with you in Christ's way, keeping together the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 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

**MORNING ANTHEM** "Waiting for a King" (Martin)  
Temple Choir

**SCRIPTURE READING** James 5:7-10 NT 231

Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**MESSAGE** "Wait Patiently" 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 wondrous 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**

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

(Smith)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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

Thank you for joining us in worship today.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*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 YouTube Live at  
10:45 AM

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

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[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 December 14, 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 for the week beginning with Sunday, December 14 - Shine your light, Jesus...into my life as I patiently wait again for the celebration of the birth of the Savior who lives in my heart. Shine brightly, pushing away the darkness that could threaten to hide you from my sight. Send your light to shine brightly into my heart...filling it with peace, hope and joy. Shine your light through my words and deeds...leading those who see the light through me...to the manger and the gift of salvation that you bring. 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 Candice Summers for being our worship leader today and to the Historical Brass: Dana Schoppert, Dave Shane, Mark Lochbaum, and Chris Stockslager; the Handbell Quartet: Kerry Arnold, Becky Jackson, Brenda Shane and Chris Stockslager, and the Temple Choir for our morning music.

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

**This morning during the late service, we will be welcoming** Beth Davis-Reinhold as a new member to our congregation.

**Junior Church will be held today** for children ages Kindergarten through the sixth grade. **We will gather in the Children's Church Room (Room #203).** (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 Tina Mills. **Junior Church is held the second and fourth Sunday of each month.**

**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 service will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Come...let us adore Him...Christ the Lord!

**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!

**Volunteer Needed**—The Flower and Altar committee is looking for a volunteer for the month of January. If you're interested, please contact Cinnamon Shay.

**The Flower & Altar Committee** has an opening on January 18th if you would like to place flowers on the altar in memory, celebration, or honor of a loved one. If you are interested, please contact Cinnamon Shay at 301-730-8499 or email [cinnamongirl@myactv.net](mailto:cinnamongirl@myactv.net)

**The Mary Martha Circle** Christmas craft is now for sale in the west entrance. The price is \$20.00. All proceeds will go to Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

**Christmas Cards.** Please remember to check your church mailbox for Christmas cards. Any cards leftover will not be delivered or mailed by the church office or Spiritual Nurture Team. Please check your mailbox often. You never know what might be in there. Blessings! - *Your Spiritual Nurture Team*

**SAVE THE DATE!** HCOB's week to volunteer at the REACH Cold Weather Shelter is March 8-15. For those of you who plan to volunteer, please make a note of these dates. More info to come in the new year. Thanks!

**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 Donnie Maas (240-866-1077). We can make arrangements to leave cards in your church mailbox or mail them to you.

**2026 Pocket Directory**—Our pocket directory is a year-round work in progress. Updates are added as we are made aware of them, but with our busy lives, sometimes we don't remember to pass our changes along to the church office. Do you have any changes to your information that need to be included in the 2026 edition? If you do, either email, call, or leave a note for Allyson **no later than December 15th**. Directories will be printed after the first of the year.

**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.

**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 YouTube Live. Be safe first and check your email!

**Church mailboxes.** Everyone is welcome to use the mailboxes. If you would like to be added or taken off the list, please contact Mary Means. If you have a mailbox, we ask that you be willing to monitor it. Any mail that is left in the mailboxes after a three-month period will be disposed of. The mailboxes are located in the hallway of the church office.

### ***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 14**

Junior Church

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall

9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms

10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & YouTube Live ([www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob](http://www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob))

### **Monday, December 15**

Church office closed

12:00 pm Newsletter Deadline

### **Tuesday, December 16**

12:00 pm Mary Martha Group/Mullendore Room

### **Wednesday, December 17**

Administrative Assistant/Work from home

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

5:00 pm Kiwanis Club Christmas Party/Fellowship Hall

6:30 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

### **Thursday, December 18**

5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall

6:30 pm Brethren Bells/Choir Room

7:30 pm Temple Choir/Fellowship Hall

### **Friday, December 19**

8:00 am Bulletin prep/Church office

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

### **Saturday, December 20**

Pastor Twyla's day off

2:00 pm Poinsettias being delivered/HCOB

### **Sunday, December 21**

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall

9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms

10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & YouTube Live ([www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob](http://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](http://www.hagerstowncob.org)

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

***A Holiday Message...***  
*(GriefShare)*



Dear world,  
please be gentle with grieving hearts as the  
holidays near.

They walk among us, often quietly and unseen.  
They wear smiles that seem bright. They laugh  
in ways that sound real. They show up for  
others while silently carrying the weight  
of someone missing.

There will be real moments of joy—  
followed by the sharp sting of knowing new  
memories being made don't include the one  
they wish was still here. It's the strange beauty of  
being human: joy and grief, forever intertwined.

So when you see a grieving heart, don't look  
away. Lean in. Cry with them. And let your love  
be louder than their silence.

It's true, love can't fix grief.  
But it reminds us we're not alone in it.  
And that's what matters most.

—*Her View From Home*