

## God's bright glory has risen

My seventh grade national park project turned into a family vacation. In class I chose the Grand Canyon to research. During my work on the project at home, my parents thought it was time we made a trip west. So that summer, my parents, one of my sisters, and I drove from Indiana to Arizona. My parents splurged by getting a room right on the South Rim. It was wonderful!

As we prepared for bed one night, my dad said he wanted to get up early to see the sunrise. Now this was something my dad didn't usually do—get up early. We knew it must be special, so my sister and I agreed that we would get up very early with him the next morning.

Sleepily we walked the short distance to the canyon's rim with a great vantage point to see the sun rise. Beams of light began to crest the far eastern parts of the canyon. More and more light spilled into this wide chasm until a brilliant light shone across the horizon, filling the Grand Canyon with light. It was a glorious sight to behold.

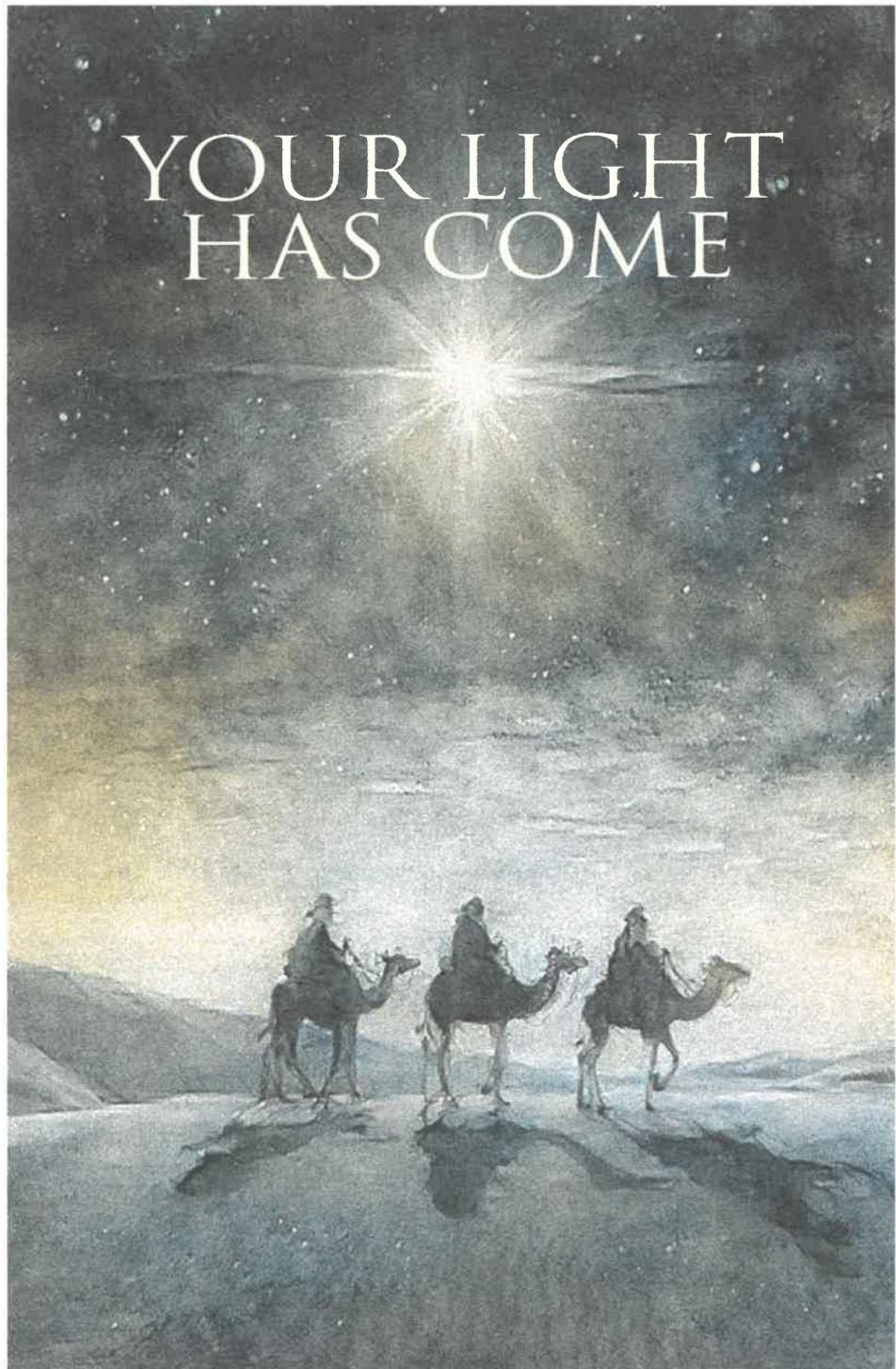
The prophet writes in Isaiah 60:1, "Get out of bed, Jerusalem! Wake up. Put your face in the sunlight. God's bright glory has risen for you" (The Message). How beautiful it is to know that we have a daily reminder of the glorious light of creation. The sun rises each day no matter our location. This regular happening reminds us of the blessed joy of Jesus' light that shines for each of us.

May the light of Jesus fill you daily and encourage you to share that light with those around you.

—Dennis Beckner  
Columbia City, Indiana

"Arise, shine, for *your light has come*, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you" (Isaiah 60:1, NRSVue). Today's Bible readings from the lectionary: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12.

January 4, 2026, Epiphany. Cover design by Paul Stocksdale © Brethren Press.  
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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
Hagerstown, Maryland

**MORNING WORSHIP** **10:45 AM**  
January 4, 2026

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Wendy Browne, Worship Leader

**PRELUDE** "Kings From the East Came Riding" (Balcombe)

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We gather today not because we have arrived, but because God is still at work within us.

*People: We come aware of our brokenness and hopeful for renewal.*

Leader: God calls us not to tolerate what harms us, but to turn toward what gives life.

*People: We come seeking direction, grace, and transformation.*

Leader: Where we have ignored the warning signs, God offers mercy. Where we have fallen short, God offers new beginnings.

*People: We turn our hearts toward the One who makes us new.*

Leader: Let us worship the God who calls us forward, moment by moment, step by step.

*People: Let us worship God.*

**\*HYMN #16** "God is here among us"

[Verse 1]

*God is here among us: let us all adore him, and with awe appear before him. God is here within us: soul in silence fear him, humbly, fervently draw near him. Now his own who have known God in worship lowly yield their spirits wholly.*

[Verse 2]

*Come, abide within me; let my soul, like Mary, be thine earthly sanctuary. Come, indwelling Spirit, with transfigured splendor; love and honor will I render. Where I go here below, let me bow before thee, know thee, and adore thee.*

[Verse 3]

*Gladly we surrender earth's deceitful treasures, pride of life, and sinful pleasures. Gladly, Lord, we offer thine to be forever, soul and life and each endeavor. Thou alone shalt be known Lord of all our being, life's true way decreeing.*

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

Gracious God, We come before You aware that we are not perfect, yet confident that we are deeply loved. You know the habits we have normalized, the attitudes we excuse, and the choices we postpone.

Still, You invite us to draw near.

As we worship today, open our eyes to Your presence, tune our hearts to Your Spirit, and give us the courage to respond when You call.

Help us not to manage sin, but to surrender ourselves more fully to You. Not to rely on our own strength, but to make room for Your Spirit to lead and transform us.

Meet us where we are, and move us where You desire us to be.

We offer this time to You with gratitude and trust, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**MORNING ANTHEM** "Rise Up and Follow" (Lovelace)  
Temple Choir

**A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE A CHILD**

**SERVICE OF GIVING**

**Call to Giving**

How will we express our thanks for all God's bounty? We can extend God's invitation to those who are blind and those who are lame, to the scattered and lost, to people of all ages and conditions in need of a shepherd. We can use well the resources God entrusts to us. Let us dedicate our gifts.

As we pass the offering plate here in the sanctuary, we also pass a virtual offering plate to those worshiping 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** "The Star In the Eastern Sky" (Paxton)

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

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

How good you have been to us, wondrous God! Our lives are like a watered garden when we are responsive to your will for us. You turn mourning into joy and give gladness for sorrow. We are radiant with thankfulness when we remember the glory of your Word made flesh. In response to your grace, we dedicate this offering to extend your reign among us. May we be part of your plan for the fullness of time. Amen.

**HYMN # 437***"Count Well the Cost"**[Verse 1]*

"Count well the cost," Christ Jesus says, "when you lay the foundation."  
 Are you resolved, though all seem lost, to risk your reputation, your self, your wealth,  
 for Christ the Lord as you now give your solemn word?

*[Verse 2]*

Into Christ's death be buried now through baptism's joyous union.  
 No claim of self dare you allow if you desire communion with Christ's true church, his  
 willing bride, which, through his word, he has supplied.

*[Verse 3]*

Within the church's warm embrace the child of God is molded. God's Spirit lights the  
 infant face and in God's grace is folded. With childlike steps, Christ's plan we trace, till  
 we grow up in godly grace.

*[Verse 4]*

In Christian growth we are matured, of fruitful vines a token. That this good growth  
 may be assured oft times to us is broken the bread of fellowship replete when Christ's  
 redeemed together meet.

**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****SCRIPTURE READING**

Romans 5:5-10

NT 155

and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured  
 into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.  
 Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a  
 good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for  
 us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely,  
 therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved  
 through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were  
 reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having  
 been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.

**MESSAGE**

"Innovating to Zero"

Dennis Browne

**HYMN #521***"Come thou Fount"**[Verse 1]*

Come, thou fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace. Streams of  
 mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious  
 sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,  
 mount of God's unchanging love.

*[Verse 2]*

Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by thy help I'm come, and I hope, by thy good  
 pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring  
 from the fold of God. He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

*[Verse 3]*

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let that grace now,  
 like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
 prone to leave the God I love. Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy  
 courts above.

**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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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

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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 4, 2026**

**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 on Sunday, January 4— In this New Year, I turn to you for guidance. Help me to see clearly the opportunities you place before me so that I can fulfill the plans you have for me. If I drift off the path, call to me and draw me back to you. When trials attack my inner peace...make hope arise within me and strengthen my will to overcome them. Open my eyes to see you all around me. Fill me with your Spirit and empower me to take your presence to all who need your Light and Love brought into their lives. With joy and anticipation, I can't wait to see what this new year brings as we walk together every new day...my Savior and Friend. 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.

**Pastor Twyla will be on vacation** December 26th through January 4th. 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 is 304-671-4775 /edmonds.eddie@comcast.net.

**Today we welcome** Dennis Browne to our pulpit. Thank you Dennis for being with us while Pastor Twyla is on vacation.

**Our thanks** to Wendy Browne for being our worship leader today and to the Temple Choir for our morning anthem.

**The flowers on the altar** this morning are given to the Glory of God, and in memory of Arthur Grayson Rhoderick in honor of his birthday, given by the family.

**January 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.

**We will be taking down Christmas decorations** around the church next Sunday, January 11th after the 10:45 Service. Volunteers are needed.

**New Year Update**—I am so thankful to everyone that participated with the Children's Birthday cards, Over 80, and Homebound list. If you do not wish to continue participating with these ministries, please contact Mary Means.

**Fellowship Time**—We are 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!

**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.

**2026 Altar Flowers**—If you would like to place flowers on the altar in memory, celebration, or honor of a loved one, the Flower and Altar Committee have the following Sunday dates available in 2026: **May 3, May 31, August 30, September 6, November 29, & December 13.** If you are interested, please contact Cinnamon Shay at 301-730-8499 or email [cinnamongirl@myactv.net](mailto:cinnamongirl@myactv.net)

**NEEDED**—New or gently used pots and pans for a woman previously homeless, who has just found an apartment. If you can help, please see Jan Young.

**It's time to sign up for a Patron ad** for in the 2026 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 6th** to be included in the booklet. Checks need to be made out to HCOB.

**Valentine's Bread & Soup Luncheon**—The Spiritual Nurture Team invites you to a luncheon in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 15th directly following the late service worship. If you would like to attend, please see the sign up sheet in the west entrance and Fellowship Hall. Sign up to bring a soup, bread, or dessert as well.

**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.

**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](https://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!

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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 4**

Pastor Vacation/Food Pantry Sunday  
Dennis Browne/Guest Preacher  
8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall  
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms  
9:45 am Spiritual Nurture Meeting/Kitchen  
10:20 am Fellowship Time/Mullendore Room  
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & YouTube Live ([www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob](https://www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob))

**Monday, January 5**

Church office closed

**Tuesday, January 6**

Epiphany  
5:30 pm P&F Meeting/Mullendore Room

**Wednesday, January 7**

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

**Thursday, January 8**

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

**Friday, January 9**

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

**Saturday, January 10**

Pastor Twyla's day off

**Sunday, January 11**

Junior Church  
8:15 am Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screenings  
8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall  
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms  
10:15 am Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screenings  
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & YouTube Live ([www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob](https://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.