

God saw the light and darkness

"God saw that the light was good."

Here at the beginning of all beginnings, there is this moment of pure appreciation. The light simply is, and it is good. Not better than the dark, not opposed to - just good.

Sadly, we've inherited centuries of turning this light/darkness duality into a cosmic battle, as if creation began with God choosing sides. But look closer. The Spirit of God was already there in the darkness, hovering over the waters, holding space for what would emerge. God doesn't destroy it or condemn it; God separates it. The separation of darkness and light isn't rejection or condemnation-it makes room for both. You cannot have one without the other.

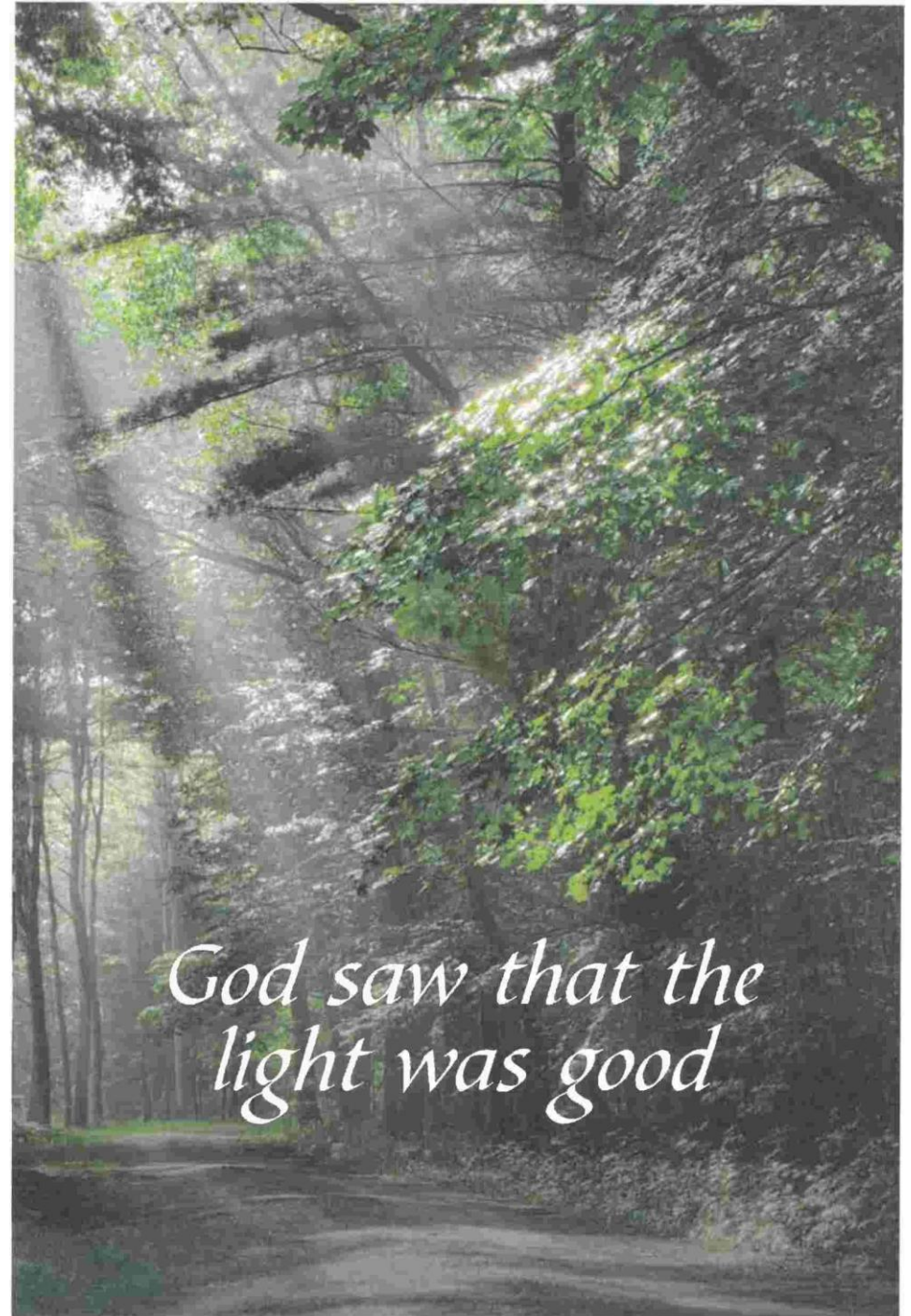
It must be noted that, wrongly, this language has been confused and weaponized at times to create hierarchies of human worth. Some going even so far as to say that lighter skin is somehow closer to God, twisting God's goodness into justification for slavery, colonization, and violence against Black and Brown siblings. That's not in the text-that's our sin projected onto the pureness of God's creation.

What Genesis gives us is a rhythm of existence. The darkness that brings rest, that holds possibility and promise, like seeds underground until they're ready. And the light that awakens and provides the conditions for revelation and growth. Evening and morning, woven together to make each day complete. Not conquering but collaborating.

- Greg Davidson Laszakovits
Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania

"And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness" (Genesis 1:4, NRSVue). Today's Bible readings from the lectionary: Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20.

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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45 AM

May 31, 2026

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Candice Summers, Worship Leader

VIDEO "How Can You Not See God"

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?

PRELUDE "Praise Ye the Triune God" (Hughes)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come, beloved of God, open your eyes and see—the heavens declare His glory, the earth reflects His beauty, and every breath is a gift from His hand.

All: *We come to behold the Lord, to see His goodness in the land of the living, to gaze upon His majesty and be changed.*

One: Lift up your hearts, for the Lord is here—not hidden in shadow, but revealed in the face of Jesus Christ.

All: *We will fix our eyes on Him, the Author and Perfecter of our faith. We will worship in awe, for we have seen the Lord's salvation.*

One: Come, let us worship the God who opens our eyes, who turns our hearts toward His light, and who invites us to see His glory forever.

All: *We come with joy, for our eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty!*

***HYMN #120** "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty"
[Verse 1]

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed trinity!

[Verse 2]

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

[Verse 3]

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee, though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see, only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

[Verse 4]

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty! All Thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed trinity!

OPENING PRAYER

O God, we joyously come together to worship, realizing we need not summon you into our midst, for you are here. We need not call you into the secret places of our hearts, for you are there. We need our eyes of faith to be opened, that we may see you; our ears unstopped, that we may hear you; our minds to be sensitive that we may know you; our hearts to be tender, that we may receive you. Grant each one a blessing, O Lord, as each has need, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Be Unto Your Name" (Sadler)
Praise Band

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

SERVICE OF GIVING

Invitation to Give:

God has shown us the meaning of generosity in the beautiful diversity of creation, in the overflowing love of Jesus Christ, in the never-ending gift of the Holy Spirit. God has abundantly blessed us and called us to be a community that honors each other, to be servants to others with joy, to share our love and material possessions. Let us rejoice in what we have been given and in what is ours to give.

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 "Blessed Trinity" (Arr. Blake)
***Doxology #119** "Praise God from whom"

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Gracious God, we give our best, lest in gaining the world we lose life itself. As a covenant people, we seek to witness to your will and way. Help us to know more clearly what you would have us do with the wealth entrusted to our care. As we contribute to the needs of the saints, we present ourselves as living sacrifices. Direct us according to your will. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC *“How Great Thou Art with Majesty”* (arr. Raney)
Brethren Bells & Becky Jackson, Piano

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 *“The Lord’s Prayer”*

*Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil;
For Thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory forever.
Amen.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 5:8— *“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*

2 Corinthians 6:16— *What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God, as God said,*

*“I will live in them and walk among them,
and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.*

MORNING ANTHEM *“Make My Life an Alleluia”* (Schram)
Temple Choir

MESSAGE *“Lead On, Holy God”* Pastor Twyla Rowe

HYMN #418 *“Move in our midst”*
[Verse 1]
Move in our midst, thou Spirit of God. Go with us down from thy holy hill. Walk with us through the storm and the calm. Spirit of God, go thou with us still.
[Verse 2]
Touch thou our hands to lead us aright. Guide us forever, show us thy way. Transform our darkness into thy light. Spirit of God, lead thou us today.
[Verse 3]
Strike from our feet the fetters that bind. Lift from our lives the weight of our wrong. Teach us to love with heart, soul, and mind. Spirit of God, thy love makes us strong.
[Verse 4]
Kindle our hearts to burn with thy flame. Raise us thy banners high in this hour. Stir us to build new worlds in thy name. Spirit of God, O send us thy pow’r!

BENEDICTION
*After the Benediction, you may be seated.
Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.*

POSTLUDE *“To the Glory of God”* (Peterson)

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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

www.hagerstowncob.org

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Twyla Rowe
Pastor

Alllyson 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 31, 2026

Our sympathy is extended to Pastor Eddie Edmonds and the Edmonds family on the passing of Eddie's wife, Alice. Alice passed away on Monday, May 25th. A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Saturday, June 6th at 11AM at Hagerstown Church of the Brethren. A funeral meal will follow the service in the Fellowship Hall. Please keep Eddie and the family in your prayers.

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 31 - Loving God, Thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus; who is not only our Savior, but also our example for daily living. I pray that as I follow Jesus' footsteps along with my church family at Hagerstown COB, that His love will swell within us; and overflow, making us comforters and encouragers for one another through this time of transition. And together then, may we grow into a bright beacon of light pointing 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 Candice Summers for being our worship leader today and to the Temple Choir, Brethren Bells, Becky Jackson and Praise Team for our morning music.

A special thank you to Pastor Twyla for her almost seven years of faithful service, spiritual guidance, and unwavering dedication to our congregation. Through sermons, prayers, visits, and leadership, you have been a blessing to us all. Thank you to Don Rowe for his many years of service and dedication to our congregation. Thank you for the countless ways you have helped keep the church welcoming and cared for through the years. May God richly bless you both in retirement and in the years ahead.

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God in honor of Pastor Twyla by Scott & Judy Hood.

June 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.

Next Sunday is our regular Food Pantry collection. Bring in your gift(s) of non-perishable food items and place them on the cart as you enter the west entrance, and a volunteer delivers the food. We thank everyone for their continued support of this ministry to our community! **All items collected in June will be going to our Community Picnic.** Just a reminder - all items should be either dry, boxed, or in cans. Please do not bring in anything in a glass jar that could break and injure a recipient or our volunteers. Thank you!

The Service & Outreach Team is organizing our Community Picnic which will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2026, from 11:30 am to 1 pm. We will need many of our members and friends to help us with this. We need help to set up on the parking lot at 8:30 am and take down at 1 pm. We need help with food servers, hospitality, welcome table, and a photographer. We also need 6 to 7 crockpots full of baked beans. They can be store-bought beans. We have decided not to have the clothing giveaway but if anyone would like to take on this task, that is okay with us. Sign-up sheets will be available on May 3rd. We appreciate all you can do to make this a special day for our neighborhood.

VBS—This year's VBS will be held from June 15th through the 19th and our theme is Tropical Trek.

Children's Day is Sunday, June 14th. The children will be participating in the church service in celebration.

Would you like a truly fun and meaningful few days away with your family this summer? The Family & Grand Camp retreat, one of Shepherd's Spring's newest weekend adventures, is filled with faith-based fun for all ages. This camp, from Friday afternoon, July 31, through Sunday afternoon, Aug. 2, offers strong Scriptural teaching with lots of family-building activities -- from making your family's own t-shirts, to swimming and hiking together, gathering at campfires and much more -- while staying amid 220 acres of God's forested beauty, bordering the C&O Canal and the Potomac River!! All this, while staying in Shepherd's Spring's very own lodge, its Poplar Village cabins, or setting up your own tent and enjoying breakfast, lunch and dinner in the lodge's beautiful dining room. It's all here -- intergenerational, even! Yes, BRING Grandma and Grandpa!! Build the meaning of having Christian FAMILY!!! And, there's no charge for bringing your littles, ages 5 and under!! So, how 'bout it? Right now, family meeting!! Begin your adventure at: <https://www.shepherdsspring.org/> and click on "Summer Camp". -- Arn Platou

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.

Warm, sunny weather is here! We want to take this opportunity to remind you that in the warm weather many of the neighborhood children ride bikes, trikes, skateboards, and scooters, on our parking lot. They're often low to the ground and moving fast so please be on the lookout for them when you visit the church. When on foot, please also be on the lookout for cars speeding through the parking lot to "beat the light" at the corner.

Annual Conference will be held June 28—July 2 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The theme this year is "Imagine!". The June Tidings will include a statement from conference moderator Don Fitzkee.

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. 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. Thank you!

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.

Our services are streamed 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

CALENDAR

Sunday, May 31

Trinity Sunday
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms
10:45 am Combined Worship, Sanctuary & YouTube
(www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob)
12:00 pm Pastor Twyla's Retirement Celebration/Fellowship Hall

Monday, June 1

Church office closed

Tuesday, June 2

7:00 pm Worship Meeting/Mullendore Room

Wednesday, June 3

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

Thursday, June 4

5:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall

Friday, June 5

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

Saturday, June 6

11:00 am Celebration of Life Service_Alice Edmonds

Sunday, June 7

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)
1:00 pm Church picnic/Marty Snook Park Pavilion #4

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.



Vacation Bible School June 15-19, 2026

Monday—Friday 6:00—8:00 PM

Hagerstown Church of the Brethren
15 S. Mulberry Street
Hagerstown MD 21740

Scan the QR code below to complete your registration

