

# ORDER OF WORSHIP FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 3, 2017

10:30 a.m.

## GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Welcome & Words about The Life and Work of the Church

\* A Time of Greeting

Steeple Bell

Choral Introit

**Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope** Bob and Joan Appleby

Jesus has come –

**and will come again, as God's hope for us.**

We bear witness to the light of Christ, and the hope of Christ, with all the faithful in every time and place.

With the prophet Isaiah,

We await the promised coming of the one who will bring justice and righteousness to the earth.

**We wait for that day and work toward it, with words of hope and deeds of love, in the way of Jesus.**

(the candle of hope is lighted)

The light shines in the darkness –

**And the darkness shall not overcome it!**

**\*Hymn #82**      “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Call to Confession

### **Prayer of Confession**

**God, in your mercy, hear our prayer. We confess that we have forgotten who we are – your people, created in your image. We confess that we have lost faith in your hold on this world, overwhelmed by the hurt and injustice we see. Forgive us, O God, for giving in and giving up the hope that is ours as your people. Forgive us for failing to encourage others with hope, and instead sharing cynicism and complaint. Open our eyes again to your presence and promise, so we can be agents of hope in your world. Ever grateful, hear our prayers...**

(silent prayers)

Assurance of Pardon

### **\*Response Hymn #87**

**“Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” so says our God.  
“Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load.  
To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.”**

# PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Anthem

“Waiting!”

Ruth Elaine Schram

Choir

*Waiting, waiting, waiting for Emmanuel to appear. Always believing the Savior will soon be here. Waiting, waiting, waiting for Emmanuel to appear. Always believing the Savior will soon be here. If it takes forever and a day, we will still be faithful. Even if the whole world turns away, still, we will be waiting, waiting, waiting for Emmanuel to appear. Always believing the Savior will soon be here. Waiting, waiting, waiting for Emmanuel to appear. Always believing the Savior will soon be here. If it takes a thousand years or more, we will still be faithful. In our hearts He'll find an open door. If He comes a knocking, we'll be waiting, waiting, waiting for Emmanuel to appear. Always believing the Savior will soon be here. Waiting, waiting, waiting for Emmanuel to appear. Always believing the Savior will soon be here. The Savior will soon be here. The Savior will soon be, waiting, waiting, always believing!*

## **Prayer for Illumination**

**Open us up to your word, O God, that we may hear your truth and promise. Hearing it, may we be living it, as we follow in your way. Amen.**

First Scripture Lesson

Mark 13:24-37

Page: NT 50

A Scripture Conversation

Second Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 64:1-9

Page: OT 694

Sermon:

“Ad-VENT!”

**\*Hymn 88 (vs. 1,6,7) “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

## **The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper**

Invitation

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father, who 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.**

Words of Institution

Distribution

Prayer

**GIVE THANKS TO GOD**

Offerings of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

**\*Response (#93 v.3)**

**Redeemer, come! I open wide  
My heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.**

**Let me thy inner presence feel;  
Thy grace and love in me reveal.**

## **\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Gracious God, we know that we have been blessed by you. We offer these gifts of hand and heart that you might use us to echo your blessing to others. Filled with hope, send us forth to choose it and share it in this world that sorely needs it. In the way of Jesus, Amen.**

## GO IN GOD'S NAME

**\*Hymn** (bulletin back page)      Choose to Hope

**\*Charge and Benediction**

Choral Benediction

Steeple Bell

Organ Postlude

*You may recycle your bulletins in the basket at the back of the Meeting House.*

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## **Thank you for serving today:**

Communion Servers: **Corky & Joanne Viola**, Ringo Keka, Shirley & Dan Knox

Worship Leader: Heather Raezer

Ushers: Gail & CJ Seitz

Nursery: Amanda & James Anderson

Sunday School: Bruce Raker

Fellowship Hour: Jim & Susan Flook

Counters: Lyn Briggs & Carol Mayhew

The flowers today are given by *Lyn Briggs*

**In Memory of Robert L. Briggs**

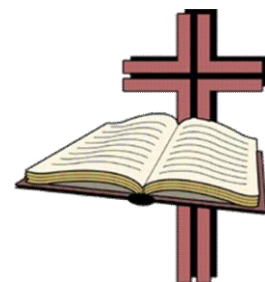
Today we remember in the Special Gifts Memorial Case:

*Aileen B. Nixon*

*-1971*

*Jack Graybeal*

*1929-1993*



## **SEAMEN CENTER CHRISTMAS AT SEA**

The Mission and Outreach Committee extends a big thank-you to all those who helped provide donations for 50 “ditty boxes” for the Seamen Center. The boxes will be handed out to seafarers arriving at the Port of Wilmington in time for Christmas. This mission gives us the opportunity to be a part of a much bigger world in celebrating the true spirit of Christmas. Also donated were 67 hand knitted hats and scarves and books and blankets.

## **USHERS STILL NEEDED!**

Can you say “Good morning!”? Hand out bulletins? Count to 80? Collect the offering? Then you can be an usher – **AND WE NEED YOU!** The Worship Committee has a sign up sheet in the CE Building – and it is **BLANK** on 12/10, 12/17, 12/24 (5:30 pm and 7:30 pm Christmas Eve services) 12/31, 1/7, 1/14, 1/21 and 1/28. Can you help? Instructions – and gratitude - provided!

## **NEW COMMUNION OPTION – GLUTEN-FREE CRACKERS**

Out of concern for the needs of some of our worshipers, the Worship Committee has provided for a gluten-free option for communion. Each tray will have not only bread, but gluten-free crackers. We invite all to partake in the sacrament in the way that is best for them.



## **CAROLING IN OLD NEW CASTLE**

Be sure to mark your calendar for a great evening of Christmas Caroling on Sunday night December 17<sup>th</sup>! We will meet at the church at 7:00pm and proceed from there walking around Old New Castle and caroling.

We will end up at Gene and Carol Mayhew’s house (17 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street in New Castle) for refreshments and fellowship (we usually arrive there between 8:00 and 8:30pm).

Please join us at the Mayhew’s even if you are unable to walk around and carol

## **3 BOARD DINNER & MEETING**

All serving on Session, Deacons and Trustees will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday December 12 to share a light supper and discuss our church’s causes for celebration and concern. Session’s stated meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

## **SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS 2017 - SATURDAY, DEC. 9 - How can you help?**

Sign-up sheets and schedules have been posted in the CE building. See **Monty Gerhart** if you have questions about the schedules.

**Books:** Coffee-table quality books and other nearly new volumes are preferred. You may bring books in boxes or sturdy shopping bags clearly labeled for SOC to the CE building and leave them in the entry area. If you have questions, or if you have a large number of books to donate, please contact **Peter McCurdy** for guidelines.

**“Look What \$20 Will Buy” table:** Please contact **Jo Viola** or **Carol Mayhew** for details before bringing donations to the church. Need: **NEW children’s toys and games. The deadline for donations is Sunday, Nov. 26, 2017.**

**Homemade Soups and Breads:** For details or soup recipes, please contact **Susan Townsend** or **Janet Reed**. Add your name to the posted sign-up sheet!

**Crafts:** If you have a homemade craft specialty to offer, contact **Ellie Gerhart**

**Refreshment table:** Cookies may be store-bought or homemade. Please bring them in starting Nov. 26 and label them clearly for SOC.

**Spread the Word:** Red and green “Save the date” cards are available in the entry area of the CE building. Please pick up a few and distribute them to your friends and other contacts.

**Pat Taylor, Miranda Matthews, and Kelly Koczak McCurdy**

## **DECEMBER SOCK DRIVE**

Please consider donating socks during the month of December. We need socks for both men and women. White sport socks are the best but we will accept anything you would like to donate. Gently worn socks are also acceptable. Each Sunday the socks will be delivered to Friendship House and they will distribute them to the individuals who come to the Sunday breakfasts and also on Code Purple days and night. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

## **HELP KEEP SEAFARERS WARM**

The Seamen Center of Wilmington is always in need of men’s warm winter clothing (**coats, sweatshirts, pants, gloves and hats.**) Donations can be left in the second floor craft room of the CE Building. Any questions...call Ellie Gerhart at 328-0908.

## **Prayer List:**

To place a name on the confidential Prayer Chain, contact Susan Flook, 302-328-7346 [suzieflook@hotmail.com](mailto:suzieflook@hotmail.com) or Fran Gingher, silverfran@aol.com

## ***Continuing Care Homes:***

### ***Jean Swanson***

Sunrise - Apt. 238  
1555 W Horizon Ridge Pkwy  
Henderson, NV 89012  
(302) 824-8030 (cell)

### ***Barbara Beaumont***

The Watermark at Logan Sq  
Rehabilitation Center  
2 Franklin Town Blvd.  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
(215) 575-9697

### ***Dot Campbell***

The Summit  
5850 Limestone Rd.  
Hockessin, DE 19707  
(302) 635-2059

### ***William Wilson***

Brandywine Nursing Ctr.  
505 Greenbank Road, Rm C6B  
Wilmington, DE 19808

### ***Vic Clark***

Delaware Veterans Home  
100 Veterans Blvd,  
Rm 1260-2  
Milford, DE 19963  
(302) 424-8565

### ***Sydney Wilson***

255 Possom Park Road  
Apt. 2205  
Newark, DE 19711  
(302) 456-1606

### ***Anita Johnson***

726 Loveville Road  
Healthcare Ctr Rm 2026A  
Hockessin, DE 19707

## ***At Home:***

### ***Esther Lindell***

1 Shaw Alley  
New Castle, DE 19720  
(302) 324-8889

### ***Barbara Quillen***

Cokesbury HealthCare  
726 Loveville Road  
Hockessin, DE 19707

### ***Mary Pratt***

113 E. Main St., Unit 311  
Newark, DE 19711  
(302) 328-7273

### ***Jason Campbell***

522 Brighton Road  
Wilmington, DE 19809



**This Week's Schedule**

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>12/3</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Special Session Meeting</b>
		<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Worship – Lord's Supper &amp; Sunday School</b>
		<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Fellowship Hour</b> - All are Welcome!
		<b>11:40am</b>	<b>Christian Education Mtg</b>
		<b>11:45am</b>	<b>Nominating Committee Mtg</b>
		<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Colonial Chimers</b>

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12/5</b>	<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Noon Circle</b>
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<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>12/6</b>		<b>Brownies Due</b>
		<b>1:00pm</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>
		<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Choir</b>

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>12/7</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Emmanuel Dining Room Prep</b>
		<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Celebration Ringers</b>

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>12/9</b>		<b>Spirit of Christmas</b>
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<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>12/10</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Worship &amp; Sunday School</b>
		<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Fellowship Hour</b> - All are Welcome
		<b>11:40am</b>	<b>Deacons Meeting</b>
		<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Colonial Chimers</b>

# Choose to Hope

Marty Haugen

## VERSES

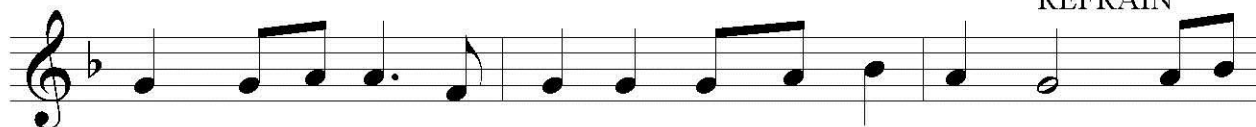


Hope is born when we choose to be-lieve that  
Hope will grow when we choose to be-lieve that  
Hope will shine when we choose to be-lieve a  
Sing out hope through the vio - lence and fear, for

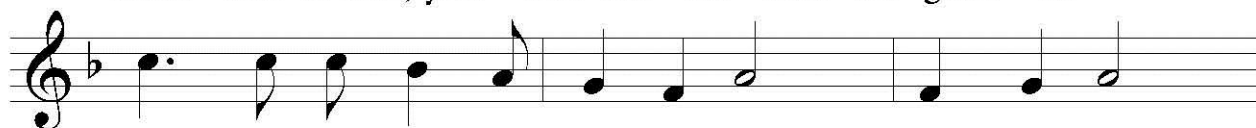


love is stron-ger than ha - tred; Love is born when our  
we are sis - ters and bro - thers; Love will grow when our  
lit - tle child will lead us; Love will shine when our  
God is pres - ent be - side us; Prince of Peace, make your

## REFRAIN

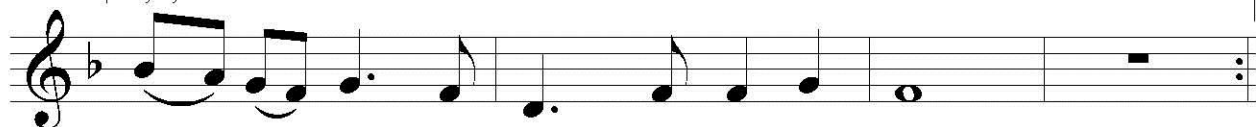


hearts learn to see that ev - 'ry per - son is sa - cred. In the  
hearts learn to see the life we share with each oth - er.  
hearts learn to see that God is dwell - ing with - in us.  
home with us here, your love and wis - dom will guide us.



times of dark-ness, in times of fear, choose to hope,

1, 2, 3.



choose to love, and know that God is near.

Final Ending



choose to love, Em - man - u - el is near.\*

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\*"Emmanuel is here" during the Christmas season.