



The light shines in the darkness –  
**And the darkness shall not overcome it!**

**\*Hymn #106** “Prepare the Way, O Zion”

Call to Confession

**Prayer of Confession**

**God, in your mercy, hear our prayer. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have strayed from your path, wandering in a wilderness of our own making. We have forgotten that we are never out of your reach. We have left people in their wilderness places, and neglected their need. Forgive us for giving up on the peace to which you call us. By your mercy, redirect our steps, and our spirits, we pray.....**

(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 “Prepare the Way of the Lord” Michael Larkin  
Carolyn Hendrix, Cello

*Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, and carry the lambs in his arms, for he is meek and lowly of heart, and we shall find rest for our souls. Every valley shall be exalted, every mountain and hill made low; the crooked made straight, the rough places plain.*

## **Prayer for Illumination**

**We are grateful, O God, that you come to us through your Word. Come now to guide us, that what we hear would strengthen our faith and shape our lives. In the way of Jesus. Amen.**

First Scripture Lesson                      Isaiah 40:1-11                      Page: OT 667

A Scripture Conversation

Second Scripture Lesson                      Mark 1:1-8                      Page: NT 34

Sermon                      *“A Way in the Wilderness”*

**\*Hymn 726(vs 1,4,5)**                      **“Will You Come and Follow Me”**

## Celebrating a New Member

*Salina Astar Brett, by re-affirmation of faith/renewal of baptismal vows*

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

Will you be Christ’s faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, share in its worship and ministry through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

Prayer



**and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory, forever. 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.*

\*\*\*\*

**Thank you for serving today:**

Worship Leader: Kay Fry

Ushers: Jim Stoudt & Conchita Showell

Nursery: Melissa Boris & Heather Raezer

Sunday School: Mark & Laurie Powell

Fellowship Hour: Gail Seitz

Counters: Jane Fouracre & Bruce Raker

Today we remember in the Special Gifts Memorial Case:

***Mary M. Denney***

***1888-1971***

***Ethel George Lamberto***

***1918-1993***



## **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.

## **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 Ctr 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. Questions, call Ellie Gerhart at 328-0908.

## **CALL FOR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Session has called for a congregational meeting following the worship service on Sunday, December 17, for the purpose of presenting the 2018 church budget.

## **SERVICES ON DECEMBER 24**

It's a liturgical happening that comes every 7 years or so - December 24, on a Sunday! Here's what that means here:

10:30 Worship - 4th Sunday of Advent

5:30 pm Christmas Eve Family Service- story, songs and candle lighting

7:30 pm Christmas Eve Service - scripture, carols, choir, candle lighting

# Flower Guild Annual Poinsettias



Donations are being taken for poinsettias. Please fill out the form and return to the office. The Sanctuary will be decorated for two weeks. Flowers may be taken home after the Christmas Eve service. The deadline for orders will be December 10, 2017. The cost is \$15.00. Please make checks payable to NCPC.

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**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory/Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**How many:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **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>12/10</b>		<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>
		<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Worship &amp; Sunday School</b>
		<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Fellowship Hour</b> <b>- All are Welcome</b>
		<b>11:40am</b>	<b>Deacons Meeting</b>
		<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Colonial Chimers</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12/12</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Annual meeting of the Boards</b>
		<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Session</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>12/13</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>
		<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Choir</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>12/14</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Celebration Ringers</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>12/16</b>	<b>8-9am</b>	<b>Tai Chi</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>12/17</b>		<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>
		<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Worship &amp; Sunday School</b>
		<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Congregational Meeting</b>
		<b>11:40am</b>	<b>Fellowship Hour</b> <b>- All are Welcome</b>
		<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Colonial Chimers</b>
		<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Caroling - Gather at Church</b>
		<b>8:00pm</b>	<b>Refreshments at the Mayhews</b>

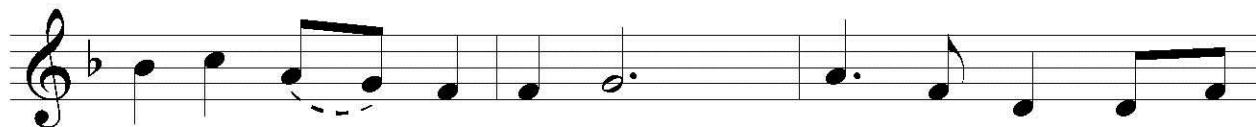
# Choose to Hope

Marty Haugen

## VERSES

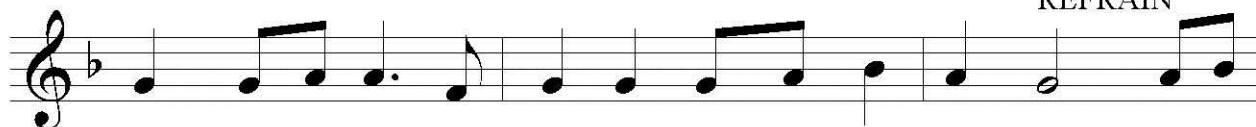


Hope is born when we choose to be-lieve that  
Hope will grow when we choose to be-lieve that  
Hope will shine when we choose to be-lieve a  
Sing out hope through the vio - lence and fear, for

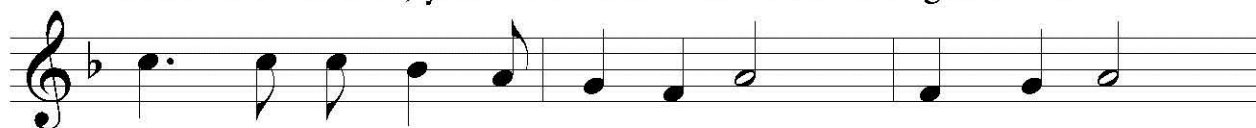


love is stron-ger than ha - tred; Love is born when our  
we are sis - ters and bro - thers; Love will grow when our  
lit - tle child will lead us; Love will shine when our  
God is pres - ent be - side us; Prince of Peace, make your

## REFRAIN

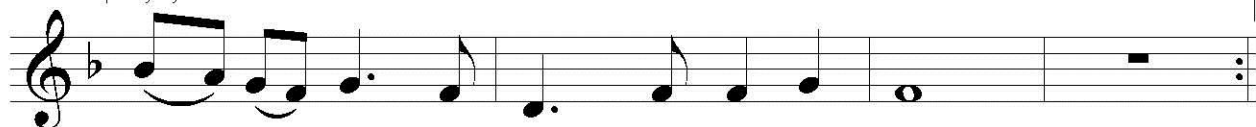


hearts learn to see that ev - 'ry per - son is sa - cred. In the  
hearts learn to see the life we share with each oth - er.  
hearts learn to see that God is dwell - ing with - in us.  
home with us here, your love and wis - dom will guide us.



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.