

ORDER OF WORSHIP THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 17, 2017

10:30 a.m.

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude “The King Shall Come” arr. Cathy Moglebrist
Colonial Chimers

Welcome & Words about The Life and Work of the Church

* A Time of Greeting

Steeple Bell

Choral Introit

Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy Ringo Keka & Mark Rappold

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.

With John the Baptist, calling from the wilderness, we see that the kingdom of God has come near, and we prepare our hearts for his coming.

With Mary, the mother of Jesus, we magnify the Lord, and rejoice in God's salvation.

Until that day, we serve an aching world in the power of the Spirit, exchanging fear for gladness, and witnessing to the joy we are given that the world cannot take away.

(the candle of joy is lighted)

The light shines in the darkness –

And the darkness shall not overcome it!

***Hymn #140** “Once in Royal David's City”

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Mighty God, we are humbled as we worship you. We have not loved you wholeheartedly, but have let other things guide us. We confess how we shape Christmas, instead of letting the power of your gift of salvation shape us. We prefer the sleeping baby to the Savior who expects us to follow his way of compassion and justice. Forgive us, O God, for domesticating your powerful gift. Forgive us for neglecting the poor and oppressed that Jesus came to raise up. Forgive us for neglecting the peace that angels announced. Forgive us for our unwillingness to say yes when you ask us to bear something in your name. By your mercy, open us again to the power of your coming. Every 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

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, may the Word that we hear lay claim upon us. Guide us to take in its truth and power. And lead us to bear witness in our lives to its good news for all. In the way of Jesus. Amen.

First Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

Page: NT 56

Anthem: "The Angel Gabriel"

Joel Raney

The Choir

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame: "All hail," said he, O lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored Mary. Gloria! For know a blessed mother thou shall be, all generations praise continually, your Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored Mary. Gloria!" Most highly favored lady, hear how the angels sing. You will bear the world a Savior, Lord of lords and King of kings! Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head; "To me be as it pleases God," she said. "My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name." Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn, and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:

"Most highly favored Mary. Gloria!" Gloria! Most highly favored lady, hear how the angels sing. You will bear the world a Savior, Lord of lords and King of kings! Glory to God in the highest!

A Scripture Conversation

Children's Anthem "Away in a Manger"

Second Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:39-55

Page: NT 57

Sermon

"Not your Mama's Lullaby"

***Hymn #146 “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”**

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

Offerings of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory “He is Born” arr. Barbara B. Kinyon
Colonial Chimers

***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**

Holy One, your gift of saving love calls us and claims us. We offer not just what we have, but who we are. Use us to bear your good news of love, and to work your way of justice and compassion in this world. In the way of Jesus, Amen.

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.**

GO IN GOD'S NAME

***Hymn** (bulletin back page) “Choose to Hope”
*Charge and Benediction

Choral Benediction

Remain seated for Congregational Meeting

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: Jane Fouracre

Ushers: Bob & Joan Appleby

Nursery: Lyn Briggs & Susan Townsend

Sunday School: Bev Stoudt

Fellowship Hour: Ringo Keka & Conchita Showell

Counters:

Today we remember in the Special Gifts Memorial Case:

D. Wallace Cox

1889-1972

Theresa G. Witt

1903-1993



CAROLING IN OLD NEW CASTLE – TONIGHT!

Tonight December 17th! 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. 5th 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



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 today 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

LAST CHANCE TO USHER IN 2017!

We have one last Sunday – December 31 – with a need for ushers. Could you usher in 2018 by being the last ushers of 2017? Please fill in the blank on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall TODAY!

**Flower Guild
Annual Poinsettias
(DEADLINE IS TODAY)**



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 cost is \$15.00. Please make checks payable to NCPC.

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 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

SUNDAY	12/17		3rd Sunday of Advent
		10:30am	Worship & Sunday School
		11:30am	Congregational Meeting
		11:40am	Fellowship Hour
			- All are Welcome
		12:00pm	Colonial Chimers
		7:00pm	Caroling - Gather at Church
		8:00pm	Refreshments at the Mayhews
Monday	12/18		DEADLINE
			FOR NEWSLETTER
		7:00pm	English Country Dancers
Wednesday	12/20	1:00pm	Bible Study
		7:30pm	Choir
Thursday	12/21	7:30pm	Celebration Ringers
Saturday	12/22	8-9am	Tai Chi
SUNDAY	12/24		4th Sunday of Advent
			CHRISTMAS EVE
		10:30am	Worship & Sunday School
		11:40am	Fellowship Hour
			- All are Welcome
		5:30pm	Family Service
		7:30pm	Traditional Worship

Reminder: Monday, Dec. 18th is the Deadline for January newsletter

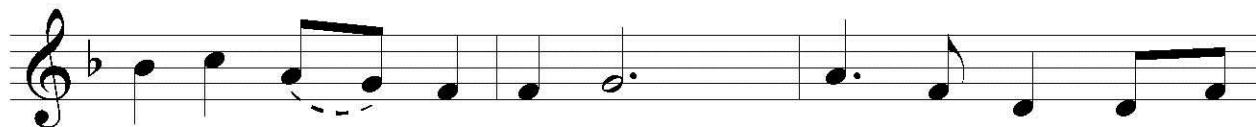
Choose to Hope

Marty Haugen

VERSES

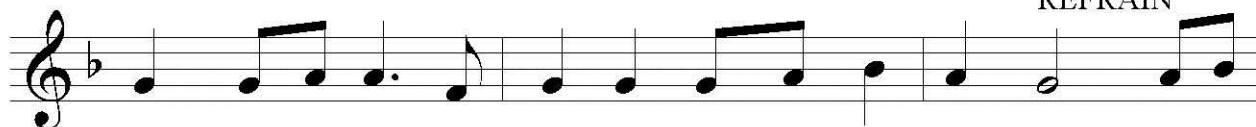


Hope is born when we choose to be-lieve that
Hope will grow when we choose to be-lieve that
Hope will shine when we choose to be-lieve a
Sing out hope through the vio - lence and fear, for

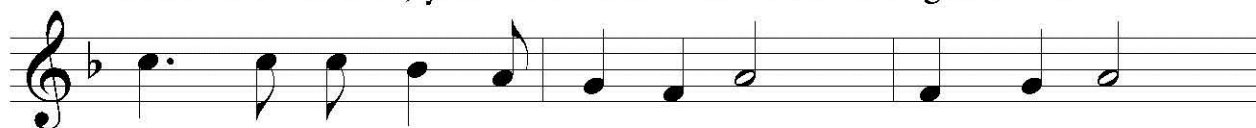


love is stron-ger than ha - tred; Love is born when our
we are sis - ters and bro - thers; Love will grow when our
lit - tle child will lead us; Love will shine when our
God is pres - ent be - side us; Prince of Peace, make your

REFRAIN

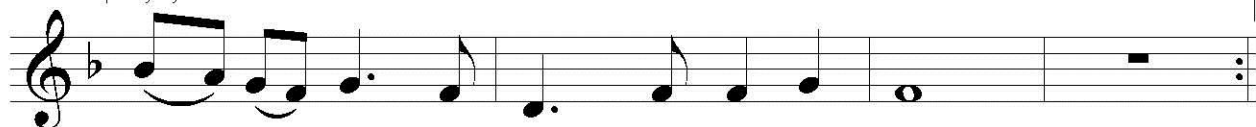


hearts learn to see that ev - 'ry per - son is sa - cred. In the
hearts learn to see the life we share with each oth - er.
hearts learn to see that God is dwell - ing with - in us.
home with us here, your love and wis - dom will guide us.



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.