

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

HOPEWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



HOPEWELL PRESBYTERIAN
EST. 1831

First Sunday of Christmas
December 31st, 2023 | 10:30 am Worship Service

-WE GATHER TO PRAISE -

§ Invites you to rise in body or spirit with the people of God.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

ELDER

§ CALL TO WORSHIP

As fallen people, we must be called from our worship of the created and focus on the proper worship of the Creator.

One: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

All: **on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.**

One: Jesus Christ is our life and light. In his name and in his power, let us worship God.

§ HYMN OF PRAISE GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS REJOICE

HYMN 94

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ was born today. Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
2. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
- 3.. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

§ HYMN OF PRAISE GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMAN

HYMN 116

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen let nothing you dismay, remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day to save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.

Refrain: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.

5. Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place, and with true love and brotherhood each other new embrace; this holy tide of Christmas all other doth deface.

§ CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: When Jesus was born of the virgin Mary,
He became like us in all things but sin.
May we who have been reborn in him
be free from our sinful ways.

Let us confess our sin to God.

All: **Generous God, you give us the greatest gift of all, yourself
but often we find it hard to take notice;
we are caught up with our own gifts, given and received.**

**Forgive us, generous God,
for the casual way we treat your gift of love.
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.**

(time for silent, individual confession)

**Have mercy on us, O God, and restore us to a life of
obedience. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

§ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ
Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

All: **In Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

§ RESPONSE TO PARDON

GLORIA PATRI

HYMN 614

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in
the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

-WE SHARE OUR LIFE & GIFTS -

§ PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE AND 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;
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.

As members of
Christ's body,
we confess the
reality of sin
and brokenness
in personal and
common life and
ask for God's
saving grace.

We pray for the
world because
God loves it.
God created the
world and cares
for it. To abide
in God's love is
to share God's
concern for
the world. Our
prayers should
therefore be as
specific as God's
tender compas-
sion for the least
ones among us.

OFFERTORY

§ RESPONSE TO GOD'S GOODNESS

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

§ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

– WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD –

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

GALATIANS 4:4-7

LITURGIST

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

ONE THIS IS THE WORD OF THE LORD.
ALL THANKS BE TO GOD.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SERMON SCRIPTURE

JONAH 1:1-3

EMMETT KELLOGG

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me." But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.

SERMON

EMMETT KELLOGG

Through the sermon we encounter Jesus Christ in God's word, are equipped to follow Him more faithfully, and are inspired to proclaim the Gospel to others through our words and deeds.

§ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord.
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell;
the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.

– WE GO FORTH TO PROCLAIM –

§ CLOSING HYMN GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

HYMN 132

[Refrain] Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]
2. The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]
3. Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]

§ BENEDICTION

One: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

A benediction
is literally a
"good word"
or a blessing to
carry with us
as we leave our
time of wor-
ship.

-SERMON NOTES -

- ANNOUNCEMENTS -

Pastor Brandon will be back in the office Tuesday 1/2/2024

Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal returns January 17th. Stay tuned for more details.

January Birthdays: Iris Allender - 2nd; Ellen Fox - 6th; Jami Howland - 8th; Nora Berkley, Melinda Frazier, and Jen Maurer - 10th; Dave Maurer - 11th; Silas Smith - 12th; Dave Baughman - 13th; Katrina Browning - 15th; Jason Allender - 17th; Linda Henderson and Christopher Bolds- 19th; Amy Spencer - 21st; Eric Rose and Thomas Spencer - 26th; Lori Rose - 27th; and Ed Henry - 31st

PRAYER REQUESTS -

- Tina Catt
- Elsie Tarsitano
- Janet Salem - recovery
- Martha Myers - pancreatic cancer
- Robert Lehman I - cancer
- Libby Findley - recovery from surgery

- Missionaries: Josh and Libby Auyer - Czech Republic
Josh and Libby ask for prayer for those affected by the mass shooting at Charles University in Prague on December 21.

Homebound: Lester Burton, Hugh Carter, Mary Catt, Norma Jean Fox, Clarellen Kelsay, Pat Mundorff, Alberta Satter, Becky Wertz, Jean Williams

- WEEKLY AT HOME LITURGY -

CALL TO WORSHIP

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. -1 Corinthians 8:9

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! -Psalm 98:1-4

READING OF THE LAW

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. -1 John 4:7-11

CONFESSION OF SINS

I, a poor sinner, confess myself before you, my Lord God and Maker, that I have sinned much, with my senses, thoughts, words, and deeds, as you eternal God, know very well. I regret them, and beg your grace. Almighty, and eternal, and merciful God, forgive us our sin and lead us to eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Bullinger).

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. And he will redeem Israel from his iniquities. -Psalm 130:7-8

PRAISE

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen. -Gloria Patri

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty, gracious Father, since our whole salvation depends on our true understanding of your holy Word, grant that our hearts - freed from worldly affairs - may hear and understand your holy Word with all diligence and faith, so that we may rightly discern your gracious will, cherish it, and live by it with all earnestness, to your praise and honor, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. -Martin Bucer

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Daily Bible reading plan (New reading plan will start 1/8/2024)

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by your name; your kingdom come; your 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.

TO PONDER PRAYERFULLY

Grace has not a body to appear visibly.
Yes, but Christ appeared;
and when he appeared
it was as if grace and love
had been incarnate,
and took a body.
So that grace and mercy
most of all shines in the incarnation of Christ.

– *Richard Sibbes*

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Hopewell Presbyterian Church is a member of the
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Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

hopewellpc.org