

Welcome

to

Hanover

Valley

Presbyterian

Church

We're glad that you're with us and we hope you'll find joyful worship that engages the heart and mind, genuine friendships, and a caring atmosphere. Feel free to take advantage of any of the opportunities offered here. If we can serve you or if you need anything today, simply speak to one of the ushers.

Please take a moment to fill out the tear off slip on the back cover of the bulletin and drop it in the offering plate when it is passed later in the service.

This bulletin contains all you'll need to follow the service. Just start on the next page and continue as the pastor leads, standing as indicated on the next page and continue as indicated by the asterisk (*).

We invite you to stay for an informal refreshment time after the service — a great time to meet new friends.

Children are welcome in the service, but if you'd prefer, quality child care is provided for infants through kindergarten age throughout the service. Please speak to one of the ushers for locations.

As a courtesy to those around you, we ask that you please mute cell phones during the worship time.

Sunday Morning Worship

December 25, 2011

10:00 A.M.

Prelude

I am enthralled by the luminous figure of the Nazarene. Jesus is too colossal for the pen of the phrase-mongers, however artful... No one can read the gospels without feeling the actual presence of Jesus. His personality pulsates in every word. No myth is filled with such life.

- Albert Einstein -
from an interview in the *Saturday Evening Post*

*Gathering Song

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

God rest ye 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;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came;
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

"Fear not, then," said the angel, "let nothing you fright;
this day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in him from Satan's pow'r and might."
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding, in tempest, storm, and wind:
and went to Bethlehem straight-way, the Son of God to find.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candles

John 8:12 & 12:36

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. Put your trust in the light, so that you may become sons of light.

*Songs of Assurance

As With Gladness Men of Old

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious God, may we evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly cradle bed,
There to bend the knee before Him whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy-seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that cradle rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light;
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown, thou its Sun which goes not down;
There for ever may we sing alleluias to our King.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

Away In a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus! look down from the sky, and stay by my cradle, till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me for ever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Prayers of the People

Offering & Special Music

Scripture

Isaiah 9: 6-7, page 489 Chair Bible

Sermon

To Us

Pastor Drew Derreth

*Song of Reflection

Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star
while angels sang to lowly shepherds.
The wise men seeking truth traveled from afar,
hoping to find the Child from heaven.
Falling on their knees they bowed
before the humble Prince of Peace.

Chorus: I bring an offering of worship to my King;
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing.
Jesus, may You receive the honor that You're due;
O Lord, I bring an offering to You.

The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love;
There is no shadow in Your presence.
No mortal man would dare
To stand before Your throne,
Before the Holy One of heaven.
It's only by Your blood,
And it's only through your mercy, Lord, I come.

Chorus

*Benediction

*Parting Song of Praise

O Come All Faithful (Refrain)

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Worship Musicians

Jess Adams — **Piano**

Jimmy Lynn — **Guitar**

Meg Abbott, Angela Brewer and Jimmy Lynn — **Praise Team**

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Offering

Advent Candle Lighting

Advent means "coming" and we remember what it was like for the people of the Old Testament as they awaited the coming of the Messiah, which we celebrate at Christmas. We look forward to Jesus' coming again. Purple, the ancient color of royalty has traditionally been associated with penitence and expectation. It is used during the season of Advent, in which we prepare for the coming of Jesus our King.

The lighting of Advent candles dramatically depicts the growing expectation we have for the coming of Christ, the light of the world. The traditional Advent wreath has four purple candles, which are lit on the four Sundays of Advent, grouped together with a white Christ candle which is lit on Christmas Eve. The main symbolism portrayed is the growing intensity of light as the candle lighting includes an additional candle each Lord's Day and the anticipation that builds for the celebration of Christ's second coming.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January

Parenting Seminar
Congregational Luncheon & Meeting
Serving Lunch at the Shelter

February

Officer Training begins
Ladies' Tea

Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.

Psalm 86:1

God's Amazing Grace

- Thank God for the community kids that attended the Christmas party.
- Thank God for the amazing healing that Bruce Schwarz is experiencing.
- Thank God that He has provided the most generous expression of His love for us by giving us His Son as our redeemer.

Kingdom Perspective

- Pray for Dave and Esther Miller as they continue to proclaim the beauty of the gospel to Chileans. Pray for them as they are home visiting friends and family and sharing the stories of hard work, perseverance and new understanding.
- Pray for Disciple Maker ministries to be able to engage students on college campuses in conversations that lead to an understanding and faith in Jesus. Ask God to show them the students that He is drawing to Himself.
- Pray that the global church would be marked by true repentance, faith, evangelism and discipleship.

Hanover Valley Steps of Faith

- Pray for the grieving families and friends of the five students who died in the car accident on 12/5.
- Pray that the Hanover community would take the opportunity to worship God together on Christmas Eve. Pray that all the churches would be unified in their endeavor to proclaim the arrival of the Messiah.
- Pray for those who will struggle with depression and anxiety that is caused by loneliness and the holiday season.
- Pray for many families to come to Jesus this Christmas season.
- Pray that we might lovingly embrace and encourage in Christ everyone who walks into our midst and that we might go out, as Jesus sent out His disciples, with great boldness in our faith.

Health-Related Struggles

Ethel Eaton (Warren Sullenger's grandmother) – injured her back in a fall; **Adele** (Anne Scott's mother) – needs her health to be stabilized so that her family can care for her. Pray for wisdom in the decisions that will be made and for the family to be united; **Laura Dzbynski's father** – his heart is not working to its full capacity; **Lydia Dzbynski** – as the family tries to understand a partial loss of hearing; **Bruce Schwarz** – will be returning to work in January; **Annie Laure Woappi** – To be able to rest, find confidence, and deeply experience the love of our Father. She is deeply saddened by the loss of her father; **Paul, Debbie, and the Trask Family** – They need our prayer and friendship. Life on this earth is hard as Paul is continually affected by ALS. Ask God to show us how to encourage and care for them. Pray for sleep, caregivers, time together as a family, comfort for Paul, and steadfastness in this long journey. Pray for continued increase in the benefits that he receives as the disease progresses. He also needs to learn a new computer system; **Brent Pohl** (friend of Dave and Marty Kieffer) – He has an *urgent need* for a kidney transplant. JHU is screening possible donors; **Tina Doss** (friend of Michelle O'Connor) – has been diagnosed with bladder cancer and she is a single mother of three school-age children; Pray for **Daniel Abbott** and his new baby daughter (Schwarz/Abbott family) – his 22 year-old wife died suddenly; **Father of Stephanie Brown** – in need of a kidney donor; **Amy** (friend of Deb Stapf) – diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer; **Haidyn** (friend of Shannan Nakielny) – Pray for a decrease in seizures, more complete diagnosis, and a successful treatment plan; **Butch** – He has been moved to York Hospital. Please continue to pray for healing of his lungs and check with Bob Casper for an update.

Military

Thank God for the men and women who work hard and sacrifice much to defend our country.

Please pray for our military people who are far from home for the holidays.

Pray that they would be greatly encouraged and know of the Father's deep love for them.

Stateside: Alec Speights, Steve Astrin, David Casper, Jonathan Hempfing, and John Highfill.

Overseas: Jeremiah Harrity — USAF (Italy) and Alston Schwarz — returns on 12/11.

To update prayer requests, contact Susan Schwarz at 637-7696 or yakingfamily@hotmail.com.

Hanover Valley Bulletin Board

Parking During the Worship Service: *We're glad you've come this morning. We have prioritized our parking lot next to our building for guests, but there are a variety of locations less than a block away. Maps are on the table in the Great Room pointing out various locations nearby where you may be able to park on Sundays, as you come for worship. All public metered parking is free on Sundays.*

Kids Under Construction: *This is an active and age-appropriate learning time for children from four years old through high school. Child care is also provided during this time for younger children.*

My Story: *Get to know one another better. Join us during the Adult Workshop hour, continuing THIS SUNDAY, to hear the stories of fellow attenders at Hanover Valley. This is a great way to connect more with others in the church, especially those who may attend a different service or a different Growth Group. This class will conclude next Sunday, December 18th.*

Giving Opportunity: *The Mercy Team will be collecting gifts and food for a needy family this Christmas. There will be a box across from the kitchen under the coat rack to collect donations of non-perishable food items or gift cards to help the family celebrate Christmas. There is a list of ages and sizes for the family members attached to the box. For questions or more details, please see Bob Casper.*

Christmas Eve Invitations: *The Christmas Eve service at the Eichelberger Center is coming soon! Invitations to the service are available in the Great Room for you to personally invite your family, friends, and neighbors. Please take this opportunity to reach out to our community.*

Raising Awareness: *Dane and Destiny Arnold (son and daughter of Melody and Dave) are completing a graduation project that involves raising awareness and resources for homelessness in Hanover. If you would like to know more about this or would like to assist them, please contact the Arnold family directly at 633-1048.*

One Service: *Beginning on Christmas Day and each Sunday after that, Hanover Valley will be going back to one morning service. This change will be really exciting, as we'll be able to worship as a larger group, fellowshiping with those who we may miss if we attend one service and not the other, and have more opportunity to reach out to those visiting! The new service time will be at 10:00 A.M. with Adult Workshop and Kids Under Construction meeting at 9:00 A.M. For questions, please contact the church office at 630-9510 or hanovervalley@gmail.com.*

Growth Groups

No one can thrive with just a Sunday morning connection. Each of us needs a place to develop genuine friendships, to ask honest questions, and to discover the implications of the Gospel to real life. Growth Groups are where that happens most authentically. They are the primary place for pastoral care. They are open groups led by trained lay leaders designed for the curious, the skeptic, the struggling, the experienced, the new and the old - people all along the spiritual journey. They are the very lifeblood of the church.

Contact the pastor or one of these Growth Group leaders to discuss getting involved. Every group is always open to those not yet involved. Brochures on the value and format of Growth Groups are available in the Great Room.

Bob Anderson	637-7788	Mondays	7:00 P.M.
Colby Brewer	632-9807	Alternate Thursdays	7:00 P.M.
Drew Derreth	630-9510	Alternate Fridays	7:00 P.M.
Doug Hempfing	235-0197	2nd & 4th Wednesdays	7:00 P.M.
Bruce Schwarz	637-7696	1st & 3rd Thursdays	7:00 P.M.
Paul Trask	632-2115	Alternate Fridays	7:00 P.M.

In addition to these Growth Groups, there are student meetings on every other Thursday. This group is led by Amanda Cooper, Mark & Meggan Smith, and Andrea Hempfing. We also offer a number of investigative Bible studies at Gettysburg College.