

# Welcome

to

## **Hanover Valley**

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 by the asterisk (\*).

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

## **Presbyterian Church**

**Sunday Morning Worship  
December 20, 2009  
8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.**

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Call to Worship**

Lighting of the Advent Candles

**\*Songs of Praise**

*Angels We Have Heard on High, page 4*

**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.

### **Corporate Prayer of Confession**

Heavenly Father, we long to recapture the wonder of Christmas. You showed the world your splendor in the coming of your Son, the mystery of God becoming man. Yet, our sins have made us hard. Instead of peaceful – our hearts are anxious; Instead of joyful - we are irritable; instead of filled with surprise – we are bland; instead of anticipation - we are filled with dread. Have mercy on us, O God. Renew us by your grace and mercy. Apply the work of Christ to us again. Deliver us from everything that dims the brightness of your grace in us, from everything that prevents us from taking our deepest delight in you. In the name of our Redeemer, Christ, Amen.

### **Private Confession**

#### **Word of Encouragement**

Galatians 4: 4-6

But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are 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 a son.

#### **\*Song of Christ**

##### **Your Love Is Better Than Life**

O Lord, You are my Lord. Your ways are higher than mine.  
I've seen the broken restored. Your love is better than life.

We thirst in a dry weary land. We hunger for thee.  
Lord, rain down as we lift up our hands. Your love is better than life.

O God, I stand amazed; how high, how deep, how wide.  
My lips offer you praise. Your love is better than life.

I stand in the shade of your wing. My soul clings to thee.  
In the joy of the Lord will I sing. Your love is better than life.

**Repeat Verses 1 & 2**

Lord, your love is better than life.

**Church Life Announcements & Prayers of the People**

**\*Song of Praise**

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*, page 5

**Scripture**

Matthew 2, page 681 Chair Bible

**Sermon**

**Christmas Wonder**

Pastor Drew Derreth

**Offering & Special Music**

**Benediction**

**\*Parting Song of Praise**

*O Come All Ye Faithful*

*(Refrain)*

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

**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.*

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## **Worship Musicians**

Brandee Markle — **Pianist**

Meg Abbott, Teresa Summer, and Debbie Trask — **Praise Team**

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### **Angels We Have Heard on High**

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.

**Refrain:** Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why you joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire you heav'nly song?

#### **Refrain**

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

#### **Refrain**

## **It Came Upon a Midnight Clear**

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King:"  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world:  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,  
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:  
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

## **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 those children who may be younger.*

**How Do You Study the Bible?** *Learning to study the Bible well is an acquired skill of careful observation, thoughtful interpretation, and practical application. It is hard work, but the rewards are worth it. This Adult Workshop, taught by Dave Kieffer, will conclude TODAY, December 20th.*

**Christmas Eve Service:** *Each Christmas, we offer a candlelight Christmas Eve service for the community at the Eichelberger Performing Arts Center in Hanover. Please remember to invite your family and friends who might be interested in exploring Christianity to this special service which celebrates the wonder of the Christ's birth. The service will begin at 7:00 P.M.*

**Christmas Eve Refreshments:** *It's the time of year for baking Christmas cookies! If you are willing, bring a tray of cookies to the Eichelberger Performing Arts Center by 6:30 P.M. to share with others following the Christmas Eve service this Thursday. Please let Christina Warrington know if you will be participating.*

**G**rowth 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.*

<b>Bob Anderson</b>	<b>637-7788</b>	<b>Mondays</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<b>Colby Brewer</b>	<b>632-9807</b>	<b>Alternate Thursdays</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<b>Drew Derreth</b>	<b>630-9510</b>	<b>Alternate Fridays</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<b>Doug Hempfing</b>	<b>235-0197</b>	<b>2nd &amp; 4th Wednesdays</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<b>Dave Kieffer</b>	<b>549-3169</b>	<b>Alternate Tuesdays</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<b>Paul Trask</b>	<b>632-2115</b>	<b>Alternate Fridays</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<b>Bruce Schwarz</b>	<b>637-7696</b>	<b>1st &amp; 3rd Wednesdays</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>

*In addition to these growth groups, there are student Growth Group meetings on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month led by: Jim & Karen Neff and Josh & Teresa Summer.*

*We also offer a number of investigative Bible studies at Gettysburg College.*

**We'd also love to help you find a group. Contact the church office at 630-9510.**

***This Week***

TODAY	8:30 AM	<b>Worship Service</b>
	9:45 AM	<b>Refreshments</b>
	10:00 AM	<b>Kids Under Construction</b>
	11:00 AM	<b>Worship Service</b>
	12:15 PM	<b>Refreshments</b>
	7:00 PM	<b>Christmas Eve Praise Team Practice</b>
WED	7:00 PM	<b>Praise Team Practice</b>
THURS	1:45 PM	<b>Christmas Eve Music Rehearsal</b>
	7:00 PM	<b>Christmas Eve Service</b>

## **Prayer Concerns**

### **Praise**

- Thank God that His plan for us involves love, forgiveness, and freedom.
- Thank God for every circumstance that points us to our need of Him.
- Thank God that He delights to call us His precious children.

### **Friends and Family**

- Pray for those who experience sadness and depression during the holiday season that their sadness would be replaced with the joy that Jesus offers.
- Pray that we might know how to display the love of Jesus to the hungry and the homeless in our community.
- Pray that we would speak the truth of Christmas into the lives of our friends and family in many different ways.
- Pray for family members who have drifted away from knowing Jesus, that they be restored to the peace of Christ.
- Pray for Jonathan Blake to find a job.

### **Hanover Valley**

- That we would love one another with no thought of condemnation or judgment.
- That we would offer our whole hearts in service to the King
- That we would live in humble repentance, receiving forgiveness with joy.
- That we would anticipate great surprises as God works in our lives and those around us.
- That we would be willing to sacrifice for others.

### **Steps of Faith in Ministry**

- That we will graciously care for those God brings into our lives.
- That Christmas Eve would be a time of satisfying worship of the King of Kings.
- That children would respond to the heart of Jesus as they hear and experience the story of his birth.
- For Growth Groups to enjoy festive celebrations; making new friends and deepening relationships.

### **National and International**

- Pray that Jesus would be the focus of Christmas celebrations around the world, resulting in people hearing the gospel internationally.
- Pray for the peace and rescue of believers who suffer brutal betrayal by their government.
- Pray for food, clothing, and shelter for those who are poor.

### **Health Related Struggles**

*Ask God to allow those who are struggling with health issues to experience His presence every day.*

**Christ Woappi** - to respond to cancer treatment and for him and his family to know the presence and peace of God; Pray that God would set **those who are in our community fighting an on-going battle of drug addiction** free; **Jim Lynn, Sr.** (Jim Lynn's father) - for recovery from prostate cancer surgery; **Trask family** - to experience the deep and abiding peace of Jesus; **Destiny Arnold** - for a quick recovery from minor surgery on December 28<sup>th</sup>; **Brian King** (Dave Arnold's cousin) - for recovery from leg amputation after a motorcycle accident and for strength for his mother; **Leroy Cross** (Susan Schwarz's father) - for restored health and peace; **Donna Baumgardener** (Ian O'Connor's Scoutmaster's wife) - undergoing cancer treatment; **Elaina** (Deb Stapf) - 9 month-old dealing with severe lung issues and a trach tube, also for her parents Tana and Dennis as they care for her at home; **Zach Forry** (friend of Doris Bange) - for recovery from brain injury; **Emily and Tim Murphy** (friends of Ellen Highfill) - both have cancer, yet need to take care of each other; **Christina** Sarah Crown) - pray that her unborn child will not be affected by the medicine she has received for meningitis; **Andrew Hauser** (son of Nancy and Art Rathell) - strengthened health as he continues to cope with Celiac's Disease; **James Mathais** (Melodi Arnold's brother) - brain cancer is

in remission; **Kim** (friend of Debbie Trask) - ongoing potential of recurring Melanoma; **Susie Hancock** (cousin of Lin Sullenger) - blood clotting disorder that threatens her heart & brain; **Warren Sullenger** - continued improvement in health.

### **Military**

Pray for all those serving in the military both home and abroad.