

Shining in Our Midst

Have you seen Jesus this week? Did you see evidence of God's presence in your day-to-day activities? Not sure? Look closer. Scripture says that God is found everywhere. The Gospel text for today tells of an "ordinary" dedication ceremony where two faithful servants, attuned to the Spirit of God, recognized something special, holy. These two people were Simeon, described by Luke as "righteous and devout," and Anna, a prophetess who "never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day" (vv. 25, 37). Upon seeing Jesus in the temple, Simeon recognized him as the Messiah and proclaimed, "My eyes have seen your salvation, . . . a light . . . to the Gentiles" (vv. 30, 32). And Anna began to praise God and tell others about Jesus and the redemption he would bring.

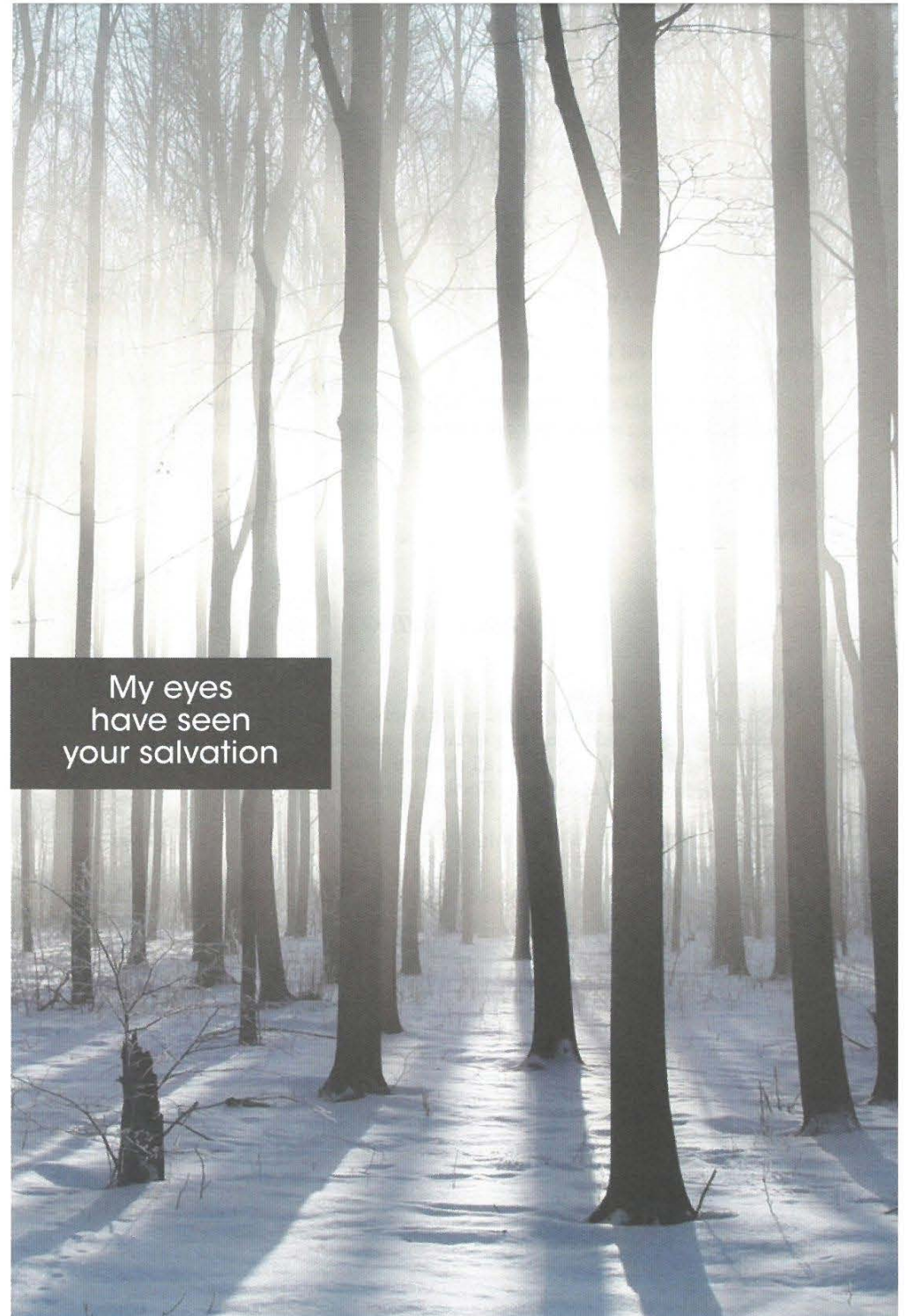
We, too, can see this new light and revelation for the world. Jesus is in our midst today! Our bulletin cover image reminds me of a grove of trees near my home. I love looking up through the branches where the sun—like the light of God—shines down into the darkness below. God's presence is in us and all around us, even when we fail to recognize it. When we do experience God's light, it compels us to tell others, to share the good news. I am reminded of a brother at Annual Conference who compared our lives to a page with borders. We need to respect the borders, the spaces outside our comfort zone we enter to serve others and grow in Christ.

Our church includes testimonies of faithful servants from our past, such as Anna Mow and Dan West, as well as many living servants. I'm sure you can name some of them. They are examples to us, along with Simeon and Anna, in recognizing the light and love of Jesus. They also show us the need to be faithful by our encouragement of and service to others. Let us open our eyes to the Spirit moving in our midst. May we, like Simeon, say, "My eyes have seen your salvation." May we, like Anna, tell others about it, too.

—Rebecca Ebie
Eastwood Church of the Brethren
Akron, Ohio

Text for today: "Simeon took [Jesus] in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for *my eyes have seen your salvation*, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel!'" (Luke 2:28-33, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40.

12-28-14. Worship resource © 2014 Brethren Press. www.brethrenpress.com



My eyes
have seen
your salvation

BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship January 15, 2017 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE Our Great Savior (HYFRYDOL) *arr. Kenneth D. Varner*

CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER Jeff Carr

Please sign and pass the *Friendship Register* pad located at the inside aisle of the pew. Signing helps us learn the names of those worshipping near us. After all have signed, the pad can be passed back to the inside aisle.

CALL TO WORSHIP

***HYMN # 20** *Come and See*

PROCLAIMING

CHILDREN'S TIME (11:00) Tony Stovall

Children of ALL ages are invited to the front of the sanctuary for a time of building upon and connecting to faith through stories and interactions. Following the Children's Story, all children preschool through 5th grade are invited to attend Children's Worship in the Agape Room.

SCRIPTURE READING John 1:29-42 *The Message*

ANTHEM (11:00) Abide With Me *arr. Brian L. Hanson*

SERMON "Come and See" Jeff Carr

RESPONDING

***HYMN INSERT** *Will You Come and Follow Me* KELVINGROVE

REFLECTIONS (8:30) Contemplation and conversation.

OFFERING

Responsive Invitation

Leader: As we answer God's Call: Jesus said "Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

People: **Our lives are full. Our schedules have control over our time. So then...Jesus calls us to surrender our time to God.**

Leader: Jesus said: "No one can serve two masters....you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

People: **Our finances are limited. Income and bills have control over our money. So then...Jesus calls us to surrender our money to God.**

Leader: Jesus said: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you...Your heart must not be troubled or fearful."

People: **Our fear of change and the unknown have control over our decisions. So then...Jesus calls us to surrender our fears to God.**

Leader: Jesus said: "Come and See!"

People: **We feel unworthy of God's call. So then...Jesus calls us to surrender our insecurities to God.**

Leader: Jesus said: "I am the world's Light. No one who follows me stumbles around in darkness. I provide plenty of light to live in."

All: **So then... let us answer God's Call!**

Offertory

(8:30) We bring our tithes and offerings to the worship center.

(11:00) Ushers receive our tithes and offerings.

On Eagle's Wings *setting by John Carter*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Debbie Eye

***HYMN # 570** *We walk by faith*

SHANTI

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Rigaudon from *Idominée* *arr. Mark L. Williams*

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

January 15-21, 2017 (All events are p.m. unless noted)

This is a church events calendar and does not include all building events use.
Please be sure to schedule ALL EVENTS through the church office.

Today	9:30 & 10:30 a.m.	Blood Pressure Clinic	Office Area
		Children's Worship during Worship at 11	
	3:00	Kathleen & Glenn Suter Memorial Service	
Tues.	7:00	Food Pantry	Social Hall
Wed.	5:15	Cherub Choir Rehearsal	Agape Room
	5:30	Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal (Menu: chicken & biscuits, vegetarian dish; hotdogs)	Social Hall
	5:45	Carol Choir Rehearsal	Agape Room
	6:30	YORFF Rehearsal	Agape Room
	7:15	Puppet Rehearsal	Agape Room
Thurs.	7:30	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Fri.	6:30	Brethren Student Movement	Youth Room

NEXT SUNDAY– **January 22, 2017** – *Third Sunday after the Epiphany*

Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. – Sanctuary

Pastor Jeff Carr, preaching

Sermon: "Following Jesus"

Scripture Readings: Psalm 27:1, 4-9; Matthew 4:12-23

Sunday School – 9:45 a.m. – Classrooms

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 01/08/17

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 11 11:00 – 208 Sunday School: 139

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$21,657.75
Loose Offering	214.00
Food Pantry	100.00
<i>Messenger</i> Subscriptions	88.00
Christmas Offering	550.00
Youth Programs	950.00

BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

*An inclusive family of faith seeking to follow Jesus
and live the love of God.*

Our Mission...

As an inclusive community of faith, we commit ourselves to embody the love of God and to share our diverse lives and gifts with each other and the world. Through faith formation, worship, mission, and fellowship we boldly proclaim the peace and love of Christ. Together we work for justice, extend grace, and partner with God to offer abundant life, healing, and hope to our community and the world.

Our Values...

*Sharing life together and including all persons in our common life.
Growing in faith, compassion, and understanding.
Serving one another and our neighbor's good.
Sharing the love of God and the God that is love.*

PASTORAL MINISTRY STAFF

Jeff Carr – Senior Pastor

Chris Zepp – Associate Pastor

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FACILITIES MINISTRY STAFF

Fortunato Correa – Custodian

Phil Flory – Treasurer

Shannon Puffenbarger – Administrative Assistant

Leon Rhodes – Head Teller

Glenna Wampler – Business Manager

PROGRAM & MUSIC MINISTRY STAFF

Kathleen Arndt – Child Care Center Administrator

John Barr – Organist

Jim Benedict – Bell Choir Director

Jeanie Eye – Christian Education Director

Mary Beth Flory – Pianist

Marianne Houff – Children's Choir Director

Ellsworth Neff – Sound, Light, Video Coordinator

Curtis Nolley – Sanctus Choir Director & Music Coordinator

Clarke & Hope Staton – Youth Ministry Coordinators

CONTACT INFORMATION

420 College View Drive, Bridgewater, VA 22812

www.bwcob.org / (540) 828-3711

Normal office hours are Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-Noon, and 1-5 p.m.

SUNDAY MORNING INFORMATION & TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

HOSPITALITY CENTER in the Greeting Hall

Nametags; large-print Bibles, hymnals, & bulletins; listening receivers; and information are available here.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45 a.m.

All Are Welcome brochures, available in the pews and literature rack, list specific Christian Education opportunities and locations.

PARKING ASSISTANCE: 10:30-10:55 a.m. every Sunday.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME!

Children are always welcome among us and in our corporate worship gatherings. Activity bags are available in the greeting hall for their use and enjoyment. Additionally, childcare for children ages birth to kindergarten is available as well as a "cry room" for those who wish to listen and see the worship service in a separate room from the sanctuary. Ushers are more than willing to help you locate these resources.

Pianist (8:30) – Cindy Fike

Fellowship Host – Mac Bair

Blood Pressure Assistants – Allen Clague & Ann Flora

Greeters (11:00) – Bill & Mary Ludwick

Head Usher (11:00) – Kevin Keplinger

Sound/Light (11:00) – Ellsworth Neff & David Lineweaver

Decorators – Lori Lineweaver & Dwynn Stovall

Deacon Caregiver – Lori Lineweaver

Van Drivers – David Lineweaver / Rick Fawley

Worship Leader – Debbie Eye

TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847

Please refer to page 653 in Hymnal, A Worship Book.

2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available to be picked-up in the greeting hall. Anyone who would like offering envelopes for 2017 but has not had them in the past should notify our Business Manager, Glenna Wampler. Weekly and monthly envelopes are available. Also, if you're interested in having contribution made to the church electronically, forms are available in the church office.

2016 YEAR-END GIVING STATEMENTS are available for pick-up today and next Sunday. To help save postage, we'd appreciate you delivering family or neighbors' statements.

Will you come and follow me

Kelvingrove

Text: John Bell, b. 1949; Music: Scottish traditional
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