

The One Who Saves

Call to Worship

People: "Lord, tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains quake at your presence!"

One: Isaiah's yearning is ours as we survey a world aflame in violence and confess the despair in our own hearts.

People: "Shepherd of Israel, listen to our prayer! Shine forth. Stir up your might. Come to save us!"

One: The psalmist, too, felt pangs of an unjust world, of humanity on the brink, and cried out for a saving act of God.

People: "The stars will fall, the planets will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory."

One: Jesus told us not to lose hope, for the signs of redemption are around us. Summer is near. Keep awake. Watch for God's inbreaking.

People: "You were made rich through our Lord Jesus Christ. You are not lacking any spiritual gift as you wait for his revealing."

One: This Advent we wait for the One who saves, not by superior force but by self-giving love.

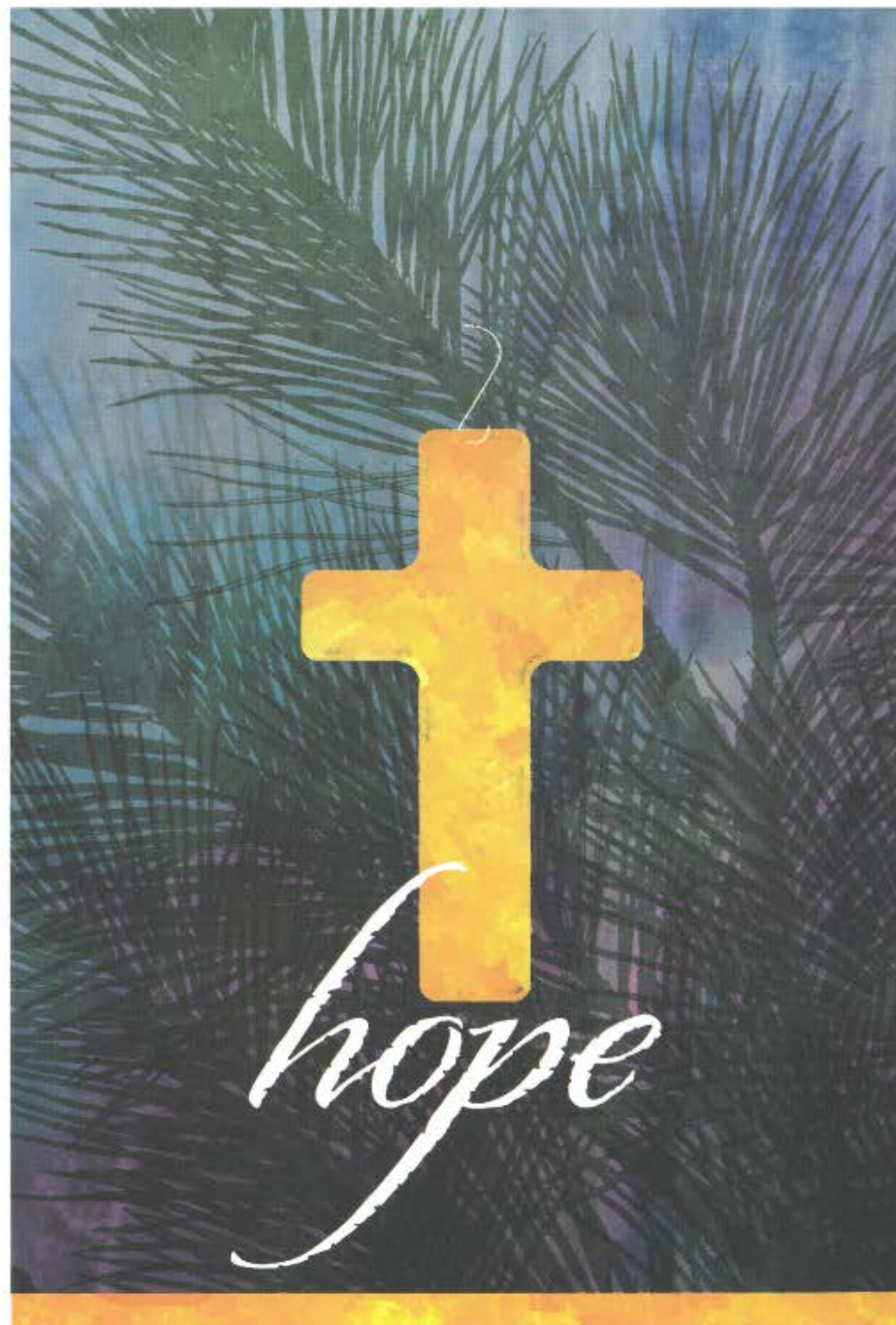
People: Using what Christ taught us and the gifts he gave us, let us love one another, turn enemies to friends, and live in the hope of the One to come.

—Dan Petry

*Florence Church of the Brethren/Mennonite
Constantine, Michigan*

Text for today: "I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him . . . so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 1:4-7, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37.

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BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship December 3, 2017 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE (11:00) Savior of the Heathen, Come *J. S. Bach*
(from the Leipzig Chorales)

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 worshiping near us. After all have signed, the pad can be passed back to the inside aisle.

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP Back of Bulletin

CHORAL INTROIT (11:00) Peace Came to Earth *Carl Schalk*

ADVENT LITURGY

Story of Hope Fred and Nancy Swartz

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Advent Prayer (*Unison*) ~Sing the Story, #125, adapted

God of Advent, in the darkest days and nights of the year, our hearts turn toward your promised light. With the first faint glimmer of a single candle, our hope is ignited once more. In these Advent days, lead us into your light to a manger where the face of God shines bright and clear. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

***HYMN # 174** *Bless'd be the God of Israel* WEBB

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 Isaiah 64:1-9 *NRSV*

ANTHEM (11:00) *arr. Donald McCullough*
Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 13: 24-37 *NRSV*

SERMON "Shining Faces" Jeff Carr

RESPONDING

***HYMN# 211** *Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming* ES IST EIN ROS

REFLECTIONS (8:30) ...a time for conversation.

OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

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

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

Meditation on ES IST EIN ROS *John Barr*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Fred Swartz

***HYMN # 196** *While shepherds watched* WINCHESTER OLD
(vv. 1-2, 5-6)

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (11:00) Chorale Prelude on *F. W. Zachau*
"All Glory Be to God on High"

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

December 3-9, 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 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
		Children's Worship during Worship @ 11	– Agape Room
	Noon	Youth Fundraiser Lunch (Menu: Crepes)	Social Hall
	3:00	Memorial Service for Ella Mae Fike	Lantz Chapel
	5:00	Sr. High Movie Night	The Zepp's home
	7:00	BRC Lovelight Service	Lantz Chapel
	8:30	BSM Leadership Team	Lounge
Tues.	7:00	Bridgewater Interchurch Food Pantry	Social Hall
Wed.	5:15	Pageant Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	6:30	YORFFs Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Thurs.	Noon	Interfaith Association	Islamic Center
	6:00	Brethren Student Movement	Carter Center
	6:30	Puppets Rehearsal	Agape Room
	7:30	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Sat.	10 a.m.	Bridgewater Christmas Parade	
	1:00	Memorial Service for Charlotte McKay	Sanctuary

NEXT SUNDAY– December 10, 2017 – *Second Sunday of Advent*

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

Preaching: Pastor Chris Zepp

Sermon: "In the Meantime..."

Scripture Readings: 2nd Peter 3:8-15a & Mark 1:1-8

Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m. – Choir Room

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

Properties Commission – Noon – Lounge

Youth Christmas Party – 4 p.m. – Home of the Day-Millers

Come join *The Valley 7* for an Evening of Carols and Readings on

Friday, December 8, at 7 p.m. at Asbury UMC. Once again they will partner to raise money for Open Doors (www.valleyopendoors.org), a local homeless shelter. Admission is free with a donation to Open Doors.

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) – Kathy Shrader

Head Usher – Devin Bowman

Sound & Light Operator – Michael Overman

Decorator – Lori Lineweaver

Deacon Caregiver – Jan Flora

Van Driver – Donnie Fulk

Worship Leader – Fred Swartz

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 11/26/17

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 29 11:00 – 272 Sunday School: 154

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$4,106.75
Loose Offering	538.00
<i>Messenger</i> Subscription	15.00
Christmas Offering	100.00
Tree Lights of Love	135.00
School Kits – Children's Offering	50.00
College Care Packages	20.00
Friendship Circle	50.00

SHENANDOAH VALLEY CHORAL SOCIETY will present its 48th annual Christmas concert on Friday, December 15, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, December 17, at 3:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. The concert will feature Handel's "Messiah" accompanied by the SVCS Chamber orchestra and guest soloists along with a variety of new and traditional carol settings.

TODAY'S CHORAL INTROIT TEXT:

Peace came to earth at last that chosen night
When angels clove the sky with song and light
And God embodied love and sheathed His might
Who could but gasp: Immanuel! Who could but sing: Immanuel!
And who could be the same for having held
The infant in their arms, and later felt
The wounded hands and side, all doubts dispelled
Who could but sigh: Immanuel! Who could but shout: Immanuel!
You show the Father none has ever seen
In flesh and blood You bore our griefs and pain,
In bread and wine You visit us again
Who could but see Immanuel! Who could but thrill: Immanuel!
How else could I have known You, O my God!
How else could I have loved You, O my God!
How else could I embrace You, O my God!
Who could but pray: Immanuel! Who could but praise Immanuel!

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TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT: Charles Wesley

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.
Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to your glorious throne.

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WINTER PHOTO SESSIONS AVAILABLE TODAY

Immediately after Worship at 11 today, concurrent with the BWCOB Youth Lunch, Lisa Houff Photography will be conducting quick 10-minute Winter-Themed Photo Sessions for anyone wanting to be photographed in a beautiful vintage sleigh in the Church Garden. The cost is \$40 per session. Each client will receive one hi-resolution digital file. No appointments. Just come on out before or after lunch! In addition, Lisa Houff Photography will donate 50% of her proceeds from this event to the 2018 BWCOB Christmas Offering, which benefits the Harrisonburg Rockingham Free Clinic and Brethren Disaster Services.

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

² before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your might, and come to save us! ³ Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. ⁴ O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure. ⁶ You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves. ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. ¹⁷ But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.

¹⁸ Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name. ¹⁹ Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Mark 13:24-37

the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸ "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³² "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Isaiah 64:1-9

⁶⁴ O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

² as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴ From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

⁵ You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷ There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸ Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.