

The Faithful Love of God

Responsive Invocation

One: O Lord, on the cusp of Christmas we sing of your steadfast love and faithfulness to all generations!

People: In the miracle of the manger, we see and declare your eternal faithfulness and love.

One: The baby born in poverty, the suffering servant who was despised and rejected, is our Savior, and has been crowned King of kings by your mighty hand.

People: Keep your strong arm, O God, upon him, and anoint us with your holy oil, that we may continue the work of Jesus with courage and compassion.

One: O Lord, we will sing of your steadfast love and faithfulness this day and forevermore!

Hymn

Great is thy faithfulness

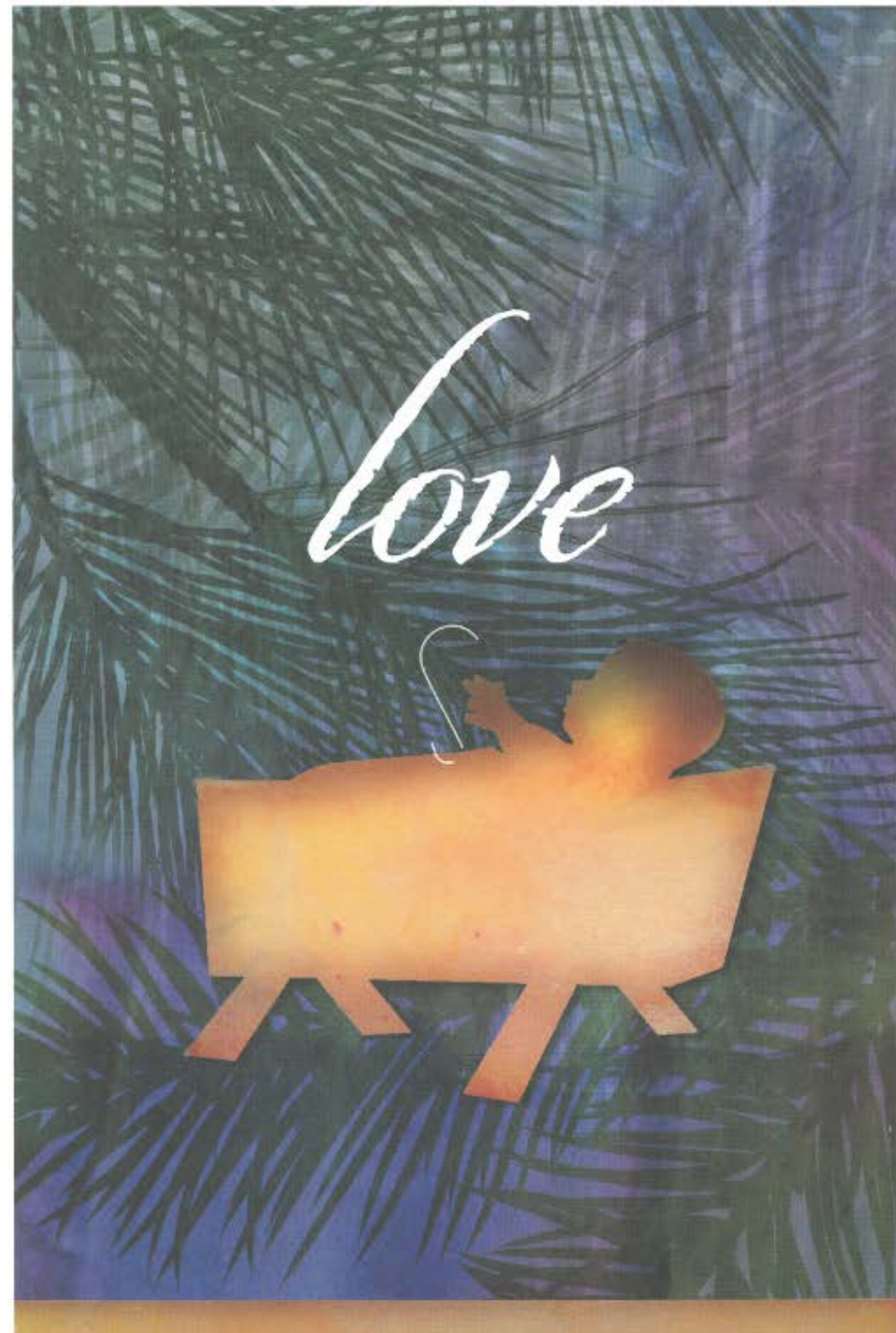
No. 327, *Hymnal: A Worship Book*

—Dan Petry

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

Text for today: "I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. You said, 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: "I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations." . . . Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said: 'I have set the crown on one who is mighty, I have exalted one chosen from the people. I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him; my hand shall always remain with him; my arm also shall strengthen him. The enemy shall not outwit him, the wicked shall not humble him. I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him. My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him; and in my name his horn shall be exalted. I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers. He shall cry to me, "You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!"' " (Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26, *NRSV*). **Bible readings for today:** 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16; Luke 1: 46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 (24); Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38.

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BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
at Worship December 24, 2017 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE (11:00) Prelude on ADESTE FIDELIS *Eric Thiman*

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.

CHORAL INTROIT (11:00) A Christmas Fanfare *Benjamin Harlan*

ADVENT LITURGY

Story of Love Chuck Clouse and Nancy O’Baugh (8:30)
Avery, Bryce, Heather and Jeremy Driver (11:00)

Lighting of the Fourth 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.

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.

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 *NRSV*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Chuck Clouse (8:30) Bill Faw (11:00)

*** HYMN # 178** *Come, thou long-expected Jesus* HYFRYDOL

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:26-38 *NRSV*

SINGING WITH BRENT (8:30)

ANTHEM (11:00) Silent Night *arr. Eric Nelson*

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:39-55 *NRSV*

SERMON “*Intergenerational God*” Jeff Carr

RESPONDING

***HYMN INSERT** *Wexford Carol* TRADITIONAL

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 HUMILITY *John Barr*

(“Christ is born in Bethlehem”)

Tune by John Goss

Prayer

***HYMN # 215** *What child is this* GREENSLEEVES

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (11:00) “Now sing we, now rejoice” *Paul Manz*
(Chorale Improvisation, Opus 17)

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

CHURCH OFFICE STAFF HOLIDAY SCHEDULES

The church office will be closed December 25-January 2. Some staff will be in and checking messages during that time. If you have pastoral needs please contact Pastor Jeff by leaving a message at the office or calling him at home. Pastor Chris will be out of town December 25 through January 2, and also January 5-6.

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

December 24-30, 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 7 & 11 Christmas Eve Night Worship Sanctuary

Mon Merry Christmas! Church Offices & Building Closed

Tues-Fri Church Offices Closed

NEXT SUNDAY– December 31, 2017 – First Sunday in Christmas

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

Preaching: Jeff Carr

Sermon: “Children of God”

Scriptures: Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

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

Youth Attend First Night – 5:30 p.m. – Harrisonburg

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 12/17/17

Worship Attendance: 11:00 – 258

Sunday School:134

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|--------------------------------|------------|
| Pledges & Envelope Giving | \$9,409.00 |
| Loose Offering | 598.09 |
| Books | 11.00 |
| Christmas Offering | 1,650.00 |
| Food Pantry | 200.00 |
| <i>Messenger</i> Subscriptions | 58.00 |
| Youth Programs | 550.00 |
| Altruistic Class | 105.00 |
| Roof Replacement | 200.00 |
| Tree Lights of Love | 295.00 |
| Charlotte McKay Memorial Fund | 130.00 |

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Anyone who would like offering envelopes for 2018 but has not made a financial commitment for the year or 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 your contribution made to the church electronically, forms are available in the church office or you may speak with Glenna. Envelopes are available to be picked up this morning and next Sunday.

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) – Betty Caricofe

Guitarist (8:30) – Brent Holl

Head Usher – Devin Bowman

Decorators – Linda Dean, Bea Miller, Dwyann & Tony Stovall

Deacon Caregiver – Sally Jane Conner

Van Driver – Donnie Fulk

TODAY'S CHORAL INTROIT TEXT: B. Harlan

Gloria, in excelsis deo! Alleluia! Glory to God in the highest!
Christ is born on Christmas day! Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King; Peace on earth, and mercy mild;
God and sinners reconciled." Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies; With angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King." Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of righteousness! Light and life to all He brings,
ris'n with healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by,
born that man no more may die, Born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth. Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King." Gloria, in excelsis deo! Alleluia!
Christ is born on Christmas day!

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TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT: SEE HYMNAL # 193

Wexford Carol

Traditional

1. Good peo - ple _ all, this Christ-mas time, Con - sid - er well ___ and bear in
2. The night be - fore that hap - py tide The no - ble vir - gin and her
3. There were three _ wise men from a - far di - rect - ed by ___ a glo - rious
4. Near Beth - le - hem did shep - herds keep Their flocks of lambs ___ and feed - ing
5. With thank - ful _ heart and joy - ful mind, The shep - herds went ___ the babe to

mind What our good . God for us has done, In send - ing his ___ be - lov - ed
guide Were long time _ seek - ing up and down To find a lodg - ing in the
star, And on they _ wan - dered night and day Un - til they came ___ where Je - sus
sheep; To whom God's _ an - gels did ap - pear, Which put the shep - herds in great
find, And as God's _ an - gels had fore told, They did our sav - ior Christ be -

Son. With Mar - y ho - ly we should pray To God with love ___ this Christ-mas
town. But mark how all ___ things come to pass: From ev - ery door ___ re - pelled, a -
lay. And when they came _ un - to that place, Where our be - lov - ed _ Mes - si - ah
fear. "Pre - pare and go," _ the an gels said, "To Beth - le - hem, ___ be not a -
hold. With - in a man - ger he was laid, And by his side ___ the vir - gin

Day. In Beth - le - hem up - on the morn There was a blessed _ Mes - si - ah born.
las! As long fore - told, their - ref uge all Was but a hum - ble ox - 's stall.
was, They hum - bly _ cast them at his feet With gifts of gold ___ and in - cense sweet.
fraid, For there you'll _ find, this hap - py morn, A prince - ly Babe, ___ sweet Je - sus born."
maid, At - tend ing _ on the Lord of Life, Who came to earth ___ to end all strife.

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Psalm 89:1-4New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Psalm 89

God's Covenant with David

A Maskil of Ethan the Ezrahite.

¹ I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD,^[a] forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

² I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

³ You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to my servant David:

⁴ "I will establish your descendants forever,
and build your throne for all generations.'" *Selah*

Psalm 89:19-26New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹⁹ Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said:

"I have set the crown^[a] on one who is mighty,
I have exalted one chosen from the people.

²⁰ I have found my servant David;
with my holy oil I have anointed him;

²¹ my hand shall always remain with him;
my arm also shall strengthen him.

²² The enemy shall not outwit him,
the wicked shall not humble him.

²³ I will crush his foes before him
and strike down those who hate him.

²⁴ My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him;
and in my name his horn shall be exalted.

²⁵ I will set his hand on the sea
and his right hand on the rivers.

²⁶ He shall cry to me, "You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation!"

Luke 1:26-55New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."^[a] ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the

throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"^[b] ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born^[c] will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Mary Visits Elizabeth

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be^[d] a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Mary's Song of Praise

⁴⁶ And Mary^[e] said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."