

## First Sunday after Christmas

### New Goshenhoppen United Church of Christ



I will tell of  
the kindnesses  
of the LORD...  
according to  
all the  
LORD has done  
for us. . . .

Isaiah 63:7

1070 Church Road † East Greenville PA 18041  
[www.newgoshucc.org](http://www.newgoshucc.org) † 215-679-2041

***"Sharing the light, faith and love of Jesus with all people."***  
**December 28, 2025**

**8:00 a.m. In Person in Sanctuary**

**10:30 a.m. In Person in Sanctuary and Livestream**

***We Praise and Confess***  
***The \* invites you to rise in body and spirit.***

Prelude

Chiming of the Trinity

Call to Worship based on Psalm 148:

Praise God from the heavens!

**Praise Him from the skies above!**

Praise God, angels and all the hosts of heaven!

**Praise Him, sun and moon, and shining stars!**

Praise God, all creatures great and small,

**Praise Him, animals and birds, reptiles and fish!**

Praise God, kings of the earth and people everywhere,

**Praise Him, men and women, young and old!**

Let all the earth bring praise to the Lord,

at whose word creation came into being.

**We gather to praise and worship our God!**

Call to Worship Litany: Psalm 148," accessed December 20, 2025,  
<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/04/call-to-worship-litany-psalm-148.html>.

\*Opening Hymn: No. 143      ***"Angels from the Realms of Glory"***

Invitation to Confession:

Loving and gracious God, we know of your love for us because you have given us this most precious gift in your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Knowing that you forgive those who are willing to admit their shortcomings, we now offer to you our confession of sin.

Prayer of Confession:

**Forgive us, Lord, for treating your gift of grace as if it were a misunderstood present. Too often, we find ourselves filled with greed instead of seeking to serve our neighbors. Too often, we neglect the needs and ignore the feelings of those most close to us. And as we look beyond our loved ones, we ignore the pressing needs of our society by closing our eyes to poverty and pain and walk the other way. Forgive us, and renew us, gracious Savior.**

Lord, hear our personal confession during this time of silence.

*Silent Confession and Reflection*

Declaration of Pardon:

Hear the good news: God's grace is not fragile or withdrawn when misunderstood. It is renewed again and again by a Savior who delights in mercy. In Jesus Christ, God meets us not with judgment, but with forgiveness; not with scarcity, but with abundance. By the power of the Holy Spirit, our eyes are opened, our hearts are restored, and our lives are turned outward in love.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and set free to serve.

**Thanks be to God.**

Song of Praise: No. 110

***Love Has Come*** — Bring a Torch

Collect:

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray...

Holy and gracious God,

you have come to us in Jesus Christ,

making your home among us in love and light.

As we continue to rejoice in the gift of his birth,

renew us by your Spirit,  
that our lives may reflect your righteousness, compassion, and  
peace; through Christ our Savior. Amen.

## ***We Hear and Respond***

From the Prophets:

Isaiah 63:7-9 - (NRSV)

**7** I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,  
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,  
because of all that the Lord has done for us  
and the great favor to the house of Israel  
that he has shown them according to his mercy,  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

**8** For he said, "Surely they are my people,  
children who will not act deceitfully,"

and he became their savior

**9** in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel

but his presence that saved them;

in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them;

he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

From the Epistles:

Hebrews 2:10-18 (NRSV)

**10** It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things  
exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer  
of their salvation perfect through sufferings. **11** For the one who  
sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this  
reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and  
sisters, **12** saying,

"I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

**13** And again,

"I will put my trust in him."

And again,

"Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

**14** Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, **15** and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. **16** For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. **17** Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. **18** Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*Christmas Carol: No. 146

***Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*** – Tempus Adest Floridum

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Matthew 2:13-23 (NRSV)

Hear the Gospel of Christ.

**Glory to Christ our Savior.**

**13** Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." **14** Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt **15** and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

<sup>16</sup> When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. <sup>17</sup> Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

<sup>18</sup> "A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;

she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

<sup>19</sup> When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup> "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." <sup>21</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

This is the Gospel of Christ!

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

The Word of God Proclaimed

Kelly Johannsen

## ***The Gifts That Remain***

\*Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Morning Prayer

Our Savior's Prayer [using debts and debtors]

Welcome and Announcements

Offering Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings  
Give via PayPal, a Credit Card, or Debit Card  
by scanning the QR code with your camera



Offertory Music

Offertory Response: No. 606:

***The Doxology***

Offertory Prayer

\*Hymn of Dismissal: No. 145

***What Child Is This?*** - Greensleeves

Following the Light of Christ into the World

***We go. . .  
To share the light, faith and love of Jesus  
with all people!***

Benediction

Postlude

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## DECEMBER 28, 2025

The People of New Goshenhoppen, Ministers  
Rev. Dr. David A. Williams, Senior Pastor and Organist  
Rev. Dr. Deborah Rahn Clemens, Pastor Emerita  
Rev. Erick Kern, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Elaine Ely, Minister of Grief Support  
Kelly Johannsen, Lay Minister of Visitation  
Beverly A. Benner, Director of Christian Education  
Susan Hemperly, Senior Choir Accompanist  
Cindy Biehn, Administrative Secretary  
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**WELCOME VISITORS** ~ we're glad you are joining us for worship! Please sign the visitor card located in the pew rack and drop in the offering plate.

**WiFi PASSWORD:** Network: NewGoshGuest, password: **wearethechurch**

**COOKBOOK UPDATE:** Thank you to everyone who has contributed recipes to the Anniversary Cookbook. Your efforts are what will make this a successful project. The recipe box is in the Social Room. **Deadline for contributions will be the end of the year 2025.**

**2025 YEARBOOK:** The deadline for all New Goshenhoppen Yearbook reports for the year 2025 has been set for Monday, January 12, 2026. Committee chairpersons, First Monday Meals, Library, Women's Fellowship, and Pastoral and Christian Education Staff are kindly requested to submit reports to the Church Office by this date. Please mark your calendars so that this date is honored. Thank you for your cooperation.

**SCOUTING NEWS:** **Cub Scouts** is for boys and girls Kindergarten to 5th grade. If interested in joining, please call or text Kyle Moyer at 610-360-0924. **Scouts BSA** is for 11 to 18 year olds. If interested in joining, please call or text Scott Spaar at 484-431-3178.

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

*The church is grateful for financial gifts received in the name of loved ones and friends.*

### GENERAL FUND

**In memory of Paul M. and Catherine Barndt**

by Cincerea & Robert Lentz

**In memory of Doris Bieler**

by Gail & David Gerhard

**In memory of LaMar C. Benner**

by Dottie & Bob Benner and family

**BULLETINS** are presented in loving memory of Gary Horning and Margie Sell by Lori, Janine and Justin.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented in memory of departed loved ones by Emy & Steve Moyer; and in loving memory of parents, Jean & Leroy Kahler and grandparents, Forrest & Anna Bauman by sons, Richard and Daryl Kahler and families.

**ATTENDANCE: 12/21/25** – 8:00 a.m. 49; 10:30 a.m. 132; Livestream – technical difficulties; Sunday School 49.

**OPERATING INCOME 12/21/25:** Current & Benevolences including EFT \$4,743; Building, Improvement & Maintenance including EFT \$607.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS:**

Year to Date Income	\$668,680.44
Less Investment Withdrawals	<u>\$59,424.00</u>
	\$609,256.44
Year to Date Expenses	\$651,547.17
Special Income	\$151,785.00
Special Projects Expenses	\$58,675.13
Capital Campaign Income	\$25,354.87
Meadows Paid Back Year to Date	\$98,400.00

### **ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK**

Sun.	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School (Christian Education Building)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary & Livestreamed)
Tues.	8:00 a.m.	Quilting (Pathfinder Room)
	6:30 p.m.	Cub Scouts (lower-level classrooms)
Thurs.		Office Closed – <b><i>Happy New Year!</i></b>
Sun.	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary) - Communion
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School (Christian Education Building)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary & Livestreamed) - Communion

### **Thank you to our Service Participants**

8:00 a.m.	Narthex: Emy Moyer Roberts' Church Office: Lois Anastas Elevator: Donna Fried Upper Narthex: Bruce Adam Liturgist/Acolyte: Will Howe
10:30 a.m.	Narthex: Peter Hemperly Roberts' Church Office: Sandy George Elevator: Doug Atno Upper Narthex: Denise Fox Liturgist/Acolyte: Steve Lentz

## 143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er  
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your  
 3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions  
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,

all the earth; you, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;  
 beam a - far; seek the great de - sire of na - tions;  
 Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 yon - der shines the in - fant light:  
 you have seen his na - tal star: come and wor - ship,  
 to the e - ter - nal Three in One:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king!

This familiar carol was first published as a poem in the Christmas Eve 1816 issue of a newspaper the author edited in Sheffield, England. The tune name celebrates the location of a prominent Presbyterian church in London, sometimes called the "Presbyterian cathedral."

## Love Has Come

110

Capo 3: (D) F (Bm7) Dm7 (Em7) Gm7 (A) C

1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!  
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.  
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!

(D) (Bm7) (Em) (A7) (D)  
 F Dm7 Gm C7 F

Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all  
 Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the  
 Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A) (G) (D)  
 C F Dm F C B<sup>b</sup> F

heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of  
 glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her  
 Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7) (F#7) (G) (A) (Bm) (A7)  
 Gm7 A7 B<sup>b</sup> C Dm C7

joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a  
 heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she  
 hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D) (A) (G) (A) (D) (A) (A7) (Dsus) (D)  
 F C B<sup>b</sup> C F C C7 Fsus F

Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
 whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.  
 Christ-mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."

## Gentle Mary Laid Her Child 146

1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child low - ly in a man - ger;  
 2 An - gels sang a - bout his birth; wise men sought and found him;  
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child low - ly in a man - ger;

there he lay, the un - de - filed, to the world a strang - er.  
 heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth, glo - ry all a - round him.  
 he is still the un - de - filed, but no more a strang - er.

Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Sav - ior?  
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, heard the an - gels sing - ing;  
 Son of God, of hum - ble birth, beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;

Ask the saved of all the race who have found his fa - vor.  
 all the plains were lit that night; all the hills were ring - ing.  
 praise his name in all the earth; hail the King of glo - ry!

This 20th-century Christmas text by an English-born Canadian clergyman was originally a poem called "The Manger Prince." It gains a certain antique flavor by being set to a late medieval song associated with springtime. (The tune name means "The flowering time is near.")

TEXT: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1919, rev. 1930  
 MUSIC: *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; arr. Ernest C. MacMillan, 1930

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM  
 7.6.7.6.D

# 606

## Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

### Doxology

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise \*him, all crea-tures  
here be - low; praise \*him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

*\*Or "God"*

TEXT: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709  
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551

OLD HUNDREDTH  
LM

## 145 What Child Is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.  
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

TEXT: William Chatterton Dix, 1871

MUSIC: English ballad, 16th cent.; arr. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871

GREENSLEEVES

8.7.8.7.6.8.6.7