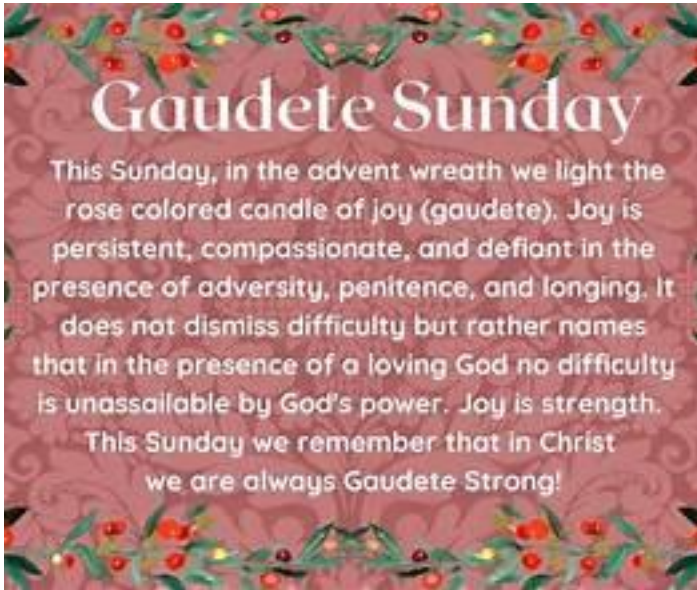


**Third Sunday of Advent
Gaudette Sunday
Morning Prayer and Sermon**

New Goshenhoppen United Church of Christ



1070 Church Road † East Greenville PA 18041
www.newgoshucc.org † 215-679-2041

"Sharing the light, faith and love of Jesus with all people."

December 14, 2025

8:00 a.m. In Person in Sanctuary

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

Welcome to New Goshenhoppen. . .

In C.S. Lewis' book, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, a young girl Lucy, her brother Edmund, and their cousin Eustace are taken to Narnia where the Christ-figure is a lion named Aslan. The three of them go on a voyage and come to the island Where Dreams Come True. This is where nightmares come true. The ship's crew is overcome by fear and begin to wildly row in the darkness. Each sailor hears a different terrifying noise: huge scissors, enemies crawling up the side of the ship, and gongs.

So, what does Lucy do? She prays: "Aslan, Aslan, if ever you loved us at all, send us help now." The darkness did not grow any less, but she began to feel a little—a very, very little—better. "After all, nothing has really happened to us yet," she thought.

A ray of light falls on the ship and Lucy sees something in it like a cross. It is an albatross. The albatross circles them three times, lands on their mast, and then flies ahead of them leading their ship out of the darkness. But no one except Lucy knew that as [the albatross] circled the mast it had whispered to her, "Courage, dear heart," and the voice was Aslan's.

In a few moments the darkness turned into a greyness ahead. Then, almost before they dared to begin hoping, they had shot out into the sunlight and were in the warm, blue world again. And all at once everybody realized that there was nothing to be afraid of and never had been.

Fear NOT! It's Gaudette Sunday – the Sunday of Joy in the midst of Advent. The color today is Rose! A beautiful symbol of Joy in the midst of anticipation.

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

Prelude

Chiming of the Trinity

Lighting of the Third Candle of Advent – Joy!

James 5:7-8: Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

In the darkness there is a seed.

In the darkness it grows, and we trust its coming.

We light this candle with joy, trusting in your promise.

Give us patience to wait with trust for what is yet unseen.

In the darkness your presence swells among us.

Come, O Jesus, come, and bring new life to light.¹

*Advent Carol: No. 107

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn – Rejoice, Rejoice

*Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Confession and Forgiveness

¹ Steve Garness-Holmes, www.unfoldinglight.net – used by permission.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silent Confession and Reflection

God of salvation,

**in Christ you have done great things—
our hearts are filled with joy.**

**By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin
and brought us with joy and laughter into your kingdom.
Salvation is your gift to us.**

**But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with
our own efforts.**

**We try to complete what is already perfect;
we try to add to what is already full;
we try to earn what we already have.**

Forgive us for our foolishness.

Help us to focus on your grace.

Help us to live grateful lives in return.

For Jesus' sake alone, Amen.²

Declaration of Pardon

---based on Psalm 85:9-13

Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

² Worship Sourcebook, page 432. Used with Permission

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.
The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him
and will make a path for his steps.
In Christ, God's salvation is at hand, and righteousness has
come.

Thanks be to God!

Praise

O Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall show forth Your praise.

*Song of Praise: No. 100

My Soul Cries Out with Joyful Shout – Star of the Country Down

*Collect

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. . .

We Hear and Respond

From the Prophets

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
² it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who have an anxious heart,
"Be strong; fear not!
Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you."

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶ then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. ³

God's Word is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path.

Thanks be to God.

³ *Revised Common Lectionary* (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

⁴⁶ And Mary said,
 "My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
 For behold, from now on all generations will call me
 blessed;
⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
 and holy is his name.
⁵⁰ And 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 mighty from their thrones
 and exalted those of humble estate;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
 and the rich he has sent away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
 in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers,
 to Abraham and to his offspring forever." ⁴

*Gospel Hymn: No. 97

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night - Aberystwyth

*The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ

St. Matthew 11:2-11

Hear the Gospel of Christ.

Glory to Christ our Savior.

² Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ,
 he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one
 who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴ And Jesus
 answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the

⁴ *Revised Common Lectionary* (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers⁷ are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? A man² dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet?³ Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is he of whom it is written,

" 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹ Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ⁵

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

The Word of God Proclaimed

Dr. Williams – "PD"

The Fear Nots of Christmas

*Affirmation of Faith

-from Westminster Confession [MESV], Chap. II, Sec. 1

**There is only one living and true God,
who is infinite in being and perfection.
He is a most pure spirit, invisible,
with neither body, parts, nor passive properties.
He is unchangeable, boundless, eternal, and
incomprehensible.**

⁵ *Revised Common Lectionary* (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

He is almighty, most wise, most holy, most free, and most absolute.

He works all things according to the counsel of his own unchangeable and most righteous will, for his own glory. He is most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin, and he is the rewarder of those who diligently seek him.

He is also most just and terrifying in his judgments, hating all sin, and will by no means acquit the guilty.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

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 Response: No. 606

The Doxology

*Offertory Prayer

*Christmas Carol: No. 134

Joy to the World - Antioch

Following the Light of Christ into the World

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

*Dismissal with Blessing

*Postlude

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DECEMBER 14, 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
Office Phone: 215-679-2041 Email: office@newgoshucc.org
Visit us online at www.newgoshucc.org

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**

CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR REHEARSAL will be held TODAY at 9:15 a.m. in the Music Room. Peter & Susan Hemperly will be directing. The Choir will sing at the 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. All are welcome!

CHRISTMAS EVE AT NEW GOSHENHOPPEN: Christmas Eve worship – Wednesday, December 24 – will be at **3:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.** with **Candles, Carols, and Communion.** The 3:00 p.m. service will include music by the Senior Choir under the direction of Peter Hemperly and accompanied by Susan Hemperly. Pastor's Christmas message is entitled **A Predictable Christmas.** Each service will have a 10-minute festive organ prelude to set the tone for Christmas Eve worship. Christmas at New Goshenhoppen is always a mysterious and joyful worship experience.

THANK YOU to those folks who donated cookies and made purchases at the Cookies Galore last Sunday. The youth group appreciates your support!

COOKIES FOR SALE: Variety packs of homemade cookies are available for purchase TODAY outside the Sanctuary and in the Social Room. Cost is \$5 or \$10. Cookie purchase will be via an honor system. Please place your payment in the box on the table. Thank you!

TAIZE WORSHIP: Wednesday, December 17 at 6:00 p.m. The Reformation Sisters invite you to join them for Advent Worship and Prayers in New Goshenhoppen Fellowship Hall by Candlelight. It is a gentle service of prayer with singing led by the pastors. A delightful way to prepare for Christmas. The service lasts about 45 minutes.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: On Sunday, December 21 at 10:30 a.m. the Sunday School youth will be presenting "Twas the Night Before Christmas" in the Sanctuary. Please come out and show your support of our young people as they present the story of our Savior's birth.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available for pickup. They are arranged alphabetically and are located on the upper level near the elevator.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP MONTHLY OUTREACH: Open Link appreciates our yearly contributions of Christmas gift wrap such as wrapping paper, gift bags, gift tags, tissue paper, bows, and tape. Please place your items in the container in the Social Room.

TASK FORCE NOMINEES: Nominees for the Task Force can be submitted to the Church Office. Please review the qualifications. If you need a form to review and submit, extras will be available on the center table in the upstairs Narthex and at the Elevator entrance to the Sanctuary. Nominations should be submitted by December 15, 2025.

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 once again placed in the Social Room. Please think of us as you prepare all your favorite holiday dishes. Deadline for contributions will be the end of the year 2025.

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.

SYMPATHY is expressed to the family of **LaMar Benner**, who passed to eternal life on November 27, 2025. Please keep in your prayers his children, Connie Benner, Cheryl Cressman, and Mark Benner, and his extended family.

SYMPATHY is expressed to the family of **Doris M. Bieler**, who passed to eternal life on December 6, 2025. Please keep in your prayers her son, Dennis Bieler, and her extended family.

THE ROSEBUD ON THE ALTAR is in honor of the birth of **Cohen James Benner**, son of Valerie (Jenkins) and Aaron Benner. Cohen was born on December 10, 2025, at Lehigh Valley Hospital. Proud grandparents are Dale & Beverly Benner and Robert & Beth Jenkins.

BULLETINS are presented in memory of loved ones by the Atno family.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented in loving memory of parents, Richard & Pauline Schuler and grandparents by David Schuler; and in loving memory of mothers, Carmella Ventre and Linda Campano Smith by Joe & Jen Ventre.

THE FLOWERS IN FRONT OF THE PULPIT (left) are presented in honor of Sarah George's "Gotcha Day" by Sandy & Emma George.

THE FLOWERS IN FRONT OF THE PULPIT (right) are presented in memory of father, Leon S. Pennepacker by Cindy & Leon Pennepacker.

ATTENDANCE: 12/7/25 – 8:00 a.m. 51; 10:30 a.m. 57; Livestream 57; Sunday School 42.

OPERATING INCOME 12/7/25: Current & Benevolences including EFT \$5,678; Building, Improvement & Maintenance including EFT \$117.

FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS:

Year to Date Income	\$633,764.53
Less Investment Withdrawals	<u>\$59,424.00</u>
	\$574,340.53
Year to Date Expenses	\$610,004.92
Special Income	\$151,785.00
Special Projects Expenses	\$58,675.13
Capital Campaign Income	\$24,739.87
Meadows Paid Back Year to Date	\$92,500.00

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sun.	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School (Christian Education Building)
	9:15 a.m.	Christmas Eve Choir rehearsal (Music Room)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary & Livestreamed)
Mon.	6:30 p.m.	Elders Meeting (Confirmation Classroom)
Tues.	8:00 a.m.	Quilting (Pathfinder Room)
	6:30 p.m.	Cub Scouts (lower-level classrooms)
Wed.	6:00 p.m.	Taize Service (Fellowship Hall)
Thurs.	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study (Senior High Room)
	1:00 p.m.	Grief Support (Parlor)
	6:00 p.m.	Cardio Drumming (Fellowship Hall)
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study (Senior High Room)
Sun.	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School (Christian Education Building)
	9:15 a.m.	Christmas Eve Choir rehearsal (Music Room)
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School Christmas Program (Sanctuary & Livestreamed)

Thank you to our Service Participants

8:00 a.m. Narthex: Lois Anastas
 Roberts' Church Office: Bruce Adam
 Elevator: Gene Basara
 Upper Narthex: Melissa Jamison
 Liturgist/Acolyte: Emy Moyer

10:30 a.m. Narthex: Soren Mugridge
 Roberts' Church Office: Cindy Roma
 Elevator: Thomas Bancroft
 Upper Narthex: Terry Dworkin
 Liturgist/Acolyte: Peter Hemperly

107 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for an - gels
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em - man - u -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when all the
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night. Though dark the

her - ald its dawn-ing. Sing out your joy, for soon he is
 el comes a - sing - ing; his hum - ble song is qui - et and
 world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so qui - et and
 win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall crown you with

born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing. Come as a ba - by
 near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing; mu - sic to heal the
 free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing. Then shall the mute break
 light; be strong and lov - ing and fear - less. Love be our song and

weak and poor, to bring all hearts to - geth - er, he o - pens
 bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing - kind - ness. The thun - der
 forth in song, the lame shall leap in won - der, the weak be
 love our prayer and love our end - less sto - ry; may God fill

wide the heav - en - ly door and lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 of his an - thems rolls to shat - ter all ha - tred and vio - lence.
 raised a - bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 ev - ery day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

After attending a carol concert, the author and composer of this hymn was moved to create a contemporary, accessible carol that drew on the familiar images in a new way. There are echoes here of passages such as Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 7:14/ Matthew 1:23, Isaiah 35:5-6, Isaiah 2:4.

TEXT: Marty Haugen, 1983, alt.
 MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1983
 Text and Music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

REJOICE, REJOICE
 9.8.9.8.8.7.8.9

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Canticle of the Turning

1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -

God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -

won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.

You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the

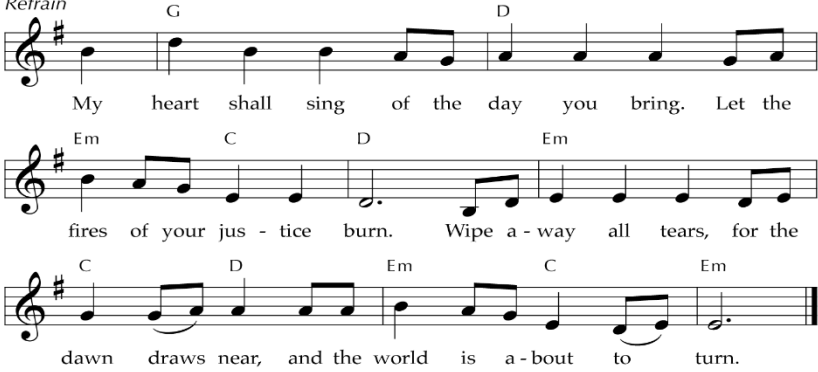
weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46–55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT



Refrain



Watchman, Tell Us of the Night 97

** May be sung antiphonally.*

1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom-ise are.
 2 Watch-man, tell us of the night; high-er yet that star as-cends.
 3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn-ing seems to dawn.

Trav-eler, what a won-drous sight: see that glo-ry-beam-ing star.
 Trav-eler, bless-ed - ness and light, peace and truth its course por - tends.
 Trav-eler, shad-ows take their flight; doubt and ter - ror are with-drawn.

Watch-man, does its beau-teous ray news of joy or hope fore - tell?
 Watch-man, will its beams a - lone gild the spot that gave them birth?
 Watch-man, you may go your way; has-ten to your qui - et home.

Trav-eler, yes; it brings the day, prom-ised day of Is - ra - el.
 Trav-eler, a - ges are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.
 Trav-eler, we re - joice to - day, for Em - man - u - el has come!

**May be sung antiphonally.*

This unusual dialogue hymn alternates between the voice of a traveler and that of a watchman, setting up an exchange that creates parallels between the coming of dawn and the birth of Christ. The tune is named for a Welsh town whose name means "mouth of the bending river."

TEXT: John Bowring, 1825, alt.
 MUSIC: Joseph Parry, 1876

ABERYSTWYTH
 7.7.7.7.D

134

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re-ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav-ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor-rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.


TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

MUSIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

ANTI-OCH

CM with repeat

(alternate tune: RICHMOND, 266)





Valley Choral Society

Elaine Hagenberg's
ILLUMINARE
and other winter anthems

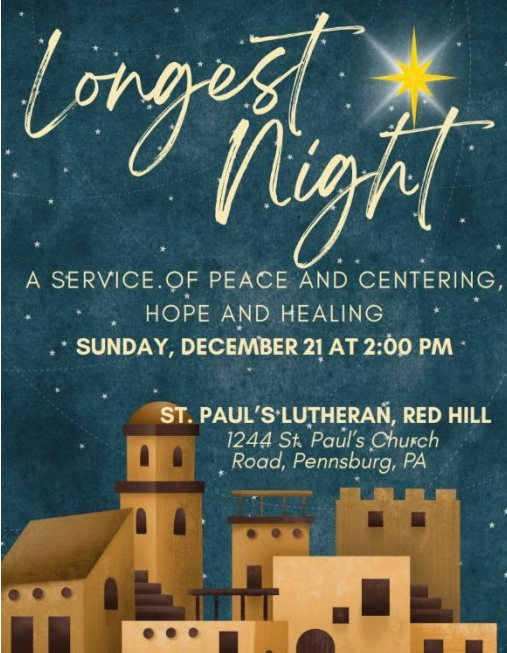
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: ANDREW LUTZ-LONG
 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: MARY BETH PENJUKE
 ACCOMPANIST: KRISTINE FOSBENNER

SATURDAY DECEMBER 13 - 3PM
 ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, 81 MAIN STREET, PENNSBURG, PA 18073

SUNDAY DECEMBER 14 - 3PM
 TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, 19 SOUTH FIFTH STREET, PERKASIE, PA 18944
 LIVE-STREAMING TO YOUTUBE

FREE WILL OFFERING PERFORMANCE  

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT US AT WWW.VALLEYCHORALSOCIETY.COM



Longest Night

A SERVICE OF PEACE AND CENTERING,
 HOPE AND HEALING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 AT 2:00 PM

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN, RED HILL
 1244 St. Paul's Church
 Road, Pennsburg, PA