

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
MARKET SQUARE
Presbyterian Church

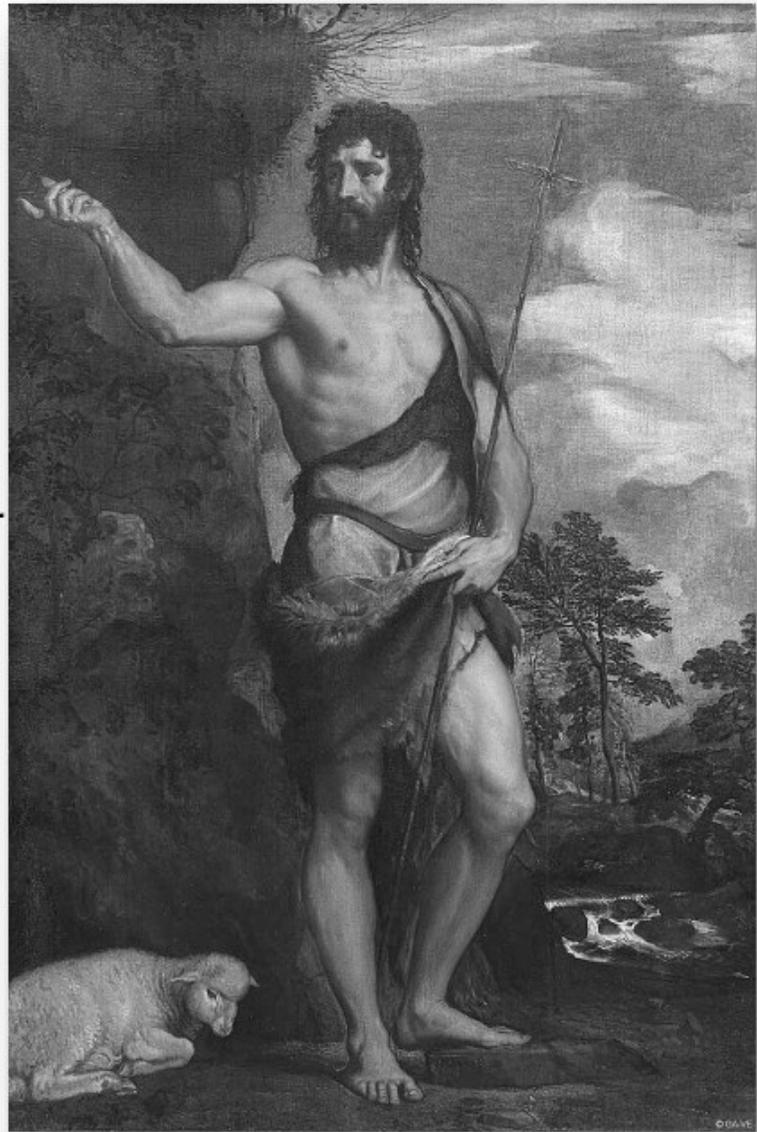
20 South Second Street ▪ Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

DECEMBER 7, 2025 ▪ 11:00 A.M.

JOHN SAID:

I BAPTIZE YOU
WITH WATER FOR
REPENTANCE, BUT
THE ONE WHO IS
COMING AFTER ME
IS MORE POWERFUL
THAN I, AND I AM
NOT WORTHY TO
CARRY HIS SANDALS.
HE WILL BAPTIZE
YOU WITH THE
HOLY SPIRIT
AND FIRE.

MATTHEW 3:11





OUR MISSION

To proclaim and live the Good News of Jesus Christ by welcoming friend and stranger alike into our diverse and inclusive family of faith regardless of race, class, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or worldly condition of any kind as we celebrate our gifts, work for justice, peace, and a sustainable environment, reach out in mission, and witness to God's transforming love.

Parking Process

The church does not own the Market Square Garage but we pay for worship service parking. You will receive the first of two exit tickets when you press the button to enter the garage. **Please do not misplace that first ticket; if you do, the garage will charge you a \$32 lost ticket fee which is your responsibility to pay.** In order to exit the garage at no cost to you, you must obtain a second ticket with the number 2 written on it. At the exit machine, wait until the gate comes down, then insert the ticket you received when entering the garage, bar code facing up. When the machine asks for payment, insert the ticket you received from the church, bar code up. **If you have any kind of problem, press the telephone icon on the exit gate machine and tell the call center rep that you are at the Market Square Garage and your validated exit ticket is not working.** For a video on how to park, scan the QR code, [click here](#) or go to our YouTube channel.



Children's Ministry

Children of all ages are always welcome! There are two shelves in our Narthex (at the back of the Sanctuary) with sequin boards, crayons, markers, coloring sheets, and puzzles as well as a few library books that go along with the theme of the worship service. On typical Sundays immediately following the children's sermon (around 11:15 a.m.), education for children K-6 is offered in the Children's Education Room (Level 4). On Sundays, nursery care is available for children (infants through 5-year-olds) in the nursery on the fourth floor. The nursery is staffed by Sidney Dame, our nursery caregiver, and volunteers.

Visitors

We are glad you joined us for worship today! Please take a moment to sign the yellow visitor card located in your pew and place it in the offering plate or hand to an usher. If you want to learn more about our church, the best place to start is our website at marketsquarechurch.org and our Facebook page at facebook.com/MarketSquareChurch.

Your Privacy

To promote its ministries, the Church regularly uses photos, videos, and sound recordings of church services and programs in its printed materials and on its website, as well as on its social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube).

Your Privacy During Livestreaming: The church regularly livestreams worship services and some events that are held in the sanctuary. People leading these programs such as pastors, liturgists, speakers, musicians, etc. will appear on camera. For those seated in pews, the backs of participants' heads may appear on camera.

If you do not want your image to appear during livestreamed worship services and events, you should sit in one of the last four rows of the sanctuary. During Communion, use the line on the right-hand side of the sanctuary to come forward. It does not appear on camera.

Your Privacy on Printed Materials and the Internet: Unless otherwise directed by you, the church assumes that it has your permission to use your photo or likeness in its printed materials, on the church website, or on its social media accounts.

If you do not want your photo or likeness used in this way, please contact the church office at 717-257-1270, ext.10 or sheets@marketsquarechurch.org.

Market Square Presbyterian Church—December 7, 2025

When you see this symbol † preceding a part of the worship service, please rise in body or spirit.

***Bold type** denotes parts spoken or sung by the congregation.*

WE APPROACH GOD

TOLLING OF THE BELL

Let us use this time during the opening voluntary to quiet our conversations and open our hearts and minds in preparation for worshipping God. Please silence your electronic devices at this time.

WELCOME

The Reverend Stanley J. Jenkins

VOLUNTARY

Meditation on ‘Comfort, Comfort Ye My People’

David Lasky (b. 1957)

CHORAL INTROIT

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Taizé Community (1984), text
Jacques Berthier (1923 – 1994), music

Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God.

† CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Dawn Gochenaur & Elder John Taylor

One: We gather together in this place:

All: prophets and dreamers, singers and poets,

One: we who dare to imagine a world renewed;

All: we who dare to dream God’s dream.

One: The hills and valleys will meet,

All: and all things will be at rest.

One: We long for a world restored, renewed.

All: The fire of God’s justice burns in our hearts.

One: We light the candle for hope, which creates a path for a new, unknown story to unfold.

All: Today, we also light the candle of peace, for peace requires us to pay attention to the needs of those around us

† PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Reverend Allison R. Smith

God of peace,

we confess the ways that we maintain “peacefulness”

at the expense of seeking justice for our neighbors and our world.

We turn our eyes away from human suffering

to maintain false contentment in our own hearts.

We settle for compromises that harm the vulnerable,
rather than risk discomfort or loss.

We ask to be soothed rather than stirred up.

Make us a holy and risk-taking people.

Forgive and inspire us.

Shape us as bold witnesses to your coming reign.

† SILENCE

† KYRIE

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord,
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord,
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

† GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

As the congregation passes the peace, children are invited forward for the Time with Our Children.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 11:1-10

(p. 640 in the Old Testament section of the pew Bible)

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

(p. 2 in the New Testament section of the pew Bible)

Leader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Repentance”

The Reverend Stanley J. Jenkins

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

† RESPONSIVE HYMN NO. 77 Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old

SAMANTHRA

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

INVITATION TO GIVING

If you would like to give a financial gift online during the time of the offering, scan this QR code to access our online giving portal.



GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

A Voice Cries Out, ‘Prepare the Way of the Lord’

Isaiah 40:1, 3-5; 7:14, text
Lloyd Larson (b. 1954), music

A voice cries out, “Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain made low.
The glory of the Lord shall be revealed;
all people shall see it together.
The mouth of the Lord has spoken it.”

Comfort, comfort my people; proclaim the promise of the Lord:
His name shall be called Emmanuel!

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Gracious Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

... *We join our voices with all the saints from every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:*

G C D7 Em Am
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 Bm7 Em F Am Dsus D G C
 pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
 D7 G G7 Am G Cmaj7 G Dsus
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 D C Am7 D7 Em C
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
 Am Dsus D7 G Em F Dm7 G
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

... Together we sing, proclaiming the mystery of faith:



Christ has died; Christ is ris - en; Christ will come a - gain.

The musical notation is a single staff in treble clef, key of G major (one sharp), and 3/4 time. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Chords indicated above the staff are G, C, D7, G, Am7, Bm7, Em, F, and D.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

The musical notation is a single staff in treble clef, key of G major (one sharp), and 3/4 time. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Chords indicated above the staff are G, C, Am7, D7, Em, Am7, Dm7, and G.

The Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Our table is an open one, reflecting the invitation of our Lord to all who are weary and heavy laden, and who are seeking communion with the Risen Lord. For anyone who does not wish to receive communion via intinction, there are pre-packaged communion cups available in the back of the sanctuary. If you would like a server to bring communion to you in your pew, please raise your hand.

Communion Anthem

There Is No Rose

Traditional English, text
Margaret Burk (b. 1990), music

There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu;
alleluia, alleluia.

For in this rose contained was Heaven and Earth in little space.
Res miranda. (*A surprising thing.*)

By that rose we may well see that he is God in persons three,
Pares forma. (*Equal form.*)

Then leave we all in this worldly mirth and follow we this joyful birth,
Transeamus. (*Let's pass.*)

Prayer After Communion

† CHARGE & BENEDICTION

† CHORAL RESPONSE

As a sign of our unity and fellowship in Christ, please join hands — or simply connect with those nearby in a way that's comfortable for you — as we sing the first verse of "Blest Be the Tie That Binds." Those of you who are watching the livestream at home, please grab the hand of the nearest person (or pet) and join in.

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in

Chris - tian love. The fel - low - ship of

kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.

† VOLUNTARY

March upon Handel's 'Lift Up Your Heads'

Alexandre Guilmant
(1837 – 1911)

+++++

Worship Leaders This Morning

Rev. Stanley J. Jenkins, Pastor/Head of Staff
Rev. Allison R. Smith, Supply Associate Pastor
Dawn Gochenaur & Elder John Taylor, Candlelighters
Tyler A. Canonico-Dilley, Minister of Music & Organist
Ethan J. Draper, Organ Scholar
The Sanctuary Choir
Ken Bateman, Tenor soloist
Louise Poorman, piano
Sean Meara, Crucifer
Newman Stare, Audiovisual Technician
Madeline McConnell, Livestream Technician
John K. Robinson, Bulletin Cover Design

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Chancel Flowers

The chancel flowers are given in honor of Georgia Baldrige and memory of William and Charlotte Skerpon and Dr. Edwin Baldrige from Chris Baldrige and David Skerpon.

Lectionary Texts

December 7: Isaiah 11:1–10; Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19;
Romans 15:4–13; Matthew 3:1–12

December 14: Isaiah 35:1–10 Psalm 146:5–10 or Luke 1:46–55
James 5:7–10 Matthew 11:2–11

Reception for Ethan

Next Sunday, December 14, we will have cake and punch out in the Atrium following worship to celebrate Ethan Draper's time with us! Please plan to grab a piece of cake and congratulate Ethan. Then we hope to see you back at 4 p.m. for Carols by Candlelight!

Our Ministry Today

Breakfast Coordinator — Elizabeth Terry
Breakfast Preparers — Gather the Spirit for Justice
Breakfast Servers — Carol Mayer, Janet Bargh, Lucy Johnston Walsh, Bill Johnston Walsh, Ari Register, Jim Terry
Nursery Helper — Janet Kunkel
Elementary Teacher — Trudy & Jim Mumper
Ushers — Jerry Bair, Chris Baldrige, Marty Shifflett
Communion Servers — Dorothy Hamilton, Jim Crum, Jane Hiller Sandy Jones
Deacon Flowers — Marty Shifflett, Chris Baldrige
12/12/25 Friday dinner:
Shift #1: Ray D, Dae A, Kevin L, Barb J, David M.
Shift #2: Joel L, Ishmael, Barb C, Bridget A

Cover Art

Titian (1488/90-1576), *St. John the Baptist*, c.1540. The Italian artist depicts the forerunner of Christ in virile form and not the usual figure emaciated from fasting in the desert. His arm is raised to indicate the Messiah soon to follow. Included in the scene is a lamb to indicate the coming Lamb of God, and in the background flows the River Jordan, where the baptism of Jesus took place. *Gallerie dell'Accademia di Venezia, Italy*. Public domain.

Congregational Meetings

The session has called two congregational meetings:

- December 21, 2025 immediately following the 11 am worship service for the purpose of electing 2026 officers and at-large members of the Churchwide Nominating Committee. The ordination and/or installation will take place on Sunday, January 18, 2026.
- February 1, 2026 immediately following the 11 am worship service for the purpose of hearing and acting upon reports from the officers of the corporation, to receive 2025 annual reports, to review the 2026 church budget, and to finalize the terms of call for the Head of Staff/Pastor.

One more day to buy Christmas Gifts for Our Breakfast Guests

Please note the deadline for donations is TODAY: December 7. The Deacons will be giving Christmas gifts of hats, gloves, and snacks to our breakfast guests on Sunday, December 21. To keep the gifts uniform, we're requesting monetary donations only. You may give by writing a check with "Christmas Gifts" in the memo line or by donating through the online giving section of our website. Thank you for helping us share Christmas cheer!

Today: Blue Christmas

The holiday season can stir up a wide mix of emotions—joy, gratitude, nostalgia, and also the quiet aches we carry. Traditions may remind us of people we miss or changes we didn't expect, but even without a specific loss this year, many of us feel the weight of the season in different ways. As we enter this emotionally full time, we invite you to pause, tend to your spirit, and encounter God's comfort at our Blue Christmas service.

This year's service will be held on December 7, immediately after worship, at 12:30 p.m. in Geneva Hall. It will include time to light candles—bringing light into the darkness—as well as the opportunity to receive anointing and healing prayer for ourselves or others, offered for anyone who desires it. This gathering is for all of us, wherever we find ourselves this season.

Book Signing with our own Joyce Kieffer

The West Shore History Center will host Market Square member Joyce Kieffer on December 13 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Joyce is the author of a trilogy of historical novels set in central Pennsylvania in the 1890s: *The Trees Inspire*, *The Trees Remember*, and *The Trees Endure*. The center is located at 939 Kranzel Drive in Camp Hill.

Help Us Finish the Year Strong

As we approach the close of the year, we find ourselves prayerfully facing a \$32,000 gap in our pledge and general fund unless giving increases in December. We trust that, together, and with God's help, we can meet this need.

If you have not yet had an opportunity to make a contribution this year, we warmly invite your support. And if you have already given so faithfully but feel called and able to offer a bit more, please know how deeply grateful we are for your continued generosity.

To ensure mailed gifts are received in time, please send them by December 17, as holiday mail can be slow. You may also place your offering in the plate on Sunday or give online by clicking "Donate" on our church website.

Thank you for your faithfulness, your generosity, and your partnership in ministry. Your gifts strengthen the work God is doing through our church.

2026 Offering Envelopes

The 2026 envelopes are in the narthex. If you would like envelopes, please let Michelle Sheaffer in the financial office know.

Dec. Lunch & Learn

Please note that the December Lunch and Learn is cancelled; join Rev. Allison for Lunch and Learn on January 4.

A Note from Dr. Phuong

Dear Partners-in-Mission,

You have been aware of the tragic shooting of two National Guard members in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday last week. Army Specialist Sarah Beckstrom sadly passed away from her injuries. Air Force Staff Sgt. Andrew Wolfe remains in critical condition. News reports have confirmed that the shooter – a current resident of Bellingham (Washington State) - was evacuated to the United States from Afghanistan during Operation Allies Welcome in 2021 and had previously served alongside U.S. troops.

We are facing a terrible moment. We grieve this violence and our hearts go out to the victims and their families. We hold in our thoughts the members of our U.S. Armed Forces who are serving with extraordinary commitment. But we are deeply concerned about the backlash that our Afghan refugee clients will suffer from this terrible action of a deranged mind.

We would like to share the following [updates](#)* to assist you in re-assuring our Afghan refugee clients who may be extremely worried by the ensuing political turmoil.

Best regards,

Phuong N Truong, Executive Director

** Hard copy readers who would like to see the updates, please contact Nancy in the church office.*

Best Way to Financially Support the ISC

If you would like to support the International Service Center's work, please donate directly to the ISC. They receive quicker than if you donate through the church. You may contribute online by [clicking this link](#) or by going to <https://www.isc76.org/> and clicking on "Donate to ISC." Checks may be mailed to the following address:

21 River Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

December 7- 14

Sun	8:00 am	Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall (FH)	Fri	1:00 pm	ISC Food Pantry, Fellowship Hall
	9:00 am	Charging Center (until 10:45 am), FH		3:00 pm	MSPC Friday Evening Meal Prep, Kitchen
	9:15 am	Coffee Station, Geneva Hall (Level 4)		5:30 pm	Friday Evening Meal Service, 2nd Street
	9:15 am	Youth Group, Little Amps	Sat	9:00 am	MSPC Food Pantry, Fellowship Hall
	9:30 am	Korean Language Worship, Davis Chapel		9:30 am	Carols by Candlelight rehearsal, Sanctuary
	9:30 am	Weekly Bible Study, Youth Room		1:00 pm	Organ Tuning, Sanctuary
	9:30 am	Advent Book Study, Adult Ed. Rm (Level 4)	Sun	8:00 am	Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall (FH)
	10:00 am	Room for the Inner Way, RFIW		8:30 am	Health Screenings, Dave's office
	10:00 am	Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary		9:00 am	Charging Center (until 10:45 am), FH
	10:45 am	Nursery opens, Level 4		9:15 am	Coffee Station, Geneva Hall (Level 4)
	11:00 am	English Language Worship, Sanctuary		9:15 am	Youth Group, Little Amps
	11:15 am	Elementary Sunday School, Level 4		9:30 am	Korean Language Worship, Davis Chapel
	12:30 pm	Blue Christmas Service, Geneva Hall		9:30 am	Weekly Bible Study, Youth Room
	7:00 pm	Outreach & Marketing Committee, Zoom		9:30 am	Advent Book Study, Adult Ed. Rm (Level 4)
Mon	10:00 am	Weekly Worship Meeting, Stan's office		10:00 am	Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary
Tues	11:00 am	Full Staff Meeting, Conference Room		10:30 am	Deacons Coffee Hour, Atrium
	6:00 pm	Market Square Ringers, Music Suite		10:45 am	Nursery opens, Level 4
	7:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, Music Suite		11:00 am	English Language Worship, Sanctuary
	7:00 pm	Deacons meeting (rescheduled), Conf. Rm.		11:15 am	Elementary Sunday School, Level 4
Wed	5:00 pm	Board of Trustees, Zoom		12:00 pm	Korean Luncheon, Fellowship Hall
Thurs	6:30 pm	Carols by Candlelight rehearsal, Sanctuary		12:00 pm	Ethan's reception, Atrium
	7:30 pm	Peacemaking Committee, Zoom		4:00 pm	Carols by Candlelight, Sanctuary
				7:00 pm	Outreach & Marketing Committee, Zoom

Church Staff

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CHURCH PHONE: 717-257-1270, ext. 10

Worship services are livestreamed through our [YouTube Channel](#) • Find us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

Carols by Candlelight to Feature Music for 'A Magnificent Christmas'

Arts on the Square presents *Carols by Candlelight: A Magnificent Christmas* on Sunday, December 14, at 4:00 p.m. in the historic sanctuary of Market Square Presbyterian Church, 20 S. Second Street, Harrisburg.

A Harrisburg tradition, *Carols by Candlelight* features the 60-voice Sanctuary Choir of Market Square Church, a 28-piece orchestra, and organ, performing British composer John Rutter's famous "Magnificat" (My soul doth magnify the Lord) and ancient and modern holiday anthems and songs. The orchestra will play Leroy Anderson's joyous "Sleigh Ride," composed in 1948 and a perennial Christmas favorite.

Other music on the program will be Gustav Holst's "Christmas Day" and "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" written by Broadway composer Meredith Willson in 1951. Members of the audience will join in the singing of carols like "O Come, All Ye Faithful" and in the traditional candle lighting ceremony, bringing light to the darkened church.

Tyler Canonico-Dilley, Arts on the Square's artistic director, will direct the choir and orchestra. Organ scholar Ethan J. Draper will play the church's 83-rank J. Nedra Schilling organ.

A donation of \$15 at the door is suggested in support of the Arts on the Square annual series of musical performances and visual arts exhibitions. Complimentary parking is provided in the adjacent Market Square Garage. Entrance to the church is from Level One of the garage or from the Event Entrance at the iron gates on Second Street. The church is fully accessible to all. Early arrival is encouraged.

Following the concert, the Arts on the Square Gallery, featuring the exhibit "Along the River and Beyond," landscape paintings of Harrisburg artists Jonathan Frazier and Carrie Wissler-Thomas, will be open at no additional cost. Mr. Frazier will be in the gallery to greet you.

Information is available at artsonthesquare.net.

CAROLS BY CANDIELIGHT
A Magnificent Christmas!
Sunday, December 14, 4:00 p.m.

60-voice Choir
28-piece Chamber Orchestra
Ethan Draper, organ
Tyler Canonico-Dilley, conductor

Rutter's *Magnificat*
Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride*
Lots of holiday favorites!
Carol-singing and candlelighting

MARKET SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | 20 S. 2ND STREET | HARRISBURG
Details at artsonthesquare.net • Suggested donation \$15

Sponsored by The Carole DeSoto Foundation and Mr. Thomas Arnoldi. Complimentary parking in the Market Square Garage.

Music Notes This Week

This morning's opening voluntary is David Lasky's "Meditation on 'Comfort, Comfort Ye My People'" which offers a gentle, reflective setting on the Advent carol. In this meditation, the familiar melody is present with clarity and reverence, allowing the text's message of consolation and hope to come through even without words: God's promise to bring comfort, healing, and restoration to God's people.

Our processional hymn, "Prepare the Way, O Zion" invites us to ready our hearts for the coming of Christ, echoing the biblical call of John the Baptist to "prepare the way of the Lord." The text, originally written in the early 19th century by Swedish poet Frans Mikael Franzén, pairs beautifully with the lively Swedish folk melody Bereden väg för Herran. The tune's rhythmic energy and dance-like character reflect the joyful anticipation of Advent – an eager welcoming of the promised Messiah. Though centuries old, the melody retains its freshness and sense of movement, reminding us that preparing for Christ's coming is an active, hopeful journey.

The hymn "Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old" draws its imagery from the rich prophetic visions of Isaiah, focusing on God's promise to bring peace, justice, and restoration to a hurting world. Written by hymn poet Carl Daw, the text connects ancient prophecy with the Christian hope for Christ's coming – both in the Nativity and in the fulfillment of God's kingdom. Its pairing with the tune, Samantra, a shape-note melody from the American folk tradition, gives the hymn a character that is both sturdy and heartfelt. The tune's open intervals and unadorned simplicity complement the text's prophetic clarity, creating a sense of earnest expectation.

Lloyd Laron's "A Voice Cries Out, 'Prepare the Way of the Lord'" is a dynamic and expressive anthem inspired by the Advent message found in Isaiah 40 and echoed in the ministry of John the Baptist. Larson sets the scriptural call with rhythmic energy and a sense of forward movement that mirrors the urgency of the text. This anthem proclaims the Advent invitation to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming – clearing away obstacles, embracing repentance, and opening ourselves to God's renewing work. Its musical contrast between driving, declarative passages and more reflective moments underscores both the boldness of the prophetic call and the personal transformation it invites.

Our communion anthem is Margaret Burk's setting of the beloved 15th-century carol, "There Is No Rose." Her setting offers a luminous and contemplative meditation on the mystery of the Incarnation. The ancient text marvels at the "rose" of Mary, from whom blooms Jesus – the union of heaven and earth in human form. Its blend of English and Latin phrases reflects the carol's medieval origins and its devotional, wonder-filled character. Burk's arrangement highlights the tenderness of the text through warm harmonies, gentle melodic lines, and a sense of serene unfolding. The music invites us into quiet reflection on the miracle of Christ's birth: God entering the world not with grandeur, but with profound humility.

The sending hymn, "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" is a joyful and reassuring paraphrase of Isaiah 40, where God speaks words of consolation to a weary people: "Comfort, O comfort my people...prepare the way of the Lord." The text, written in the 17th century by Johannes Olearius, captures both the tenderness of God's promise and the hopeful anticipation of Advent. The tune, Genevan 42, from the 1551 Genevan Psalter, is a lively and dance-like melody typical of the Reformation-era psalm tunes. Its rhythmic vitality adds a sense of buoyant expectation, reflecting Isaiah's proclamation that God is coming to restore, guide, and renew.

One of the great French organ virtuoso and composer of the late Romantic era, Alexandre Guilmant often drew inspiration from earlier musical traditions. His "March upon Handel's 'Lift Up Your Heads'" is a vivid example of this practice. In this piece, Guilmant takes the chorus, "Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates" from Handel's "Messiah" and transforms it into a stately organ march filled with vigor and celebratory character. Rather than quoting Handel verbatim, Guilmant develops the thematic material with the rich harmonies and colorful registrations characteristic of the French organ tradition.

Music Next Week – The Sanctuary Choir will sing John Stainer's "Magnificat in B-flat" and "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" by Paul Manz. The hymns for the morning will be, "Now the Heavens Start to Whisper," "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry," and "People, Look East."

~Tyler A. Canonico-Dilley

Memorial Poinsettias for Advent & Christmas 2025

Deadline: December 17, 2025

The Worship Committee *will place poinsettias in the church in memory of loved ones or in honor of those who are still with us on Saturday, December 20. Volunteers are welcome to help.*

There are two ways to purchase a poinsettia:

1. Put a check in the offering plate with "*poinsettia*" in the memo line.
2. Visit marketsquarechurch.org to pay online by credit or debit card.

How to Submit Your Memorial or Honor Designation

There are two ways to submit your names:

1. Fill out the form below — *legibly, please!* — and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the office.
2. Email Nancy at sheets@marketsquarechurch.org with the name(s) you would like to remember or honor. If you do not have computer access, feel free to call—but email is preferable because it provides a written record.

Cost

\$15 for each person remembered or honored.

The In Memory and In Honor lists will appear in all English-language Christmas Eve bulletins.

Poinsettia Request Form

Please Print Legibly

In Memory of:

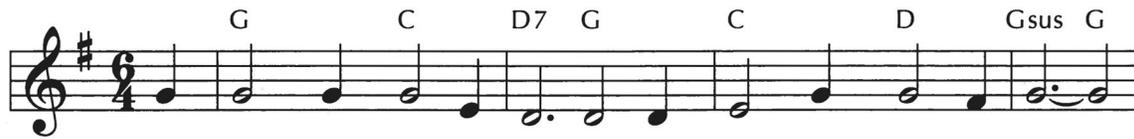
In Honor of:

Given by:

Your email or phone number (if the church office may not have it):

Thank you for helping beautify our worship space this Advent and Christmas season!

Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



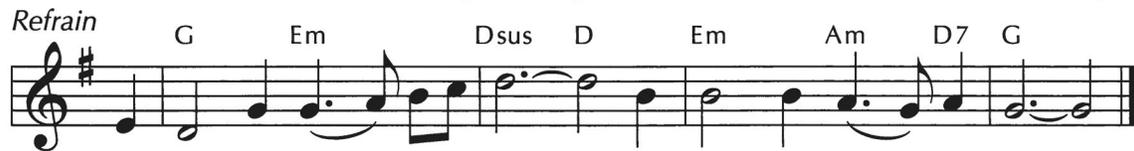
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3-5 and Psalm 24:7-10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812; rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958;
 adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.
 MUSIC: *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930
 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain

77 Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old

1 I - sa - iah the proph - et has writ - ten of old how
2 Yet na - tions still prey on the meek of the world, and

God's new cre - a - tion shall come. In - stead of the thorn tree, the
con - flict turns par - ent from child. Your peo - ple de - spoil all the

fir tree shall grow; the wolf shall lie down with the lamb. The
sweet - ness of earth; the briar and the thorn tree grow wild. God,

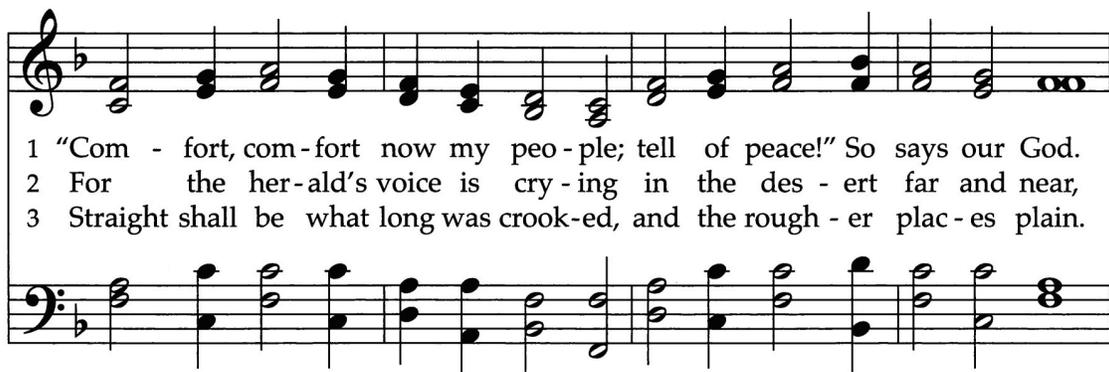
moun - tains and hills shall burst forth in - to song, the
bring to fru - i - tion your will for the earth, that

peo - ples be led forth in peace, for the earth shall be filled
no one shall hurt or de - stroy, that wis - dom and jus -

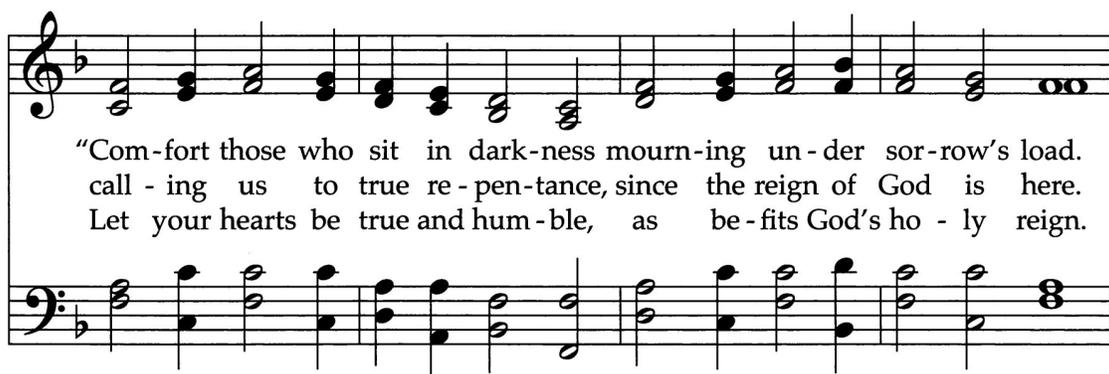
with the knowl - edge of God as the wa - ters cov - er the sea.
tice shall reign in the land and your peo - ple shall go forth in joy.

This 20th-century paraphrase of Isaiah 11:6-9 and 55:11-13 was created specifically for this anonymous shape note tune (whose name is Hebrew for "listener"). The movement from near rhymes in stanza one to exact rhymes in stanza two reinforces the theme of fulfilled prophecy.

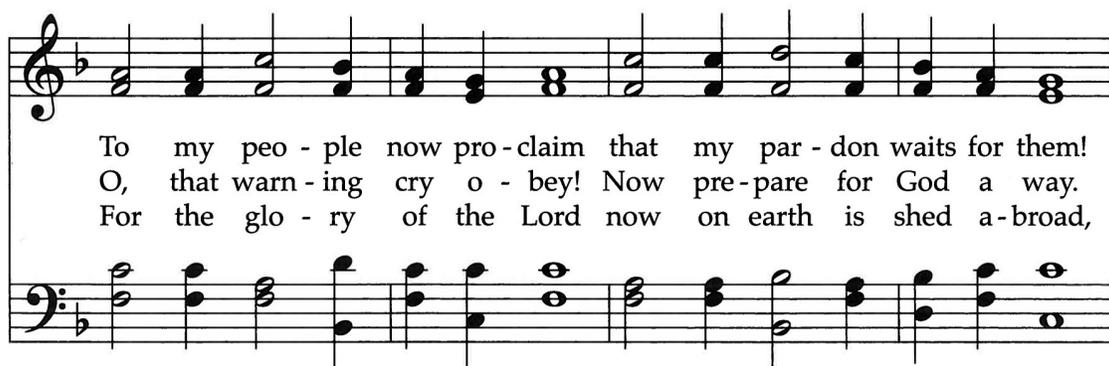
Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87



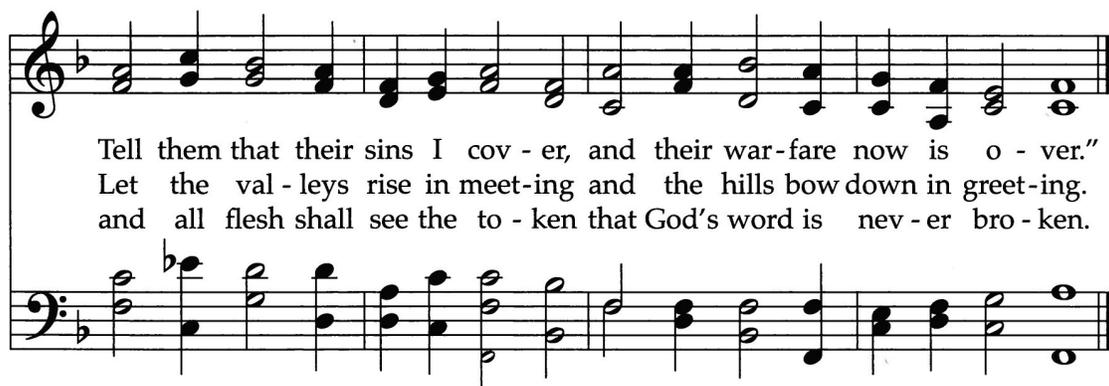
1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To my peo - ple now pro - claim that my par - don waits for them!
O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."
Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

This 17th-century German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1-5 was one of the texts translated as part of the 19th-century British interest in German religious poetry. It is set here to one of the most popular Genevan Psalter tunes, probably derived from an earlier French folksong.