



LIVING HOPE

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead....”

1 Peter 1:3 (ESV)

Living Hope Presbyterian Church

155 Early Avenue, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325

(717) 334-7157

Living Hope Presbyterian Church

The Lord's Day, December 24, 2023

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Praising God in the Assembly

Salutation *1 Thessalonians 1:1 (p. 986)*
Call to Worship *Psalm 106:47-48 (p. 506)*
**Hymn *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" no. 300*
*Invocation *Psalm 124:8 (p. 517)*

Confessing our Sins

Call to Repentance *Hebrews 13:1-8 (p. 1009)*
Congregational Confession of Sin *See the Bulletin Insert*
Assurance of Pardon *Hebrews 2:14-18 (p. 1002)*
**Hymn *"God, Be Merciful to Me" no. 51C*

Praying for the Church

Scripture Reading *Isaiah 59:12-60:7 (p. 619)*
Intercessory Prayer & the Lord's Prayer *See the Bulletin Insert*
**Hymn *"Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor" no. 324*
*The Larger Catechism, Q. 47-49 *See the Bulletin Insert*
Collection & Prayer *Hebrews 13:15-16 (p. 1010)*

Proclaiming God's Word

Scripture Reading *2 Corinthians 8:1-15 (p. 967)*
Prayer for Illumination *Isaiah 40:8 (p. 599)*
Sermon **AMAZING GRACE**
Rev. Andrew J. Miller

Holy Communion

Closing Prayer

*Hymn *"The Sands of Time Are Sinking" no. 471*
*Benediction *Hebrews 13:20-21 (p. 1010)*

Postlude

*Asterisk indicates Congregation Standing, if able

**opportunity to enter or exit, if necessary, during worship

Congregational Confession of Sins

GOD OF GLORY:

We confess our selfishness to you today. Though we were created to praise our Creator, who is blessed forever, we have served and loved created things. We confess our idolatry of self, our yearning to accumulate things for ourselves and for our own comfort. Of ourselves we would be hoarders of all things, unwilling to share. Forgive us, for we plead for mercy through the Lord Jesus Christ. We are both overjoyed and humbled by his willingness to give himself. Though he was rich, the Son became poor by taking on flesh and suffering. Though he had all power, he did not use his power to keep himself from suffering in our place. This cuts to the heart as we consider our own unwillingness to give up what we have. Spirit of God, transform us to be like Christ, who gave himself. Turn us outward in love and thankfulness. And work in us what is pleasing in your sight, for we ask in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

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.**

The Larger Catechism

Q. 47. How did Christ humble himself in his conception and birth?

A. Christ humbled himself in his conception and birth, in that, being from all eternity the Son of God, in the bosom of the Father, he was pleased in the fullness of time to become the son of man, made of a woman of low estate, and to be born of her; with diverse circumstances of more than ordinary abasement.

Q. 48. How did Christ humble himself in his life?

A. Christ humbled himself in his life, by subjecting himself to the law, which he perfectly fulfilled; and by conflicting with the indignities of the world, temptations of Satan, and infirmities in his flesh, whether common to the nature of man, or particularly accompanying that his low condition.

Q. 49. How did Christ humble himself in his death?

A. Christ humbled himself in his death, in that having been betrayed by Judas, forsaken by his disciples, scorned and rejected by the world, condemned by Pilate, and tormented by his persecutors; having also conflicted with the terrors of death, and the powers of darkness, felt and borne the weight of God's wrath, he laid down his life an offering for sin, enduring the painful, shameful, and cursed death of the cross.

	GREETERS	USHERS			NURSERY
24-Dec	The Johnstons	J. Wetzel	M. Davidson	J. Myers	Gloria
31-Dec	The Johnssons	B. Rigg	N. Fenby	B. Vargo	Tracy
7-Jan	C. & T. Wetzel	T. Johnston	Jacob Fenby	D. Forbeck	Alison

Welcome to Living Hope Presbyterian Church! We're a Reformed & Presbyterian congregation of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Questions? Call the church office at (717) 334-7157 or contact Pastor Van Meerbeke (vanmeerbeke@livinghopegettysburg.org; (717) 253-4575) or Pastor Bennett (bennett.shane@hotmail.com; (717) 501-8400).

Sunday School, 9:30-10:15—Join us each week as we grow in our faith by studying Scripture and various topics.

Holy Communion—Each week, we observe the holy sacrament of the Lord's Supper. All who are united with Christ by faith are welcome to participate. *The bread is gluten free. The outer ring is grape juice.*

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols tonight, 6:00 p.m.

Diaconal Offering—Next Sunday, an offering will be collected after Communion for the use of the Deacons in their work.

A **Catechism Club for children**, kindergarten to 6th grade, will start Wednesday, January 10, 4:00–5:00 pm and will meet weekly. There will be a sign up sheet after the New Year. Questions? See Pastor Shane.

Home Groups are listed on the back of the bulletin. See Rebecca Brown for details. Come for fellowship, Bible study, and prayer.

Men's Breakfast—Saturday, January 13, at 9:00. Breakfast, study, and prayer.

Women's Bible Study—We are studying the Gospel of Mark. There is both a morning and an evening option. Please come as you are able.

10:30 am—1st & 3rd Thursdays

7:00 pm—2nd Monday

Welcome to Living Hope Presbyterian Church! We're a member congregation of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC) organized in 1983. Our purpose is to glorify God in divine worship, gospel witness, and mutual edification. The OPC is a member of NAPARC, the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council, whose member denominations agree on many matters related to the Bible, creeds, and church polity.

We regularly confess our faith using the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed. Our faith is best described in the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Westminster Larger Catechism, and the Westminster Shorter Catechism.

Officers of Living Hope Presbyterian Church

Session: (Board of Active Elders)

Rev. John Van Meerbeke, Pastor & Moderator (717) 549-2462 (w);

vanmeerbeke@livinghopegettysburg.org

Rev. Shane M. Bennett, Assoc. Pastor (717) 549-2463 (w); bennett.shane@hotmail.com

Rev. John Mallin (717) 816-2793; johnwmallin@gmail.com

Rev. Kyle Brown, Assoc. Pastor & Chaplain (717) 479-1264; pastorkylebrown@gmail.com

Mr. Johnny Johnsson, Ruling Elder, Clerk of Session (410) 833-5508;

johnsson5@verizon.net

Mr. Timothy Shatzer, Ruling Elder (717) 494-2077; tshatzerx1@centurylink.net

Dr. Chris Wetzel, Ruling Elder (717) 817-1320; cwetzel492@gmail.com

Mr. Robert McKeen, Ruling Elder (239) 564-3707; robertsmckeen@gmail.com

Deacons:

Mr. David Craine (703) 863-9501; dcraine@me.com

Mr. Thomas Johnston (717) 357-9192; thomasloganjohnston@gmail.com

Treasurer: Rev. Kyle Brown (717) 479-1264; pastorkylebrown@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: Rebecca Brown

Email: office@livinghopegettysburg.org **Phone:** (717) 334-7157 (w); (717) 420-5273 (h)

Committee Chairs:

Audio and Accompaniment: Dave Craine

Children's Ministry: Tracy Wetzel

Hospitality and Fellowship: Kathleen Craine

Men's Breakfast: Jim Hughes, Bob McKeen

Property and Maintenance: Doug Forbeck

Ushers and Greeters: Tom Johnston

Women's Bible Study: Gloria Serrao

Schedule at Living Hope Presbyterian Church

Sunday School

9:30 am

Sunday Service of Worship

10:30 am

Home Groups

Brown (Gettysburg S): 3rd Wed., 6:45-8:00 pm

Craine (Gettysburg E): 1st and 3rd Tues., 6:30-8:00 pm

Gideon (Fayetteville): 1st & 3rd Wed., 7:00-8:15 pm

Lott (Biglerville): 4th Tues., 6:30-8:00 pm

Wetzel (Gettysburg N): 1st Thurs., 6:45-8:00 pm

Women's Bible Study

1st & 3rd Thu., 10:30 am

2nd Mon., 7:00 pm

Men's Breakfast

Second Sat., 9-10 am

Session

Second Thurs., 7 pm