

ST. STEPHEN REFORMED
249 E. Main St., New Holland, PA 17557
December 31, 2017 – 10:30 A.M.

*Indicates those able may stand

When the prelude begins please quiet your hearts in preparation for worship.

PIANO PRELUDE – Please remain seated and join in singing with the Worship Team

GATHERING “All for Jesus” Hymn #565

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Adapted from Psalm 19*)

ONE: The heavens declare the glory of God,

ALL: And the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

ONE: Day to day pours out speech,

ALL: And night to night reveals knowledge.

ONE: The law of the LORD is perfect,

ALL: Reviving the soul;

ONE: The testimony of the LORD is sure,

ALL: Making wise the simple;

ONE: The precepts of the LORD are right,

ALL: Rejoicing the heart;

ONE: The commandment of the LORD is pure,

ALL: Enlightening the eyes;

ONE: The fear of the LORD is clean,

ALL: Enduring forever;

ONE: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

ALL: Be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

*OPENING HYMN “O Worship the King” Hymn #2

*INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

We cannot come before God unless we are first honest with ourselves about who we are, about our sinfulness including how poorly we treat others. In this spirit, let us offer our confession to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O gracious and condescending God of peace, Father of mercy, and God of all comfort, we confess before you the evil of our hearts; we acknowledge that we are too inclined toward anger, jealousy, and revenge, to ambition and pride, which often give rise to discord and bitter feelings between others and us. Too often we have both offended and grieved you. Please forgive these sins and permit us to partake of the blessing you have promised those who belong to the Prince of Peace, in whose Name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE “The Gloria Patri”

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

CHILDREN’S SONG (Children ages 4-8 may leave for Kingdom Kids)

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And brought us God's salvation
That blessed Christmas morn...

SCRIPTURE READING John 12:1-8 page #898

SERMON “Costly Devotion” Dr. Stuart Sacks

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (debts, debtors)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY “What Child is This?” R. Purvis

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE "Doxology"
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION
Almighty God, we close this year with thanksgiving in our hearts for every blessing you have given. We thank you for the promise of your provision as we enter the new year, and ask that you would continue to develop the grace of generosity in our hearts. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN "More Love to Thee, O Christ" Hymn #649

*BENEDICTION (Pastor)

*CONGREGATION THREE-FOLD AMEN

*SILENT MEDITATION

*POSTLUDE "Simple Gifts" N. Rawsthorne

(Should you be moved to respond to a musical offering, a hearty "Amen" is recommended)

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Ministers: The Congregation

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Timothy Witmer

Assistant Pastor: Rev. Nathaniel Stamper

Elders: John Garner, Richard Miller

Deacons: Gene Eberly, Ernie Orr

Organist Emeritus: A.J. Young

Organist and Choirmaster: Douglas Wimer

Music Leader: Rev. Dr. Stuart Sacks

Children's Ministry Director: Faith Titus

Ushers: Dot Koble, Bob Spots,

Dale Richard & Taylor Martin

Greeter: Carol Sprecher

Altar Guild: Jean Martin

Counting Team: Bill & Joyce Snyder

Sexton: Jill Wilson

Bookkeeper: Charlene Good

Administrative Assistant: Anita Witmer