

Announcements and Upcoming Events

It's not too late to place your order! Christmas Poinsettias are \$10. If you would like to purchase one in memory of or in honor of someone please see or send a note to Barbara Matlack, office@titusvillechurch.org.

Sunday, December 3, 4 p.m. Christmas Hymn Sing

Sunday, December 10, 2 p.m. Ornament Exchange at the home of Lettie Ritner.

Tuesday, December 12, Noon Women of the church pot-luck luncheon at the home of Debbie Niederer

Sunday, December 17, 6 p.m. Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 24, 10 a.m. Morning Worship and 6 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship. Both services combined with Grace Presbyterian.



Found at thewordisalive.co.uk

Communion Liturgy

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation to the Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to the Lord.

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

...who forever sing to the glory of your name.

CHOIR: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Great is the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Bread

The Sharing of the Cup

(You are invited forward to receive the elements.)

Prayer

Spiritual Food for Thought

God's plan for the future of the children of Israel rests squarely on the shoulders of one of its helpless sons, a baby in a fragile basket...

Just as Moses was safely born through water and reeds, rescued from the brutality of the Egyptians and provided with daily sustenance, so also was Israel.

--Terence Fretheim, Exodus

Session:

Class of 2017
Barbara Matlack
Randy Niederer

Class of 2018
Patti Manz
Tim Shaub

Class of 2019
Mark Niederer
Kristine Schmidt, Clerk

Deacons:

Class of 2017
Judy Niederer, Secretary

Class of 2018
Gail Butterfoss
Lettie Ritner, Vice-Moderator

Class of 2019
Chris Manz, Moderator

Ministers: All members of Titusville Church

Pastor: Rev. Kenneth Good

Worship Assistant: Barbara Matlack

Music Directors: Jon and Helen Eastburn

The Rev. Dr. R. William Shaub, Pastor Emeritus
Barbara Matlack, Office Administrator

December 3, 2017

THE **EXTRAORDINARY**

GOD'S MAJESTIC WORK OF
REUNIFICATION & ADOPTION

All glory to God!

All praise and glory to Almighty God!
Happy new year!!! Yes, a new year begins today on the Church calendar.

We have come to the first week in Advent. The candle of Hope will illumine the way for us. In Holy Scripture, we'll watch the daughter of Pharaoh help preserve life amidst the madness of the Empire. We will read of The Apostle's pastoral words

to the Church in Thessalonica: "just as a nursing mother cares for her children, so we cared for you."

We gather because of our Hope in Christ. With hope, we wait patiently, purify ourselves and sing songs of the coming of the Lord. Let us worship God!



Call to Worship

Lighting of Advent Candle

Each week in Advent, the Choir will call us to worship.

*Light One Candle for Hope
One bright candle for Hope
He brings hope to every heart.
He comes. He comes.*

This will be followed by Reading of Scripture and the lighting of Candle.

Prayer of Confession Psalm 1

Blessed is the one who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither.

Whatever he does prospers.

Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

...Let us pause for a silent time of personal confession...



Order of Liturgy

Prelude

***Call to Worship** (page 1)

***Opening Hymn / Prayer** (page 1)

Confession (page 1)

—call, prayer, assurance

*Gloria patri

Scripture (page 1)

Message

***Hymn of Response** (page 1)

*Apostles Creed

*New City Catechism (page 2)

Announcements

Prayers of the People

Offering: "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

*Doxology

Communion (page 4)

***Sending Hymn** (page 1)

Benediction

Choral Benediction: "In The Lord I'll be Ever Thankful"

Scripture

Exodus 2:1-10 (page 41)

I Thessalonians 2:1-16 (page 835)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Songs for Today

Opening Hymns

#87 "Fairer Lord Jesus"

Hymn of Response

#245 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Sending Hymn

#240 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

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Notes on Morning Scripture

Exodus

Vs 1 Exodus 6:20 identifies Moses' parents as Amram and Jochebed

Vs 4 Here is Miriam. Aaron was also born three years before Moses

Vs 10 Interesting in light of Moses' future work

I Thessalonians

Vs 1 for the background of Philippi, see Acts 16:16-40

Vs 11 New Testament Instructions for Parents include: Ephesians 6:4, Colossians 3:21

Web Link

<http://www.pbs.org/empires/egypt/special/lifeas/pharaoh.html>

<http://pastoralmeanderings.blogspot.com/2013/04/seasons-of-year.html> thoughts on following the Church Calendar

<http://www.criovoice.org/carols.html> one take on singing advent and Christmas songs

<https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/the-history-of-the-advent-wreath.html>

New City Catechism

A 52 question catechism developed by Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York. For an introduction to this catechism, visit: <http://www.newcitycatechism.com/intro.php>

Part 3: Spirit, Restoration, Growing in Grace

Question 47: Does the Lord's Supper add anything to Christ's atoning work?

Answer: No, Christ died once for all. The Lord's Supper is a covenant meal celebrating Christ's atoning work; as it is also a means of strengthening our faith as we look to him, and a foretaste of the future feast. But those who take part with unrepentant hearts eat and drink judgment on themselves.

To learn more about Question 47, including Scripture background, prayer, commentary and video from scholars, visit <http://newcitycatechism.com/new-city-catechism/#47>

Guest Editorial Scriptures on HOPE

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. (Hebrews 11:1)

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you. (I Peter 1:3)

Set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming (I Peter 1:13)

All who have this hope in them purify themselves, just as he is pure. (I John 3:3)

We have this hope as an anchor for our soul, firm and secure (Hebrews 6:19)

Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God. (Psalm 42:11)

No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame...guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long (Psalm 25:3,5)

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called (Ephesians 4:4)

We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. (Psalm 33:20)

Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:31)

May you know the hope to which God has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance (Ephesians 1:18)

In your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. (I Peter 3:15)

Prayers to the Lord and Author of Life

(offered in 12/3 worship by the congregation)

Dear Tabby, Raising Life (issues) Acts 9:36

Dear Tabby,

I don't like waiting for anything. I'm more of a 'live life to the fullest' and 'make my own destiny' type of person. Why should I wait?

Energetic in Ewing

Dear Energetic,

The idea of waiting is very hard, completely counter-cultural, and will receive little to no support from your peers. Though conventional wisdom does remind us that "good things come to those who wait" and "patience is a virtue".

In a sentence, we wait because it builds our reliance upon the Lord.

In a shorter sentence: because we have to.

The most famous verse of Lamentations is the phrase 'Great is your faithfulness'. The words that follow speak to the waiting part:

I say to myself, "the LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him. The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. It is good for a man to bear the yoke while he is young. (3:24-27).

These verses teach that the LORD is all we need. Therefore, if we feel self-created pressure, or peer pressure to move before the Almighty commands us, we are forgetting that the presence of the Lord is our life. If God is sufficient to the human heart—and he is—then it is not inappropriate to rely on God, to be patient for him to lead us, and to know that each day has enough for our living. We don't have to run ahead on the ground which God will pave.

(God provides plenty of ground set aside for freedom and play, and so we do not have to wait on God to direct us on matters of freedom. You don't need to wait on God to find out a restaurant you want to eat at, or what Saturday afternoon's activity will be. These are wonderful areas to 'live life to the fullest'.)

Waiting places us before the LORD, 'who is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him'. Rather than being a burden, or a hindrance, waiting on God's direction will lead us to goodness. This good is worth seeking, or, to use modern language, worth waiting for.