



Titusville Presbyterian Church

48 River Drive
Titusville, NJ 08560
609-737-1385

December 8th, 2024, Second Sunday of Advent

*Please stand if able

***Call to Worship** (Numbers 17 selected verses about the coming Messiah)

Leader: The utterance of him who hears the words of God, and has knowledge of the Most High,

People: Who sees the vision of the Almighty, and falls down with eyes wide open:

Leader: I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near. A Star shall come out of Jacob, a Scepter shall rise out of Israel,

People: Out of Jacob One shall have dominion.

All: Firm is your dwelling place, and your nest is set on the Rock.

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Scripture: Psalm 130:5,7

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope...O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.

The Lighting of the Second Candle

We light the CANDLE OF HOPE to express the hopes of those who longed for the Messiah's coming and our hope for the complete fulfillment of the Kingdom of God when Christ, the Hope of the World, shall return in glory.

Prayer (in unison)

O Lord, all our hope is in you and the love you have for us. Let that hope be a source of strength for us as we seek to live for you until Christ comes again.

259 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Bethlehem, out of you will come a Ruler who will be the Shepherd of My people. Matthew 2:6

▶ 1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
▶ 2. Shep - herds, in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3. Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4. Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in hope and fear,
▶ 5. Tho' an in - fant now we view Him, He will share His Fa - ther's throne

Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with man is now re - sid - ing; Yon - der shines the In - fant Light:
Seek the great De - sire of na - tions; Ye have seen His na - tal star:
Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing In His tem - ple shall ap - pear:
Gath - er all the na - tions to Him; Ev - ery knee shall then bow down:

Refrain
Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship; Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

TEXT: James Montgomery
MUSIC: Henry T. Smart

REGENT SQUARE
8.7.8.7.8.7.

Please be seated.

Call to Confession (Malachi 4:5-6)

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet
Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.
⁶ And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,
And the hearts of the children to their fathers,
Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”

Prayer of Confession

Our Father in Heaven, in the days in which we live, we see the dire condition of the family. As Your sons and daughters, give us the grace to love and cherish our family members. We ask Your forgiveness for failing in some instances, and need Your help at this time. Give us Your love to love those You have given to us. In Jesus Name, we pray. Amen!

[Silent confession]

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (Colossians 3:12-15)

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. ¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. ¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

***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, amen.

***Prayer for Illumination**

Father, as You break the Bread of Life, may our hearts and minds become ready receivers of the truth that will set us free and satisfy the longings of our hearts. In Christ's name we pray, Amen!

Old Testament Lesson (Micah 5:2-4)

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Though you are little among the thousands of Judah,
Yet out of you shall come forth to Me
The One to be Ruler in Israel,
Whose goings forth are from of old,
From everlasting.”

³ Therefore He shall give them up,
Until the time that she who is in labor has given birth;
Then the remnant of His brethren
Shall return to the children of Israel.

⁴ And He shall stand and feed His flock
In the strength of the Lord,
In the majesty of the name of the Lord His God;
And they shall abide,
For now He shall be great
To the ends of the earth;

New Testament Lesson (Colossians 1:19-29)

For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, ²⁰ and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled ²² in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

²⁴ I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, ²⁵ of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, ²⁶ the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. ²⁷ To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Prayer for the Children

Father, Christmas time is a magical time for children. We receive great joy in observing their reaction to the wonder of Advent. We pray that the deeper meaning of Christmas will excite the children much more than all the festivities! In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen!

Sermon: "The Hope of Glory"

548 As the Deer

As the deer pants for water, so my soul pants for You. Psalm 42:1

Harmony optional

1. As the deer pant-eth for the wa-ter, So my soul long-eth af - ter Thee.
 2. You're my friend and You are my broth-er, E-ven though You are a King.
 3. I want You more than gold or sil-ver, On-ly You can sat - is - fy.

You a - lone are my heart's de - sire, And I long to wor - ship Thee.
 I love You more than an - y oth-er, So much more than an - y - thing.
 You a - lone are the real joy giv-er, And the ap - ple of my eye.

Refrain

You a - lone are my strength, my shield; To You a - lone may my

spir - it yield. You a - lone are my

heart's de - sire, And I long to wor - ship Thee.

***Apostles Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead, he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Announcements

Prayer Requests

Pastoral Prayer

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

Offering

Offertory

***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!

Dedication

542 My Life Is in You, Lord

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. Philippians 1:21

My life is in You, Lord; My strength is in You, Lord; My

hope is in You, Lord; in You, it's in You. My life is in

You, Lord; My strength is in You, Lord; My hope is in You, Lord; in

You, it's in You. I will praise You with all of my life,

I will praise You with all of my strength; With

all of my life, with all of my strength. All of my

hope is in You. You, it's in You, in You.

*Benediction

Announcements

- Immediately following worship join us in the Heritage Room for refreshments and fellowship.
- **Christmas Poinsettias.** Poinsettias are \$20. If you would like to purchase one in memory or honor of someone please send a note to Barbara Matlack at office@titusvillechurch.org.
- **Sunday, December 8, 11am-3:30pm** – Washington’s Landing in New Jersey. This event, which is sponsored by the Washington Crossing Park Association, allows visitors to experience the crossing and the landing in NJ. A poster, with details of the event, is on the bulletin board in the Narthex.
- **Sunday, December 8 at 3pm – HV CAMP** concert in the Sanctuary. Come hear the HV Community Jazz Ensemble, HV CAMP Jazz Combo and the Hopewell Valley Pops Orchestra. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Call 609-737-1385 or see Barbara Matlack to purchase your tickets.
- **Sunday, December 8 at 5pm** – Mt. Airy Presbyterian Church will be hosting a Hymn Sing. They are looking for people who would like to be in the choir. Let Barbara know if you are interested, and she will pass the information along to Pat Masterson.
- **Tuesday, December 10 at noon**, Debbie Niederer is opening her home for the Women of the Church Potluck Luncheon. Please let us know that you will be attending by sending an email to office@titusvillechurch.org.
- Collecting Non-perishable food items. We continue to collect food for two local families in need. Please leave your donations in the narthex. If you would prefer, you may give a monetary donation and Barbara Matlack will purchase Shop-Rite gift cards for the families.
- Children’s Sunday School. The children will leave worship right after the Children’s Message for their lesson.
- We have a prayer team that will pray for your joys, celebrations, and concerns. If you would like prayer, please send an email to bmatlack@titusvillechurch.org and a prayer request will go right out. Also, if you would like to pray for those on our prayer list, please let Barbara Matlack know. She will add you to the prayer team email list.

Deacons

Class of 2024

- Andrew Niederer

Class of 2025

- Gail Butterfoss
- Judy Niederer

Class of 2026

- Joan Niederer
- Marianne Strickhart

Session

Class of 2024

- Patti Manz
- Barbara Matlack
- Randy Niederer

Class of 2025

- No members

Class of 2026

- Mark Niederer
- Kristine Schmidt

Ministers: All members of Titusville Church

Pastor: Rev. Stephan Nash

Worship Assistant: Marianne Strickhart

Accompanist: Kati Kertesz

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

The Game Changer! Jesus Christ is the ultimate game changer.

Summary of the film, "The Game Changer"

1. Revolutionizing Values and Ethics

- Jesus' teachings introduced radical ideas of love, forgiveness, humility, sacrifice and servanthood. The film highlights how these values overturned societal norms, offering a new way of life focused on compassion and grace.

2. Transforming Lives

- Personal testimonies of people's lives being changed through an encounter with Jesus and His teachings are central to the film. Examples could include characters finding hope, purpose, or redemption through faith.

3. Challenging Power Structures

- Jesus confronted the religious and political powers of His time, showing that true authority is rooted in humility and service. Followers are to first obey God and other authorities who follow the moral law of God. The film might illustrate how this approach shifted historical paradigms.

4. Fulfilling Prophecy and Establishing Salvation

- By fulfilling hundreds of Old Testament prophecies and offering Himself as a sacrifice, Jesus changed humanity's relationship with God. The film might frame this as the ultimate "game-changing" event in history.

5. Impact on Global History

- The story of Jesus has inspired movements, shaped cultures, and influenced billions of people. The film highlights Jesus enduring legacy as unparalleled in its influence.

6. Empowering Others

- **2.5 billion followers!**
- Through His resurrection and the sending of the Holy Spirit, Jesus empowered His followers to continue His mission. The film portrays this empowerment as central to His game-changing impact.