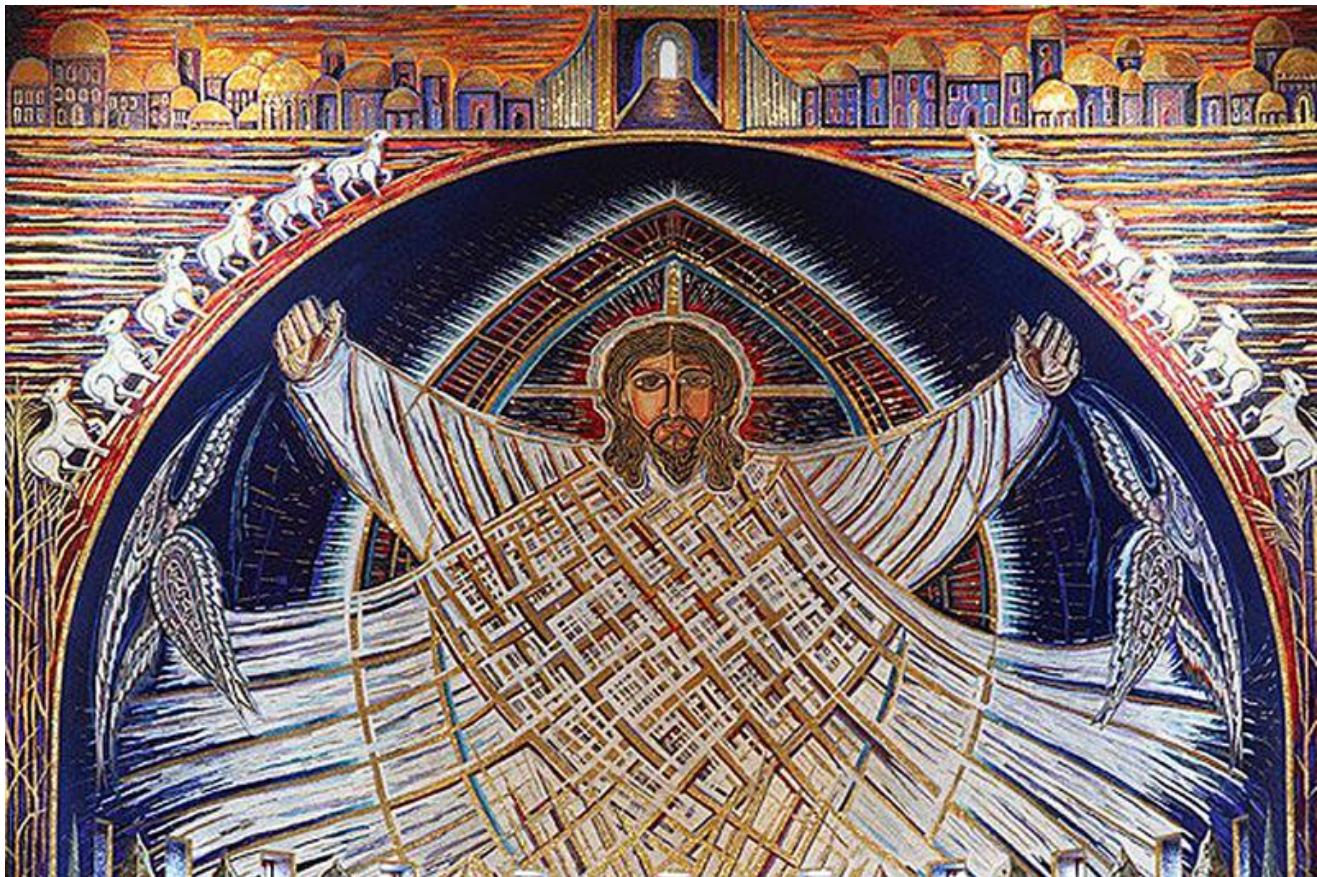


**WELCOME TO
THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY
ROYERSFORD, PA**

*A friendly welcome to all! If you are visiting, please fill out a visitor's card
and place it in the offertory plate or give it to an usher.*

We hope you'll join us for refreshments and fellowship after worship today.

In Advent, we grow pregnant with anticipation for the coming of the Holy One among us. We yearn and listen for, we eagerly await both the vulnerable babe and the risen, returning Christ Jesus. Our Advent liturgies will begin with an Advent Introit and the sound of a resonant bell. Intentional silences will follow the lessons, the homily and other aspects of the liturgy. Rest in the quiet spaces of our Advent worship as expectation of "God with us" grows and is born in the story and in our life. O Come, O Come Emmanuel...



ENTRANCE HYMN

58

1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scand - ing, once for our sal -
 2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in dread - ful
 3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion still his daz - zling
 4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on thine e -

va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 ma - jes - ty; those who set at nought and sold him,
 bo - dy bears, cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
 ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the power and glo - ry;

swell the tri - umph of his train: Al - le - lu - ia!
 pierced, and nailed him to the tree, deep - ly wail - ing,
 to his ran - somed wor - ship - ers; with what rap - ture,
 claim the king - dom for thine own: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: *St. Thomas*, melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. att. Vincent Francis Novello (1781-1861)

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

All standing

Presider

Blessed be the One Holy and Living God

People

Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY (*said by all*)

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The following is sung, all standing

KYRIE

HYMNAL #S-96

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.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray together

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence-- as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader The Word of the Lord
People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence following the reading... a moment to listen to the Word with your heart.

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
 shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
 stir up your strength and come to help us.

- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Church in Corinth

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence following the reading... a moment to listen to the Word with your heart.

SEQUENCE HYMN

63 (vs 1,2,5)

1 O heaven - ly Word, e - ter - nal Light,
 2 pour light up on us from a bove,
 3 and when, as judge, thou draw - est nigh
 4 O let us not, for e - vil past,
 *5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,

 1 be - got - ten of the Fa - ther's might,
 2 and fire our hearts with ar - dent love,
 3 the se - crets of our hearts to try,
 4 be driv - en from thy face at last,
 5 and God the Spi - rit, ev - er One,

 1 who in these lat - ter days wast born
 2 that, as we hear thy truth to day,
 3 to rec - om - pense each hid - den sin
 4 but with thy saints ev - er more
 5 praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be

 1 for bless - ing to a world for - lorn;
 2 all wrong de - sires may burn a - way;
 3 and bid the saints their reign be - gin;
 4 be hold thee, love thee, and a - dore.
 5 from age to age e - ter - nal ly.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

All stand (as you are able)

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

After the reading of the Gospel

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE HOMILY

THE NICENE CREED

All stand.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

At the beginning of this Advent season, let us offer our prayers to God, saying: Lord, have mercy.

That our gracious Savior may rouse us from sleep and make us attentive to the nearness of his presence, let us pray to the Lord.

That we may discover God's word in every sound of this world, God's touch in every human embrace, and God's love in every gesture of self-sacrifice among us, let us pray to the Lord.

That divine energy and holy grace may bring our hearts to vigilance and make us see with uncovered eyes the Christ who suffers in his people's agonies, let us pray to the Lord.

That we may come to recognize in our holy assembly gathered for prayer that Jesus the Christ is with us here to make our songs of praise and pleading his own, let us pray to the Lord.

That God's coming into the days and years of our human history may be always new, always brimming with light to drive all darkness away, let us pray to the Lord.

[Here other intercessions may be offered.]

Make ready our hearts for your coming, O Lord, and receive our prayers in the name of the one who comes, our gracious Savior, Jesus, the Christ.

BIRTHDAY's: 6 - Mike Haines 8 - Sherri Quinlan

ALTAR FLOWERS: Given in loving memory of our grandparents by Ben and Tanya Millet

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins to God. (*Silence may be kept.*)

Priest and People

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world, you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

The Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

THE PEACE

All stand.

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The People greet one another in the name of Christ

Offering the peace of Jesus Christ is an ancient practice of the earliest Christian liturgies.

It is a sacred greeting that offers the peace that passes all understanding.

*Looking into the eyes of the other and resisting additional conversation
honors the holiness of the exchange.*

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Offertory Sentence

Choir Anthem

(or Offertory Hymn)

73

The musical score consists of three staves of music in common time, treble clef, and G major. The lyrics are divided into three sections, each with five numbered lines of text. The first section discusses the coming of the King. The second section discusses the light of the King. The third section discusses the morning of the King.

1 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and
2 Not, as of old, a lit - tle child, to
3 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and
4 and let the end - less bliss be - gin, by
5 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and

1 light tri - um - phant breaks; when beau - ty gilds the
2 bear, and fight, and die, but crowned with glo - ry
3 earth's dark night is past; O haste the ris - ing
4 wear - y saints fore - told, when right shall tri - umph
5 light and beau - ty brings: Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy

1 east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
2 like the sun that lights the morn - ing sky.
3 of that morn, the day that e'er shall last;
4 o - ver wrong, and truth shall be ex - tolled.
5 peo - ple pray, come quick - ly, King of kings.

At the presentation of the Gifts:

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

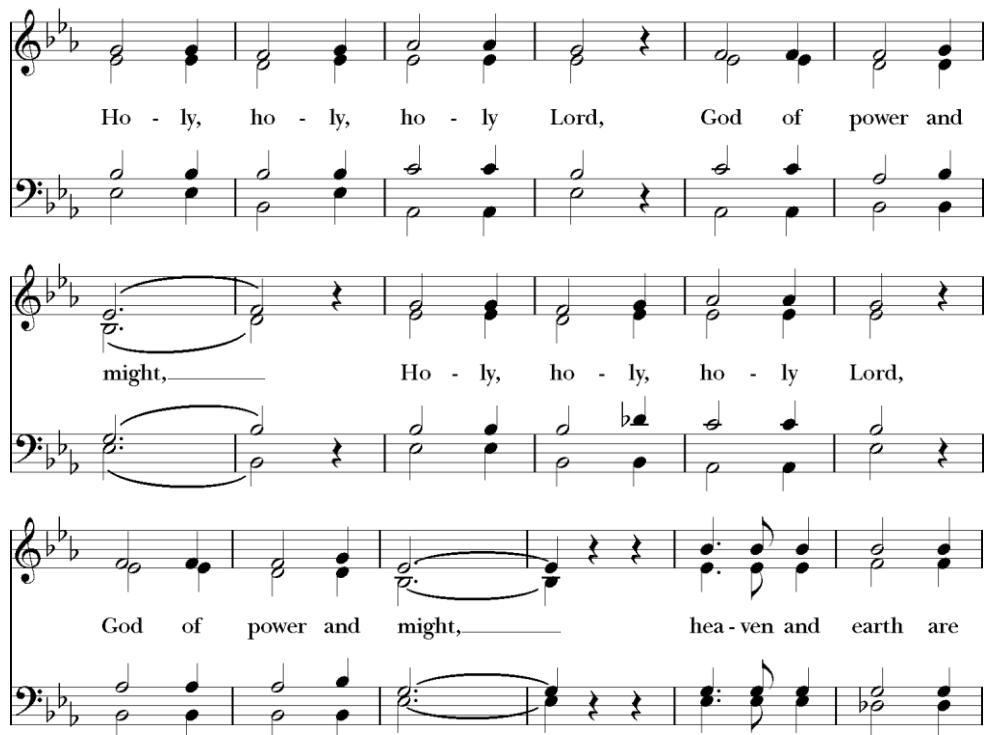
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **and also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise**

Presider

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

Sanctus



The musical notation consists of three staves of music in G clef, B-flat key signature, and common time. The top staff has soprano vocal parts. The middle staff has alto vocal parts. The bottom staff has bass vocal parts. The lyrics are as follows:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na
 in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
 in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The People may stand, kneel or sit

The Presider continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with [_____ and] all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.
 Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.
 Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:
 give us your peace, give us your peace.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

The Gifts of God for the People of God

This is the Lord's Table, God's feast for all of God's people. There is always Abundance here and a place for you.

You are invited and encouraged to join us at the altar rail.

*If you wish to receive a blessing instead of the bread or wine, you are welcome;
please come forward and cross your arms over your chest.*

Communion Hymn 333

Now the si - lence Now the peace Now the emp - ty

hands up - lift - ed Now the kneel - ing Now the plea

Now the Fa - ther's arms in wel - come Now the hear - ing

Now the power Now the ves - sel brimmed for pour - ing

Now the Bo - dy Now the Blood Now the joy - ful

cel - e - bra - tion Now the wed - ding Now the songs

Now the heart for - giv - en leap - ing Now the Spi - rit's

vis - i - ta - tion Now the Son's e - piph - an - y

Now the Fa - ther's bless - ing Now Now Now

Words: Thomas F. Bruder (b. 1910) Music: Max Caudle (b. 1920)

Communion Hymn 454

Unison or harmony

The musical score consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a bass clef. The lyrics are written in a single column across the staves, with some words aligned under specific notes. The music is in common time.

1 Je - sus came, a - dored by an - gels, came with peace from
 2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy, when our hearts are
 3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, bring - ing news of
 4 Je - sus comes on clouds tri - um - phant, when the heavens shall

realms on high; Je - sus came for our re - demp - tion,
 bowed with care: Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer
 sins for - given; Je - sus comes in sounds of glad - ness,
 pass a - way; Je - sus comes a - gain in glo - ry;

low - ly came on earth to die: Al - le - lu - ia,
 to our ear - nest heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia,
 lead - ing souls re - deemed to heaven; Al - le - lu - ia,
 let us then our hom - age pay: Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia! came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
 al - le - lu - ia! comes to save us from de - spair.
 al - le - lu - ia! now the gate of death is riven.
 al - le - lu - ia! till the dawn of end - less day.

Words: Godfrey Thring (1823-1903), alt. Music: *Lowry*, Gerald Near (b. 1942) Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.

Presider

Let us pray.

All

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

Announcements

The Dismissal

People

Thanks be to God.

Sending Hymn

WLP721

1. Signs of end-ings all a - round us— dark - ness, death, and win - ter days
 2. Can it be that from our end - ings, new be - gin - nings you cre - ate?
 3. Speak, O God, your Word a - mong us. Bar - ren lives your pres - ence fill.

shroud our lives in fear and sad - ness, numb - ing mouths that long to praise.
 Life from death, and from our rend - ings, realms of whole - ness gen - er - ate?
 Swell our hearts with songs of glad - ness, ter - rors calm fore - bod - ings still.

Come, O Christ, and dwell a - mong us! Hear our cries, come set us free.
 Take our fears, then, Lord, and turn them in - to hopes for life a - new:
 Let your prom - ised realm of jus - tice blos - som now through-out the earth;

Give us hope and faith and glad - ness. Show us what there yet can be.
 Fad - ing light and dy - ing sea - son sing their Glo - ri - as to you.
 your do - min - ion bring now near us; we a - wait the sav - ing birth.

ASSISTING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

10am

Eucharistic Minister:	Paul Atlee
Lectors:	Kathy Cobbs & Jack Cobbs
Acolyte:	Paul Exley
Greeter:	Bill Wilson
Usher:	Cindy Lind & Mary Thompson
Counters:	Tom Bailey & Frank Borst
Altar Guild	Julie Dattilo, Joanne Arnold, Cathy Bailey, Tanya Millet
Godly Play Teacher	Marti Wilson
Godly Play Greeter	Julie Dattilo

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY
209 S. Third Avenue, Royersford, PA 19468

610-948-9655

WWW.EPIPHANYSTAR.NET

WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAYS

8AM HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I (SPOKEN)

10AM HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II (MUSIC)

MIDWEEK HOLY EUCHARIST WITH HEALING LITANY

10:15AM WEDNESDAYS

PAUL EXLEY, PARISH ADMINISTRATOR
CHURCHOFFICE@EPIPHANYSTAR.NET

ELIZABETH FRANCISCO, SUPPLY PIANIST & CHOIR DIRECTOR

THE REV. BETH W. HIXON, RECTOR
215-896-0828 OR RECTOR@EPIPHANYSTAR.NET