

Grace Devotion

Week of November 30, 2025

² ^[a] *The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.*

³ *You have multiplied exultation;^[b]
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.*

⁴ *For the yoke of their burden
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.*

⁵ *For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.*

⁶ *For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;*

*authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named*

*Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

⁷ *Great will be his authority;^[c]
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.*

*He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.*

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. (Isaiah 9:2–7 NRSVUE)

Hope: “The Light Shines in the Darkness”

Greetings of Hope,

Sunday, Nov. 30th begins the first week of Advent—a season of waiting, watching, and trusting in the light that is coming into the world. This week we light the first candle of Hope. As we light the candle, spilling light into a darkened room, we remember that God’s promises still hold true, even when the world feels uncertain. Hope reminds us that the story isn’t over. Hope reminds us that God is still at work in us, around us, and through us.

Advent begins in the dark. It is the time before the angels sing and before the manger is filled. Advent is that sacred time where we admit that life isn’t always as we wish it were, yet God moves toward us with grace. Hope in this season doesn’t pretend that everything is fine. Hope means looking at the world as it is, and still believing that light is coming. It is trusting that God’s promises are still unfolding, even though we can’t see the whole story yet. This week, let the flicker of the first candle remind you that hope is not fragile. Hope is resilient. Hope grows quietly, one act of kindness, one prayer, one breath at a time.

Prayer:

God of Hope, When the world feels heavy, remind us that Your light still shines in the darkness. When we grow tired of waiting, remind us that You are near. Help us see the small sparks of hope You place in our path each day. Give us courage to carry that light into the world. Amen

With Grace and Love,

Pastor Amy



November 30, 2025
First Sunday of Advent

Welcome/Announcements
Westminster Chimes and Prelude

****+“Hope Was Born This Night” #27**

**** Call to Worship**

Lector: In a world that feels uncertain and weary, we long for hope

Congregation: We wait for the light to shine in the darkness.

Lector: God is faithful. Even when things feel uncertain, God is at work, making a way for us.

Congregation: We open our hearts. We lift our eyes. We follow the light of hope.

Lector: Let us come together today, worshipping God who brings hope to a weary world.

Congregation: We rejoice, for our hope is in the Lord.

**** Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud)**

God of Hope, We pour out our prayers to You today. Our hearts long for hope. We trust that Your light is breaking into the darkness. Open our eyes to Your light. Open our hearts to Your peace. Prepare us to live faithfully in the waiting. May we feel strengthened by hope today and may we carry that hope out into the world. Amen

Lighting of the Advent Candle (Hope)

**** Sharing the Peace of Christ**

****° Hymn: “The Advent of Our God” #120**

Joys and Concerns
Praying for Others
Lord’s Prayer

Celebration of Our Gifts

**** Offertory Response: “Doxology” #625**

**** Prayer of Dedication**

****New Creed**

° Hymn: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” #123

Prayer of Confession/Silent Reflection/Assurance of Grace

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 2:1-5

Matthew 24:36-44

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: “Hope” The Light Shines in the Darkness

****+ “Glory to God in the Highest” #24**

**** Final Blessing**

**** “A Choral Benediction”**

Postlude

**** Please stand, if you are able.**

+ Black contemporary folder ° Blue hymnal

Announcements

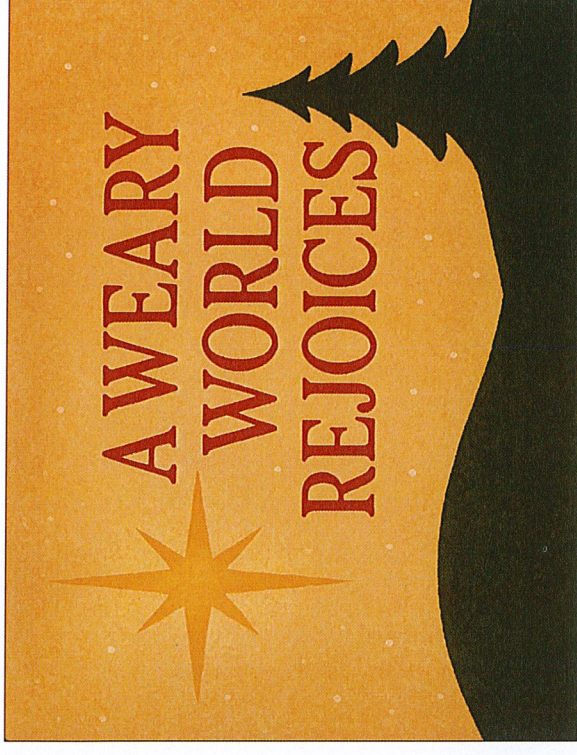
- The church will be open on Wednesdays from 11am-12pm if you would like to stop by for a quiet opportunity for prayer or stillness in the sanctuary. Pastor Amy will be available for a word of prayer or just someone to sit with in the silence.
- We will be having two Christmas Eve Services, 1st one is at 1:00 PM and the 2nd one is at 7:00 PM
- We are selling poinsettias at cost to add to the Christmas Eve decorations. The cost is \$13 for red flowers and can be In Memory or In Honor of someone or for yourself or friend. The flowers may be picked up on 3 different days: December 23 at 10:00 in the Gathering Place, December 24 after the 1:00 or 7:00 Christmas Eve services, and December 28 after Sunday service. Thank you!

Upcoming Events

- Bible Study Group & Movie – December 10th @ 12:30 PM
- Monthly Movie – December 12th @ 3:00 PM
- Women's Ministry – Zoom Meeting on December 10th @ 7:00 PM
- Second Saturday Shares: Caroling & Cookies 1pm on Dec 13th
- Women's Ministry – December 17th @ 7:00 PM in person
- Longest Night Service – December 20th @ 7:00 PM

Upcoming Meetings

- Consistory Meeting – December 8th @ 6:00 PM
- Staff Meeting – December 15th @ 4:30 PM
- Faith Formation – December 22nd @ 6:00 PM



Grace United Church of Christ

100 Fourth Street

Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331

717-632-1146

Prayer Line: 717-632-1146 LINE 3

Thank you for today's Worship Leaders:

Pastor - Amy Fawks

Lector -

Organist and Music Director - Christian Keller

Head Usher – Susan Dienes & Joleen Fennell



Isaiah 2

L F W H O S E K J G C E J J R Z T O
W A U R E P G E H Z U E X Z X E H J
F X S L S T T H E M W W N F T X O M
H L S T L E E R F N U P O N F A U P
O C E D A R S R Q G A U S H A L L I
S H F N I V X W R X Q T B B K T I R
T D I P D I V N L I Y B I V P E M U
S U U L O Z C H G M B M D O B D M W
G G T G L S R I Q Z Z L N H N E E H
S F T E S S U M X F W W Y P L S K K
V W E R I T U S F N A I B A U I U H
O R R G O U X E H R L A S O P Y F J
U Y L M K C F L N N K U H O R J X R
P D Y I Z I K F O I R H T E C I D P
K C S Z P Y D S F E M N V I O D F E
Z X H S X R Z U J J I E B D D H N O
C F C C S M Y Y L V N G C B H M F U
K H U A S Y K D M H U I Y P L S X Y

- JERUSALEM
- LAST
- WALK
- NATION
- HOUSE
- THOU
- HOSTS
- CEDARS
- HILLS
- EVERY
- UPON
- SHALL
- FULL
- IDOLS
- THEM
- INTO
- EXALTED
- UTTERLY
- ROCKS
- HIMSELF
- TERRIBLY
- WHOSE

Christmas Word Search



E	C	P	V	G	I	R	O	L	C	Z	Q	M	W	T	K	L	N	O	F
W	J	X	Q	O	B	Y	Y	H	I	D	S	T	U	G	P	E	Y	X	Z
W	R	C	M	K	M	B	O	E	B	C	B	T	R	D	G	Y	E	U	E
Y	G	F	J	S	G	D	Y	G	W	S	H	Q	D	F	O	N	L	R	S
N	U	X	N	E	N	M	U	W	F	P	L	R	O	N	V	M	L	N	L
F	R	U	M	Z	V	I	L	F	E	W	N	Y	I	W	M	E	O	E	L
T	E	W	R	U	S	S	P	V	B	O	N	S	J	S	W	I	W	E	S
Z	W	S	F	O	Y	P	C	Y	I	P	G	S	A	N	T	A	L	Y	J
K	H	C	U	Q	P	T	L	Y	B	X	D	C	O	A	L	M	U	K	U
X	N	V	Z	J	G	W	I	L	G	E	G	O	R	H	O	V	A	J	D
I	X	S	D	F	P	P	G	O	Y	O	Y	O	R	I	L	E	U	S	E
L	N	P	W	S	M	C	V	W	P	G	C	K	K	H	E	P	O	Y	O
G	B	Q	S	X	F	T	V	H	I	E	R	I	J	U	Y	T	C	M	K
J	V	N	T	M	F	F	B	K	D	T	Z	E	V	G	T	Y	J	S	T
F	C	E	M	R	E	D	O	H	W	B	K	S	E	D	S	B	X	W	I
V	U	G	T	L	E	C	A	V	P	H	D	G	X	N	O	O	K	A	C
E	O	Z	I	Y	V	E	N	R	K	U	B	I	J	W	D	N	L	Z	R
Q	H	R	E	G	P	E	L	B	Y	N	W	T	S	Z	S	I	I	M	W
L	F	U	S	G	T	G	Y	H	C	K	C	P	S	K	U	N	J	S	T
T	J	M	S	W	Y	I	Q	J	D	V	E	Y	D	G	L	N	Z	Y	N

SANTA
RED
GREEN
YELLOW
CHRISTMAS



COOKIES
MILK
COAL
TREE
DECORATIONS