

**MINISTERS - ALL MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION
PASTORAL & OFFICE STAFF**

Pastor.....Joel Gibbel, pastor@yorkfirst.org
Church Admin. Asst.....Karen Bowman, secretary@yorkfirst.org

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Music Director.....Rebecca Wolf
Accompanist.....Becca Miller
Worship Leader.....Justin Tomevi
Advent Candle Acolyte.....Joanna Miller
Children's Time.....Kim Witkovsky
Audio/Visual.....Jason Wolf, Jay Crist
Ushers.....**Leader – Barry Stehr**
.....John & Mary Esther Anderson, Justin Tomevi, Rob Wuhrman
Coffee/Hospitality.....Alex Lear
Greeter Today.....Rebecca & Ava Soyke
Greeters Next Week.....Barry & Tammy Stehr
Nursery Attendant.....Michelle Sauder

DEACONS are available and their responsibilities include assisting the pastor with the care of the congregation. If you have a need, please contact your deacon or the church office.

Please see one of our ushers at the entrance to the sanctuary prior to worship if you need LARGE PRINT bulletins or hymnals. Hearing Assistance Devices are available from the A/V booth in the back of the sanctuary.

Activity bags for children to use during worship are available as you enter the sanctuary. Nursery care is available and the “worship nursery” in the rear of the sanctuary is open for use anytime.

The church issues a weekly e-newsletter each Friday.
To subscribe, please email secretary@yorkfirst.org
To receive the prayer chain emails, please contact the church office.

Worship attendance last Sunday: 47
Music used by permission – CCLI # 475517
One License # A-742415

You may use this QR code
to access our church's online giving



WELCOME TO WORSHIP:

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Chancel Choir Cantata:
“The Greatest Story Ever Told”

Matthew 1:18-25



December 21, 2025



Continuing the work of Jesus
Peacefully
Simply
Together

YORK FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN
2710 Kingston Road, York, PA 17402
Phone: 717-755-0307 Website: yorkfirst.org
WIFI: First COB Password: SimplePeace2gether



FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

“To become a community of committed Christians who Love God, Share Christ, and Serve the World”

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:30 AM

December 21, 2025

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”* Helmore, Arr. Larson

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Reading
Lighting the Candle of Love
Testimony

***HYMN** *“My soul cries out”* verse 4 insert

***UNISON PRAYER**

**Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season.
As these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination.
Show us the creative power of hope.
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.
Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must
be shared.
Magnify your love within us.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,
That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen**

CHILDREN’S TIME

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys and Concerns
Prayers of the Church
Hymn of Response *“Love came down at Christmas”* 208

GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

Invitation
Offertory *“Sussex Carol” with “Waltz of the Flowers”*
Trad. English Carol, Tchaikovsky, Arr. Fettke
*Offering Response *“Grant us, Lord, the grace”* 388
*Offering Prayer

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25 (Page 835)

CHANCEL CHOIR CANTATA: “The Greatest Story Ever Told”

Created by Dennis & Nan Allen

Introduction
Song *“For Unto Us a Child is Born” with “Open the Eyes of My Heart”*
Handel/Arr.Allen

Narration
Song *“Heaven Sings Glory”* Arr. Allen

Narration
Song *“Angels, from the Realms of Glory” (Emmanuel)*
Baloche, Brown Arr. Allen

Narration
Song *“A Strange Way to Save the World”* Clark, Harris, Koch/Arr. Allen

Narration
Song *“One King” with “We Three Kings of Orient Are”*
Alexander, Borders/Arr. Allen

Narration
Song *“It’s Still the Greatest Story Ever Told”* Gaither, Miller/Arr. Allen

Narration
Song *“It’s About the Cross”* Statema/Arr. Allen

Narration
Finale: *“Go Tell!” with “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”*
Johnston, McCollough, Patton/Arr. Allen

***SENDING SONG** *“Good Christian friends, rejoice”* 210



York First Church of the Brethren
 2025 Advent/Christmas Season
 Calendar of Events

Worship each Sunday 10:30 AM, Classes 9:00 AM

December 21: Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love
 Christmas Cantata within Worship
 10:30 AM “The Greatest Story Ever Told”
 Longest Night Service 6:30 PM, Chapel

December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
 7:00 PM, Sanctuary
 Pre – Service Music 6:30 PM

ALL ARE WELCOME!



***BENEDICTION AND BLESSING**

Depart in peace, and take with you the certain knowledge
 That God is always coming into the world.
**We seek God, not in a long ago stable or ancient manger,
 But in the people we meet and the depths of our own hearts.**
 May the blessing of Christmas make you a blessing to others;
 May the peace of the season pervade all that you do.
**We welcome the challenge of discipleship.
 We offer ourselves as God’s ministers.
 We go forth in hope, peace, joy, and love.**

POSTLUDE “Angels we have heard on High”
 Traditional French Carol, Arr. Hayes

We kindly request that you be seated for the Postlude or leave quietly
 so that others may appreciate the conclusion of the service. Thank you.

*Please stand in body or spirit.

White Poinsettia is place in loving memory of
 Bill Eisenhart by Elizabeth Eisenhart and family.

This Week at a Glance:

Today	6:30 pm	Longest Night Service – Chapel
Mon 12/22	6:00 pm	Education Team – Anna Mow Room
Wed 12/24	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Sanct. (Pre – Service Music 6:30 pm)
Thurs 12/25		Christmas Day – Church Office Closed
Sun 12/28	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship Service – Sanct.

Offering Project: Heifer International

This Advent Season, culminating at our Christmas Eve Service,
 we are committing to support the work of Heifer International by
 raising money for their “living gifts’ of animals for families in need.
 Our goal is to fund a “Gift Ark” by raising \$5,000 as a church.
 Please consider giving this season. Thank you.

My soul cries out

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN 98, 10 8D with refrain

Em C D

1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you—
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -

Em C D Em

God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -

G D Em C Em

won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant from his throne. The
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This

G D

fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the -

Em C D Em

weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, 'til the spear and rod can be

G D Em C Em

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain G D

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the

Em C D Em

fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the

C D Em C Em

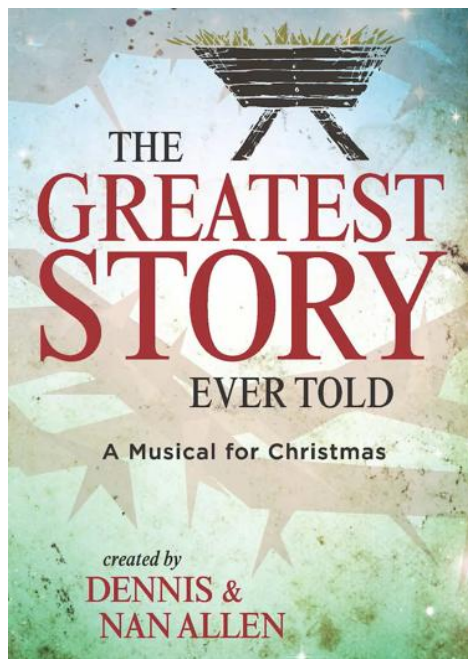
dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn!

Original title: "Canticle of the Turning"

Text: Rory Cooney, based on Luke 1:16-58

Music: Irish traditional; arranged by Rory Cooney

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Director/Soprano: Rebecca Wolf
Accompanist/Soprano: Becca Miller

Sopranos: Michele Gibbel
*Diane Gibble
*Tonya Sepe

Altos: Loretta Bachman
Cathy Carson
Ruoxia Li
Kim Witkovsky

Tenors: John Gibble
*Barry Hollinger

Basses: Ralph Miller
Brad Nicholas
Terry Wueschinski

Narrator: Joel Gibbel
Justin Tomevi

*marks Soloists