

**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 Leaders.....Nancy Jones
Advent Candle Acolyte.....LaRiyah Gibson
Children's Time.....Pastor Joel
Audio/Visual.....Dave McCracken, Jay Crist
Ushers.....**Leader – Barry Stehr**
.....John & Mary Esther Anderson, Justin Tomevi, Rob Wuhrman
Coffee/Hospitality.....Kathy Kovacs
Greeter Today.....Leonard & Helen Stoner
Greeters Next Week.....Rebecca & Ava Soyke
Nursery Attendant.....Christine Wuhrman

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: 98
Music used by permission – CCLI # 475517
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**WELCOME TO WORSHIP:
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

“Light is Coming: Joy”

Isaiah 35:1-10, Matthew 11:2-5



December 14, 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

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





FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:30 AM

December 14, 2025

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE *"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"*
Traditional French Melody arr. Lloyd Larson

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Reading
Lighting the Candle of Joy
Testimony

***HYMN** *"My soul cries out"* verse 3 insert

*UNISON PRAYER

**Loving God, we open ourselves to you,
trusting that this is how you made us:
you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives.
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.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,
That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen**

CHILDREN'S TIME

ANTHEM *"Breath of Heaven"* Women's Ensemble

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys and Concerns
Prayers of the Church

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 35:1-10 (Page 615)
Matthew 11:2-5 (Page 844)

HYMN *"Praise the One who breaks the darkness"* (insert)

MESSAGE "Light is Coming: Joy"

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** *"Joy to the world"* 318

GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

Invitation
Offertory *"Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming"*
Es Ist Ein Ros Entsprungen arr. Mark Hayes
*Offering Response *"Grant us, Lord, the grace"* 388
*Offering Prayer

***SENDING SONG** *"Oh, how joyfully"* 209

*BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

Rejoice in God always, and again I say, rejoice
For God has created you with the capacity for joy.
**We will find what makes us joyful,
And make that our gift to the world.**
Trust in God's good will for all of creation
and open yourself to God's gentle, transforming love.
**We will welcome new possibilities in our lives.
We will offer ourselves to God's goodness.
We will go forth in hope, and peace, and joy.**

POSTLUDE *"Sing We Now of Christmas"* 15th c. French Carol &
Hall of the Mountain King (Grieg) arr. Mark 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 placed in loving memory of
Bill Eisenhart by Elizabeth Eisenhart and family.

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

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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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!



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

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

December 14: Third Sunday of Advent: Joy
Holiday Strings Concert 3:00 PM, Sanctuary

December 17: Advent Season Bible Study
12:00 PM, Gathering Area

December 19: CDC Nativity Play
4:30 PM, Sanctuary

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!



This Week at a Glance:

Today	3:00 pm	Holiday Strings Concert – Sanctuary
Mon 12/15	10:30 am	Constitution Review Comm – Multi-Purpose Room
	6:00 pm	CDC Ministry Team – Multi-Purpose Room
Tues 12/16	10:00 am	Prayer Shawl – Anna Mow Room
	4:00 pm	Food Pantry Open 4:00 to 5:30 pm
Wed 12/17	9:30 am	Staff Meeting – Multi-Purpose Room
	12:00 pm	CDC -Rehearsal for Nativity Play – Sanct.
	12:00 pm	Advent Season Bible Study – Gathering Area
Thurs 12/18	6:30 pm	Chancel Choir Practice – Sanctuary
Fri 12/19	4:30 pm	CDC Nativity Play – Sanctuary
Sat 12/20	9:00 am	Choir Cantata Rehearsal – Sanctuary
Sun 12/21	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Christmas Cantata within Worship Service – Sanct.
	6:30 pm	Longest Night Service – Chapel

Strings Concert - Today

Plan to join us for a special Christmas concert featuring Christine Wuhrman (cello) and friends. Wednesday December 14 at 3:00 PM in the sanctuary. We are grateful for this opportunity and expect a lovely time together, blessed with the gift of music.

Advent Lunch Bible Study

Wednesday December 17, we will host an Advent Bible Study at 12:00 noon at our church. Bring your own bag lunch and Bible and join us for fellowship and conversation together. Pastor Joel will lead an exploration of some of the scriptures that point us toward the birth of Christ. All are welcome!

Offering Project: Heifer International

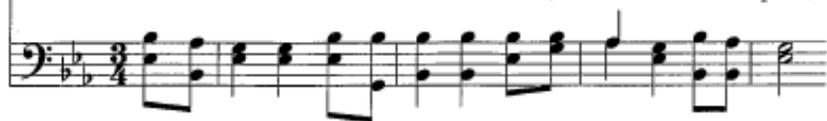
This Advent Season, culminating at our Christmas Eve Service, we are committing to support the work of Heifer International by raising money for their "living gifts" of animals for families in need. Our goal is to fund a "Gift Ark" by raising \$5,000 as a church. Please consider giving this season. Thank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

Praise the One who breaks the darkness 1

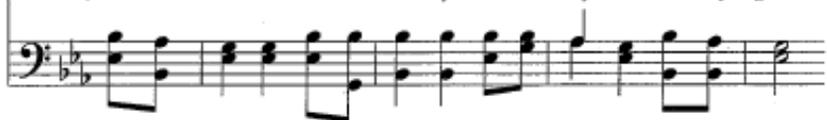
NETTLETON 87, 87D



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
 3 Praise the One true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - ers, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
 praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
 Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
 Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
 Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
 from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

