

ST. STEPHEN REFORMED
249 E. Main St., New Holland, PA 17557
December 15, 2019 – 8:15 A.M.

**Indicates those able may stand*

When the prelude begins please quiet your hearts in preparation for worship.

ORGAN PRELUDE

"Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottessohn" (BWV 601) J.S. Bach
(Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God)
"This is the Truth Sent From Above" arr. N. Rawsthorne

WELCOME

Dr. Timothy Witmer

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Psalm 150*)

ONE: Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary;

ALL: Praise him in his mighty heavens!

ONE: Praise him for his mighty deeds;

ALL: Praise him according to his excellent greatness!

ONE: Praise him with trumpet sound;

ALL: Praise him with lute and harp!

ONE: Praise him with tambourine and dance;

ALL: Praise him with strings and pipe!

ONE: Praise him with sounding cymbals;

ALL: Praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

ONE: Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!

ALL: Praise the LORD!

*OPENING HYMN "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" Hymn #223

*INVOCATION Rev. Nathaniel Stamper

CALL TO CONFESSION

Our God is a God of forgiveness, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. In light of his mercy let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal and merciful God, you have loved us with a love beyond our understanding, and you have set us on paths of righteousness for your name's sake. We have failed to acknowledge your reign in our lives. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; through what we have

done and through what we have left undone. As we remember the lavish gift of your grace, O God, we praise you and give you thanks that you forgive us yet again. Grant us now, we pray, the grace to die daily to sin. Help us to yield to your gracious reign in our hearts every day through Christ who lives and reigns with you, and in whose strong name we pray. Amen.

PRAYER FOR MERCY (Kyrie) "Lord Have Mercy upon Us"

ONE: Lord, have mercy upon us.

ALL: Lord, have mercy upon us.

ONE: Christ, have mercy upon us.

ALL: Christ, have mercy upon us.

ONE: Lord, have mercy upon us.

ALL: Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE "The 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.**

LIGHTING OF THE SHEPHERDS' CANDLE

MUSICAL OFFERING "Speak, O Lord" St. Stephen Strings

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 9:30-10:13 Page #946

SERMON "Which Will it Be" Dr. Timothy Witmer

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts, debtors)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE "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.

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Thank you for keeping your promise to supply all of our needs according to your riches in glory in Christ Jesus. You are a loving and generous provider for your people and for your work. Help us to respond with gratitude and generosity. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN "The Power of the Cross" Praise Book #30

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATION THREE-FOLD AMEN

*SILENT MEDITATION

*POSTLUDE "Fantasy on 'In dulci jubilo" J. S. Bach

(Should you be moved to respond to a special musical offering, a hearty "Amen" is recommended)

**THE PURPOSE OF ST. STEPHEN REFORMED CHURCH,
"THE BEACON ON THE HILL"
IS**

TO KNOW Jesus, the light of the world,

John 8:12 "Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of life.'"

TO GROW together as His followers, and

1 John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."

TO SHOW His light to the world.

Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden."

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Welcome Center: Frank & Barbara Field

Greeters: Gene & Viki Eberly

Ushers: George Weaver & Bruce Wanner

Altar Guild: Jean Martin

Counting Team: Bill & Joyce Snyder

ST. STEPHEN REFORMED
249 E. Main St., New Holland, PA 17557
December 15, 2019 – 10:30 A.M.

*Indicates those able may stand

PIANO PRELUDE – *Let us quiet our hearts as we silently prepare to worship*

GATHERING (Congregation seated)

“See, Amid the Winter’s Snow”

Hymn #199

WELCOME

Dr. Timothy Witmer

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Psalm 150*)

ONE: Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary;

ALL: Praise him in his mighty heavens!

ONE: Praise him for his mighty deeds;

ALL: Praise him according to his excellent greatness!

ONE: Praise him with trumpet sound;

ALL: Praise him with lute and harp!

ONE: Praise him with tambourine and dance;

ALL: Praise him with strings and pipe!

ONE: Praise him with sounding cymbals;

ALL: Praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

ONE: Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!

ALL: Praise the LORD!

*OPENING HYMN “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” Hymn #223

*INVOCATION Rev. Nathaniel Stamper

CALL TO CONFESSION

Our God is a God of forgiveness, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. In light of his mercy let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal and merciful God, you have loved us with a love beyond our understanding, and you have set us on paths of righteousness for your name’s sake. We have failed to acknowledge your reign in our lives. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; through what we have done and through what we have left undone. As we remember the lavish gift

of your grace, O God, we praise you and give you thanks that you forgive us yet again. Grant us now, we pray, the grace to die daily to sin. Help us to yield to your gracious reign in our hearts every day through Christ who lives and reigns with you, and in whose strong name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE “The 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.**

LIGHTING OF THE SHEPHERDS’ CANDLE

CHILDREN’S SONG – (Children ages 4-7 may leave for Kingdom Kids)

Go tell it on the mountain	Down in a lowly manger
Over the hills and everywhere	The humble Christ was born,
Go tell it on the mountain	And brought us God’s salvation
That Jesus Christ is born	That blessed Christmas morn

MUSICAL OFFERING “Speak, O Lord” St. Stephen Strings

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 9:30-10:13 Page #946

SERMON “Which Will it Be” Dr. Timothy Witmer

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (debts, debtors)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE “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.**

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Thank you for keeping your promise to supply all of our needs according to your riches in glory in Christ Jesus. You are a loving and generous provider for your people and for your work. Help us to respond with gratitude and generosity. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN "The Power of the Cross" Praise Book #30

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATION THREE-FOLD AMEN

*SILENT MEDITATION

*POSTLUDE "Fantasy on 'In dulci jubilo" J. S. Bach

(Should you be moved to respond to a musical offering, a hearty "Amen" is recommended)

**THE PURPOSE OF ST. STEPHEN REFORMED CHURCH,
"THE BEACON ON THE HILL"
IS**

TO KNOW Jesus, the light of the world,

John 8:12 "Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of life."

TO GROW together as His followers, and

1 John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."

TO SHOW His light to the world.

Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden."

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Welcome Center: Frank & Barbara Field

Greeters: Bob & Barbara Straton

Altar Guild: Jean Martin

Counting Team: Bill & Joyce Snyder