

ST. STEPHEN REFORMED  
249 E. Main St., New Holland, PA 17557  
January 7, 2018 – 10:30 A.M.

\*Indicates those able may stand

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

PIANO PRELUDE – Please remain seated and join in singing with the Worship Team

GATHERING “May the Peace of God” Insert

WELCOME

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Adapted from Psalm 118*)

ONE: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

**ALL: We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

ONE: The LORD is God,

**ALL: And he has made his light to shine upon us.**

ONE: You are my God,

**ALL: And I will give thanks to you;**

ONE: You are my God;

**ALL: I will extol you.**

ONE: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

**ALL: For his steadfast love endures forever!**

\*OPENING HYMN “God, All Nature Sings Thy Glory” Hymn #122

\*INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

When we see God’s beautiful holiness, we recognize our own sinfulness.

God is light and truth, yet we live among shadows and lies. People of God, let us acknowledge to whom we belong and let us ask our powerful God to illuminate our hearts with grace and truth in Jesus, our Lord.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Awesome and compassionate God, you have loved us with unfailing, self-giving mercy, but we have not loved you as we should. You constantly call us, but we do not listen. You ask us to love, but we walk away from neighbors in need. God of grace, as you come to us in mercy, we repent in spirit and in truth, admit our sin, and gratefully receive your forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. 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.**

\*APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic<sup>1</sup> church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

<sup>1</sup> or universal

CHILDREN’S SONG (Children ages 4-8 may leave for Kingdom Kids)

Stop; and let me tell you, what the Lord has done for me,  
Stop; and let me tell you, what the Lord has done for me,  
He forgave my sin and He saved my soul,  
He cleansed my heart and He made me whole,  
Stop; and let me tell you, what the Lord has done for me.

Go; and tell the story, of the Christ of Calvary,  
Go; and tell the story, of the Christ of Calvary.  
He will forgive their sins, He will save their souls,  
He will cleanse their hearts, He will make them whole,  
Go; and tell the story of the Christ of Calvary.

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 1:6-11 page #909

SERMON “The Mission” Dr. Timothy Witmer

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

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Be Thou, My Vision” arr. O. Young

\*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  
    **We are not our own; we belong to you. You have created us and given us  
    life anew, O God, our Creator, Savior, and Sustainer. We open our hands to  
    present our offerings to you. We make these gestures to display outwardly  
    our hearts' overflowing gratitude for all your gifts. Receive these gifts from  
    us, O Triune God, and through them bring life and hope to many. In the  
    name of Jesus, Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN            "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"            Hymn #252

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

RECEIVING AND SHARING THE ELEMENTS

\*CLOSING HYMN            "Our God is Mighty, Worthy of All Praising"            Hymn #454

\*BENEDICTION (Pastor)

\*CONGREGATION THREE-FOLD AMEN

\*SILENT MEDITATION

\*POSTLUDE            Prelude and Fugue in C Minor (BWV 549) "Arnstadt"            J. S. Bach

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

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

<b>Ministers:</b> The Congregation	<b>Ushers:</b> Ken Strubel, Dave Kanaley
<b>Pastor:</b> Rev. Dr. Timothy Witmer	Earl Kenepp & Jim Gerber
<b>Assistant Pastor:</b> Rev. Nathaniel Stamper	<b>Greeters:</b> Bob & Alice Spotts
<b>Elders:</b> John Garner, Richard Miller	<b>Altar Guild:</b> Jean Martin
<b>Deacons:</b> Gene Eberly, Ernie Orr	<b>Counting Team:</b> Bob Spotts & Ron Bensinger
<b>Organist Emeritus:</b> A.J. Young	
<b>Organist and Choirmaster:</b> Douglas Wimer	<b>Sexton:</b> Jill Wilson
<b>Music Leader:</b> Rev. Dr. Stuart Sacks	<b>Bookkeeper:</b> Charlene Good
<b>Children's Ministry Director:</b> Faith Titus	<b>Administrative Assistant:</b> Anita Witmer