

Moravian Lovefeast with Lessons and Carols
December 24, 2025

“The hopes and fears of all the years are met in Thee tonight”

PRELUDE

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE
Charlie & Heidi Coxson

READING OF ISAIAH 9: 2-7

*HYMN 133 O, Come, All Ye Faithful

* BLESSING

Come, Lord Jesus, our guest to be,
And bless these gifts bestowed by Thee.
Bless Thy dear ones everywhere,
And keep them in Thy loving care.

SHARING THE MEAL

READING OF LUKE 2: 1-7

HYMN O Little Town of Bethlehem
O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

READING OF LUKE 2: 8-14

HYMN Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

READING OF LUKE 2: 15-18; 20

HYMN The First Nowell
The first Nowell the angel did say,
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep.
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel!

READING OF LUKE 2: 19

HYMN Away in a Manger
Away in a manger, no crib for His bed;
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay;
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes;
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.
I love Thee Lord Jesus, look down from the sky;
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay.
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care;
and fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

READING OF LUKE 2: 21

HYMN What Child Is This?
What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

HYMN Morning Star, O Cheering Sight

(The congregation is invited to sing the responsive italicized lyrics)
Morning Star, O cheering sight!
Ere Thou cam’st how dark earth’s night!
Morning Star, O cheering sight!
Ere Thou cam’st how dark earth’s night!
Jesus mine, In me shine:
In me shine, Jesus mine:
Fill my heart with light divine.

Morning Star, thy glory bright
Far excels the sun’s clear light
Morning Star, thy glory bright
far excels the sun’s clear light.
Jesus be, Constantly,
Constantly, Jesus be
More than a thousand suns to me.

Thy glad beams, thou Morning Star,
cheer the nations near and far.
Thy glad beams, thou Morning Star
cheer the nations near and far.
Thee we own, Lord alone,
Lord alone, Thee we own
Our dear Savior, God’s dear Son.

Morning Star, my soul’s true Light,
Tarry not, dispel my night:
Morning Star, my soul’s true Light,
Tarry not, dispel my night:
Jesus mine, In me shine:
In me shine, Jesus mine:
Fill my heart with light divine.

*JOHN 1: 1-14

CANDLE LIGHTING

*HYMN Silent Night, Holy Night
Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright;
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild;
Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing:
“Alleluia; Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.”

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light;
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace;
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Rise in body or spirit.

A special thank you to all the volunteers who made this beautiful Moravian service possible.

Pastor
Rev. Beth Newman

Music Director
Kathy Wiggins

Candle Lighters
Charlie & Heidi Coxson

Reader
Martha Rich

The church office will be closed December 24th through January the 2nd.

Advent Banner

In our Advent banner design, people bow in prayer poses along the Earth (see the abstract figures in the bottom right portion of the composition). Light shines down from the heavens in rays of light. On either side are stars, doves, and hands. The hands represent people overcoming fear and making room for the steadfast love of God in their midst. The doves represent the Holy Spirit showing us the way and journeying alongside us. The stars represent the visionaries in the scriptures of the Advent season paving the way for the coming of the Messiah. The angels are glowing in the open spaces of the heavens. Arriving with power and a fearful strength, they use the imperative mood, “Do not fear!” to direct those listening in every time and place. God requires us to overcome our fears.

THE MORAVIAN LOVEFEAST

The holding of lovefeasts in the fashion of the Apostolic Church has come to be one of the outstanding and valued customs of the Moravian Church. The service, which originated in the first gatherings of Christians after Pentecost, was adopted in the Moravian Church in 1727 during a time of great spiritual blessing.

In the fullest liturgical sense, the Lovefeast is a service of solemn dignity. It is primarily a song service. The hymns in the ode furnish the subject matter for devotional thoughts rather than an address, although a sermon or meditation can be included in the order of worship.

**Bryson City
Presbyterian Church**
December 24, 2025



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