

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship

December 20th, 2020

Indoor Worship Service

Now some are lost in shopping malls and some on battlefields
And some are lost in suburbs and some on capitol hills
Some are lost on terminal wards or in a nursing home
And some are equally as lost in between their headphones
But whatever your coordinates on your map of shame
Rather close or far away we're all lost just the same

The birth of births was like a death
Under that hallowed star
Still every father know and cares
Where his sons and daughters are

Bill Mallonee, "Every Father Knows"

"It's still not Christmas, but it's also still not the great last Advent, the last coming of Christ. Through all the Advents of our life that we celebrate runs the longing for the last Advent, when the word will be: 'See, I am making all things new' (Rev. 21:5)."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *God is in the Manger*

O King within the child within the clay,
O hidden King who shapes us in the play
Of all creation. Shape us for the day
Your coming Kingdom comes into its own.

Malcom Guite, *O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations)*

"Remember that this God in whose hand are all creatures, is your Father, and is much more tender of you than you are, or can be, of yourself."

John Flavel, *Keeping the Heart*

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.
You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9:1-7

O Come All Ye Faithful

O come all ye faithful / Joyful and triumphant
O come ye O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him / Born the King of angels

O come let us adore Him / O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him / Christ the Lord

Sing choirs of angels / Sing in exultation
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above
Glory to God, all, / Glory in the highest

Yea Lord we greet Thee / Born this happy morning
Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n
Word of the Father / Late in flesh appearing

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God With Us

Oh You've come to bring peace to be Love / To be nearer to us
You've come to bring life to be Light / To shine brighter in us / Oh Emmanuel God with us

*Our Deliverer You are Savior / In Your presence we find our strength
Over ev'rything our Redemption / God with us / You are God with us*

Oh You've come to be Hope to this world / For Your honor and name
And You've come to take sin to bear shame / And to conquer the grave / Oh Emmanuel God with us

You are here / You are holy / We are standing in Your glory (REPEAT)

by Leslie Jordan © 2012 Open Hands Music and Integrity's Praise! Music

Call to Confession

Davis Mooney

Confession of Sin

O Promised Christ,
our lives are filled with sin.
We overlook our neighbor's needs
and do not love you above all else.
Our rescue depends on your coming.
We are a world divided by conflict.
Our peace depends on your coming.
We are a guilty people.
Our pardon depends on your coming.
We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises;
our only hope of doing your will
is that you should come and empower us to do it.
Lord Christ, Word made flesh,
our world waits
for your rescue,
for your peace,
for your pardon,
for your power,
and for your grace.
Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins . . .
you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

Isaiah 40:1-2 and Matthew 1:21

His Mercy Is More

What love could remember no wrongs we have done / Omniscient all knowing He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore / Our sins they are many His mercy is more

*Praise the Lord His mercy is more / Stronger than darkness new every morn
Our sins they are many His mercy is more*

What patience would wait as we constantly roam / What Father so tender is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest the vilest the poor / Our sins they are many His mercy is more

What riches of kindness He lavished on us / His blood was the payment His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford / Our sins they are many His mercy is more

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Passing of the Peace of Christ

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

Welcome and Prayers of the People

Sarah Beam

Offering

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow/ Praise him all creatures here below
Praise him above ye heavenly hosts/ Praise father, son, and holy ghost

Life Together

Ethan Smith

ATTENDING TO GOD'S WORD

“The Thing Everyone Needs This Christmas”

Ethan Smith

¹ Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence—
² as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
and that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³ When you did awesome things that we did not look for,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴ From of old no one has heard
or perceived by the ear,
no eye has seen a God besides you,
who acts for those who wait for him.
⁵ You meet him who joyfully works righteousness,

those who remember you in your ways.
Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;
in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?
⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷ There is no one who calls upon your name,
who rouses himself to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.

⁸ But now, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹ Be not so terribly angry, O Lord,
and remember not iniquity forever.
Behold, please look, we are all your people.
¹⁰ Your holy cities have become a wilderness;
Zion has become a wilderness,
Jerusalem a desolation.
¹¹ Our holy and beautiful house,
where our fathers praised you,
has been burned by fire,
and all our pleasant places have become ruins.
¹² Will you restrain yourself at these things, O Lord?
Will you keep silent, and afflict us so terribly?

Isaiah 64:1-12

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God

The Lord's Supper

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Leader: Therefore let us proclaim the mystery of the faith.

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Lord's Supper Instructions

- We invite those seated furthest away from the pulpit to come to the table first. An usher will tell you when to come.
- Households may approach together. We ask that each household practice physical distancing when awaiting their turn.
- Communicants will cup their hands, ready to receive the bread.
- Another server will make a cup available for each communicant to pick up. Wine is the darker liquid and grape juice is the lighter liquid.
- Young children who have made a profession of faith may partake in the Lord's Supper when they have met with and been approved by the Session.

ENGAGING GOD'S WORLD

Immanuel

From the squalor of a borrowed stable / By the Spirit and a virgin's faith
To the anguish and the shame of scandal / Came the Savior of the human race
But the skies were filled / With the praise of heav'n / Shepherds listen as the angels tell
Of the gift of God come down to man / At the dawning of Immanuel

King of heaven now the friend of sinners / Humble servant in the Father's hands
Filled with power and the Holy Spirit / Filled with mercy for the broken man
Yes He walked my road and He felt my pain / Joys and sorrows that I know so well
Yet His righteous steps give me hope again / I will follow my Immanuel

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal / He was lifted on a cruel cross
He was punished for a world's transgressions / He was suffering to save the lost
He fights for breath He fights for me/ Loosing sinners from the claims of hell
And with a shout our souls are free/ Death defeated by Immanuel

Now He's standing in the place of honor / Crowned with glory on the highest throne
Interceding for His own beloved / 'Til His Father calls to bring them home
Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds / Hope of heaven or the fear of hell
But the bride will run to her Lover's arms / Giving glory to Immanuel

by Stuart Townend © 1999 Thankyou Music

Benediction

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.”

Numbers 6:24-26

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the author and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Prayer for Those Searching for the Truth

Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

LIFE TOGETHER

Condolences: We extend our deepest sympathies to Susan Mitchell, Peter and their entire family. Susan's mother, Eleanor Kveton (October 9th, 1928 - December 16th, 2020), passed away this past Wednesday afternoon in Sarasota, FL. We are thankful that Susan and her siblings were able to be present with her mother to say goodbye, but we grieve their loss and pray for God's peace.

Congregational Meeting: We will have a Congregational Meeting on January 10th for the purpose of voting on the Deacon candidates who have been nominated by the congregation and trained by the Session. We will publish brief bios of the candidates in the weeks to come so that the congregation can vote with confidence in these prospective officers of the church. Please review the biblical qualifications for deacons from 1 Timothy 3 in the weeks to come and pray for God's blessing on the process.

Childcare During the Indoor Worship Service: Two nursery rooms (previous Infant & Ones rooms) will be open for individual family use. The rooms are equipped with TV's displaying the morning worship livestream and surfaces will be cleaned prior to the service. We are asking that those who use the space, please sign in on the door prior to entering the space and place toys used in the "Used Toy" container upon leaving.

Life Groups: Life Groups are smaller communities (typically 12-15 adults) made up of members, regular attenders, and friends of Hope Church that meet anywhere from once a week to twice a month. hopechurchws.org/lifegroups

Women's Book Study: Women of all ages & stages are invited to attend a study about trust using Brennan Manning's book, *Ruthless Trust*, as a guide. We will meet every Wednesday, 7:30-9:00pm, starting January 13th. It is a hybrid gathering, you can attend in-person or via Zoom. Please register at hopechurchws.org/womens-ministry.

Women's Bible Study: We welcome women to join us for a weekly Bible Study in the Psalms. Groups will start meeting the week of January 18th. There are both virtual and in-person group options available. Please register in the Church Center App or at hopechurchws.org/womens-ministry.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Meals Needed: John Hall had surgery this week and will have a long recovery. If you would like to provide a meal for the Halls, please sign up here: www.TakeThemAMeal.com/MARF8675.

Deacon Request - Help With Rental Housing: Patti O'Neil is a regular attender at Hope and is the single foster mom of two young, special needs boys. Patti has an ongoing problem with flooding and mildew in the basement of her rental home and is worried about this affecting her boys' health. If anyone has knowledge of a small house for them to rent, please contact Jeanne Lenham at the Hope Church Office at office@hopechurchws.org or call the office at (336) 768-8883.

Winter Overflow Shelter: Help is needed to pack and deliver lunch and dinner meals to shelter guests on Saturdays. hopechurchws.org/wintershelter