

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship

December 6th, 2020

Indoor Worship Service

“The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come . . . Life in a prison cell may well be compared to Advent; one waits, hopes, and does this, that, or the other - things that are really of no consequence - the door is shut, and can be opened only from the outside.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, from Tegel Prison, 1943

“As a general rule, Americans are a people of action. We don’t take long lunches like the French. We don’t take siestas like the Spanish . . . we Americans think of ourselves as busy, busy, busy making things happen . . . and we are a bit impatient with those who aren’t as full of energy as we are. We don’t like passivity. We don’t like waiting around. So the theme of waiting and watching that permeates the Advent season strikes a false note with us. We give lip service to it, but we don’t take it very seriously. We don’t want to sit around watching and waiting. We want to speed things up. We want to move things along. If God isn’t going to bring the kingdom, we’ll bring it ourselves. That’s our American way.”

Fleming Rutledge, *Advent: The Once and Future Coming of Jesus Christ*

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

Matthew 5:9

GATHERING IN GOD’S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;
to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,
the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

Luke 1:68-75

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;

From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth;
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;
By his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

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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 the dark streets shineth / The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years / Are met in thee tonight

How silently how silently / The wondrous gift is given
So God imparts to human hearts / The blessings of His heaven
No ear may hear His coming / But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive Him still / The dear Christ enters in

O holy Child of Bethlehem / Descend to us we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in / Be born in us today
We hear the Christmas angels / The great glad tidings tell
O come to us abide with us / Our Lord Emmanuel

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Call to Confession

Ethan Smith

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

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear / That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth / To touch their harps of gold
Peace on the earth good will to men / From heaven's all gracious King
The world in solemn stillness lay / To hear the angels sing

And ye beneath life's crushing load / Whose forms are bending low
Who toil along the climbing way / With painful steps and slow
Look now for glad and golden hours / Come swiftly on the wing
O rest beside the weary road / And hear the angels sing

For lo the days are hastening on / By prophet bards foretold
When with the ever-circling years / Comes round the age of gold
When peace shall over all the earth / Its ancient splendors fling

And the whole world give back the song / Which now the angels sing

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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

Jeff Trollinger

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

David Speakman

ATTENDING TO GOD'S WORD

“What Are We Waiting For?: Peace”

David Speakman

¹ There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

² And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;

and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

Isaiah 11:1-10

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

We Will Feast In The House Of Zion

We will feast in the house of Zion / We will sing with our hearts restored

He has done great things we will say together / We will feast and weep no more

We will not be burned by the fire / He is the Lord our God

We are not consumed by the flood / Upheld protected gathered up

In the dark of night before the dawn / My soul be not afraid
For the promised morning oh how long / Oh God of Jacob be my strength

Every vow we've broken and betrayed / You are the faithful one
And from the garden to the grave / Bind us together bring shalom

by Sandra McCracken © 2015 © Drink Your Tea Music and joshmooreownsthismusic

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

Childcare During the Outdoor Worship Service: The playground area is open and staffed at 11:00am as a nursery space for children, from walkers to 3-years-old, during the Outdoor Worship Service. Check-in will be required upon arrival, which will include Covid screening questions.

Toddler Sensory Playtime: A snow-themed, socially-distanced event designed for our walkers to preschool-aged children on December 8th, from 3:30-4:30pm. Registration deadline is December 6th. hopechurchws.org/toddler

Children's Gaga Ball and Playground: Join us for an hour of Gaga Ball, playground, and field fun Tuesday, December 8th from 3:30-4:30pm. Register at hopechurchws.org/play.

Men's Meetchup: Joymongers Barrel Hall, December 10th, anytime between 7:30-9:30pm. All men are welcome to join this informal time to connect. A food truck is usually parked out front, with eats and non-alcoholic beverages. Contact Ethan Smith at esmith@hopechurchws.org for more information.

All-Youth Secret Santa Gift Exchange and Zoom Game Night: Sign up by December 11th to be entered into our Secret Santa Gift Exchange. Then join us for a game night on December 18th. hopechurchws.org/youthchristmas

Cocoa and Carols: Join us for a family-friendly Cocoa and Carols event on December 19th at 3:30pm. More information and registration can be found at hopechurchws.org/cocoa.

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

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