

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship

December 5th, 2021

11:00am

“The announcement of John’s birth begins a series of great events that ring through the corridors of time and eternity as God’s salvation comes to fruition.”

Darrell L. Bock

"Aged priest tending the fires of incense,
You mistrust the angel’s sudden visit,
Counting pledges of answered prayer nonsense
For an old man, an old woman, neither fit.
You temporize, reluctant to submit.
I, too, inquire, “What’s the evidence?”
Even as I stoke altar fires with sweet incense.”

Christine H. Boldt, "Dumbstruck"

“I don’t think you should write something as long as a novel around anything that is not of the gravest concern to you and everybody else, and for me this is always the conflict between an attraction for the Holy and the disbelief in it that we breathe in with the air of our times. It’s hard to believe always but more so in the world we live in now.”

Flannery O’Connor

CALL TO WORSHIP

“O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan’s tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save, and give them vic’try o’er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.”

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord. We light this candle in love. The love that Jesus, our Savior, has for us.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord.

Come Lord Jesus to Redeem Us

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

CALL TO CONFESSION

Confession of Sin

O Father, we are gathered before you, the Maker of Heaven and Earth, whose chosen dwelling place is with the broken and contrite, to confess that we have sinned in thought and word and deed; we have not loved you with all our heart and soul, we have not loved you with all our mind and strength; we have not even loved our neighbor as ourselves. But with you there is forgiveness. In your mercy, restore to us the joy of our salvation so that we may love you and magnify your holy name. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

“Sing, Daughter Zion;
shout aloud, Israel!
Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem!
The Lord has taken away your punishment,
he has turned back your enemy.
The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you;
never again will you fear any harm.
The Lord your God is with you,
the Mighty Warrior who saves.
He will take great delight in you;
in his love he will no longer rebuke you,
but will rejoice over you with singing.”

Zephaniah 3:14-15, 17

Hark a Thrilling Voice is Sounding

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

Ethan Smith

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

PREACHING OF THE WORD

“A Divine Announcement in Routine Longing”

Davis Mooney

⁵ In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

⁸ Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹ according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. ¹¹ And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴ And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. ¹⁶ And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷ and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

¹⁸ And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” ¹⁹ And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.” ²¹ And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. ²² And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. ²³ And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴ After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, ²⁵ “Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”

Luke 1:5-25

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.

Congregation: *And also with you.*

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: *We lift them up to the Lord.*

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

Congregation: *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

Leader: Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

BENEDICTION

²⁴ The Lord bless you and keep you;

²⁵ the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

²⁶ 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

Worship Service Changes: Beginning this Sunday, December 5th, we will offer **two indoor services** at Hope. The early service (9:00am) will be a mask-required service. The later service (11:00am) will be a mask-optional service.

Childcare During Indoor Worship Services: Please **reserve** your nursery spot for indoor childcare for infants-36 months. This is the best way to secure your nursery slot. As the church transitions to new schedules, availability will be adjusted according to weekly average attendance numbers and staffing availability. **We may not be able to accommodate those who do not pre-register.** Please be patient with us as we go through this transition process and determine the best way to serve our youngest members. A link to register can be found at hopechurchws.org/worship.

Prayer Requests: text **hopeprayers** to 94000 if you would like to send us your prayer requests.

Advent Kits for Children: Simple Advent kits will be available for families of toddlers and elementary children at church November 21st through December 5th. For questions or to arrange an alternate pickup, please reach out to Sarah Beam at children@hopechurchws.org.

London Mission Trip Interest Meeting - January 9th, 12:30pm: Pastors Ethan and Davis will be leading a mission trip next summer to serve with Serge missionaries in London. The dates are July 3-11, 2022, and the trip is open to both adults and youth (current 9th grade and up). Come hear what God is up to in London and how we'll be joining in that work! Lunch will be provided, but please RSVP at hopechurchws.org/london.

Women's Bible Study: We will be offering two opportunities for women to study the life of Elijah and Elisha (I Kings 17- II Kings 2) together this Spring. You may join us on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm in the Adult Sunday School Room or on Wednesday mornings at 9:30am in the Worship Center. Childcare will be available on Wednesday mornings so please indicate your need for childcare when you register. Our registration deadline is Wednesday, January 5th. If you already registered for the I Peter study in the Fall, no need to register again. Registration link can be found at hopechurchws.org/women.

Women's Wednesday Evening Study: All women are welcome to join us on January 12th, 2022, 7:30-9:00pm we will dive into *Gentle and Lowly* by Dane Ortlund. We will meet weekly on Wednesday evenings in various homes. For more information, contact Sue Spainhour, spainhourj13@gmail.com.

Mother's Nursing Room: The indoor nursing room is available. For the safety of everyone, but especially these precious new babies, please use wise judgment concerning social distancing.

MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK

J&K have continued to work overseas doing Christian counseling. This has been challenging work, particularly considering their location and the work they do (often their counseling is with women who have been abused).

Prayer Requests: They ask that we very specifically pray for encouragement in the midst of really discouraging situations. Please pray for grace, love, patience and wisdom. Ask that the things that have been hidden will be exposed no matter what the cost. Pray for their continued safety from the physical and spiritual.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Moving Help Needed: Gretchen Ehrlich will be moving from Mocksville into Winston-Salem on Saturday December 11th. If you can help load/unload a truck, please let her know at 336-414-3322 or gretchene1969@gmail.com.