

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship

December 25th, 2022

Christmas Day

“Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love’s sake becamest man;
Stooping so low but sinners raising,
Heavenward by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love’s sake becamest man.”

Frank Houghton

“No matter how much we give lip service to the notion of free grace and dying love, we do not like it. It is just too . . . indiscriminate. It lets rotten sons and crooked tax farmers and common tarts into the kingdom, and it thumbs its nose at the really good people. And it does that, gallingly, for no more reason than the Gospel’s shabby exaltation of dumb trust over worthy works. The work of redemption is done entirely by the Redeemer and not at all by the redeemed!”

Robert Farrar Capon

“We need a Savior – even (or especially) we who think that we are good Christians.”

Frederick Dale Bruner

“One of the most unbelievable parts of the Christmas story is that a bunch of men showed up to a child’s birthday party and remembered presents!”

Will Nettleton

CALL TO WORSHIP

“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’ Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the Lord returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.”

Leader: All God’s people - Boys and girls, women, men:

All: *Come and worship!*

Leader: Shepherds, Magi, saints, and angels:

All: *Come and worship! Come and worship!*

Leader: All who need a Savior, all who long for His joy:

All: *Come and worship, come and worship Christ, the newborn King!*

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! / O 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, now in flesh appearing:

by C. Frederick Oakeley and John Francis Wade © Public Domain

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Leader: Jesus, Son of the living God, splendor of the Father,
All: Lord, we praise you!

Leader: Jesus, King of glory,
All: Lord, we praise you!

Leader: Jesus, Wonderful Counselor,
All: Lord, we praise you!

Leader: Jesus, Mighty God,
All: Lord, we praise you!

Leader: Jesus, Everlasting Father.
All: Lord, we praise you!

Leader: Jesus, Prince of Peace,
All: Lord, we praise you!

Leader: Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, our help, and our refuge,
All: Lord, we praise you!

Leader: Jesus, Good Shepherd, Righteous Redeemer, Faithful Friend of sinners,
All: Lord, we praise you!

Leader: Jesus, Light of the World,
All: Lord, we praise you! Amen.

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 triumphs of the skies:
With th' angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold Him come: Offspring of a virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see: hail th' Incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings;
Mild, He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth; born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

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CALL TO CONFESSION

Confession of Sin

O Long Expected Jesus, born to us today,
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 at war.
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 God's Pardoning Grace

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. ... When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

Isaiah 40:1-2 and Galatians 4:4-5

Joy to the World!

Joy to the world; the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing;
And heav'n and nature sing; and heav'n — and heav'n and nature sing!

Joy to the earth; the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy;
Repeat the sounding joy; repeat — repeat the sounding joy!

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground:
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found;
Far as the curse is found; far as — far as the curse is found!

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love;
And wonders of His love; and wonders — wonders of His love!

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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

Offering & Doxology

Life Together

David Speakman

PREACHING OF THE WORD

“The Threat and Relief of Christmas”

David Speakman

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ ““And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.””

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Matthew 2:1-12

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.

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.*

Go, Tell It On The Mountain

Go! tell it on the mountain, / over the hills, and ev'rywhere;

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching / o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. (*Refrain*)

The shepherds feared and trembled / when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth: (*Refrain*)

Down in a lowly manger / the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn! (*Refrain*)

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BENEDICTION

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Romans 15:13

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.

Prayer Requests: Fill out the online prayer card at <https://bit.ly/3BkKMis>.

LIFE TOGETHER

New Year's Day Worship Service: We will gather for one worship service on New Year's Day at 11:00am. Nursery and livestream will not be provided.

First Wednesday Fellowship: Join us January 4th, 5-7pm for a drop-in dinner and fellowship time! No registration necessary - see you there!

Discovering Hope: This is our course on what it means to follow Jesus and participate as a member of a local church, and it is the next step for those who wish to become a member of Hope Church. Our next class offering will be: January 6-7th, a weekend version where we will cover everything in a Friday evening (7:30-9pm) and Saturday morning (9-11:30am). A link to register can be found at hopechurchws.org/DH.

The Gathering Hour: Women of Hope, please join us on Tuesday, January 10th at 9:30am for *The Gathering Hour*; a monthly morning of fellowship, with the purpose of connection. Coffee and nibbles will be provided and childcare is included. Friends and neighbors are welcome!

Women's Bible Studies:

- The Hebrews study will resume on January 10th (7pm) and 11th (9:30am). [Click here if you would like to join](#). You do not need to register again if you attended in the fall.
- The Wednesday Evening study will be reading [Love Walked Among Us by Paul Miller](#). Meetings will begin on January 11th at 7pm. Email Sue Spainhour (spainhourj13@gmail.com) for the location and a copy of the book.

Sunday School for all ages will resume on January 15th.

Marriage Weekend with The Barnabas Center - Save the Date! We are rescheduling our "Heart-to-Heart" marriage enrichment weekend for February 24-25, 2023. Details will be available in early January, but mark your calendars—you won't want to miss this opportunity to hear from counselors Ben Jones and Kristin Leathers, who will teach story-filled, Bible-based lectures designed to set up guided conversations between husband and wife afterwards.

FINANCIAL STANDING AS OF DECEMBER 19th, 2022				
	Actual	Budget	Difference	
Tithes & Offerings	\$971,555	\$948,168	\$ 23,387	2.47%
Expenses	\$896,999	\$970,286	\$ (73,287)	-7.55%
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 74,556	\$ (22,118)	\$ 96,674	
Annual Ministry Budget: \$978,000				

