

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

INTROIT “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (verse. 1) No. 154

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Have you seen it...the Spark of Hope which God is placing among us?

People: All we can see is hectic lives, crowded stores, darkness and fear.

Leader: Look again...the Spirit of God is moving, bringing hope.

People: We need to place our hope in God, but we are afraid.

Leader: A long time ago, people were afraid and God brought them to the Light.

All: May God bring that Light to us today as we have come to worship Him. May our worship of God begin now and be never ending as his gifts to us of grace and mercy! Amen.

*HYMN “Christ is Coming, Lift Your Eyes!” Insert

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

The Candle of Hope

Scripture Reading Luke 1:5-25, 57-80

“An angel from the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw the angel, he was startled and overcome with fear. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayers have been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will give birth to your son and you must name him John...He will make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

Hymn (Sung to tune of “Away in a Manger”)

*The candle of hope that we light in this hour
Proclaims that Lord Jesus is coming in power.
We wait for a future, now hidden from view,
When Christ in his glory will make all things new.*

**If you are able to do so comfortably, please stand*

NEWS AND NOTES

1. A very special welcome back and thanks to our supply pastor for the month of November, Rev. Russ Chamberlain.
2. Hope Church is open and ready to welcome any members of the community who are in search of a warm and friendly place to worship. Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us in worship.

Those who are fully vaccinated are not required to wear masks during Sunday worship. All others are still required to wear masks except for children under the age of two. Everyone will be expected to sign in on our contact list.

If you are unable to attend the regular worship service of Hope Church in person on any given Sunday, the following is the information needed to livestream the service on YouTube or any time after and to get the Sunday bulletin to follow along with the service. A link to this week's livestream service and bulletin as well as those from past weeks is available at: hopecongrei.org/?page_id=90. You can click on the "plus" mark for any date to access the youtube address, the bulletin or the sermon title for that week.

3. Now that we are an in-person worship service congregation, Hope Church is in **need of your help and commitment** to serve on any one of the following committees in 2022:

Diaconate
Music Committee
Flower Committee
Ushers & Greeters
Christian Education
Christian Growth & Evangelism
Christian Fellowship
Council Member-at-large (1)
Conference Delegates

Please contact one of the following Deacons with your decision:
Cora Rose, Co-Chair @ (401) 829-0970
Lori Russell, Co-Chair @ (401) 241-7914

4. “**Get Crafty**” is meeting on **Thursdays at 6:30 pm** at the church building. Come and join the fun and fellowship while working on crafts.
5. Enclosed is the **order form for poinsettias** to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas services. The deadline is **December 12th**.



Each year for the Christmas holiday, Hope Church has “Adopt a Family” Christmas stars which appear on a tree outside the office. These are available for any group or individual from the church to take, wishing to make some children extra happy at Christmas. On the stars are the sex, age and likes (gift suggestions) of local children in need of Christmas gifts as suggested by Hope Church members and friends. Please contact Deacon Cora Rose at (401) 431-4002 or at charbee01@msn.com by November 30th if you know of a local family in need of Christmas gift assistance this year. (All names will remain confidential.)

Stars may be taken off the tree outside the office beginning on Sunday, December 5th after worship or you may contact Shirley at the office (434-2415) to pick up a star on a Monday-Friday morning. All wrapped gifts must be into the church office by Friday, December 17th with the star attached to the package.

If you would like to make a monetary donation toward the purchase of “Adopt a Family” gifts, please make checks payable to Hope Church and earmarked “Adopt a Family” and mailed to the church office. Any donation would be greatly appreciated!



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Hope Congregational Church United Church of Christ

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***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

It is so easy for us, Lord, to let the anger, frustration, and fear overshadow our lives. We can't seem to escape it. We try to find some way to cover it up, but it remains. And in our anxiety, we act out of fear in ways which are not helpful and, far too often, go against the ways you have taught us to live. We feel the pressure to give, and resentment in giving. We feel the push to be present at every upcoming event, and want to run and hide.

Help us, Lord. Heal our wounded spirits. Free us again to look to you for Hope. Let us see the many ways in which you are present to us...guiding, healing, loving, encouraging us. Forgive us for our fears and stubbornness. Bring us again to your Light, for we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Hear the good news: "The days are coming," says the prophet Isaiah, "when all God's promises will be fulfilled." These promises of hope, peace, joy and love are for you. Receive the hope that God offers to you today.

All: Thanks be to God!

***GLORIA PATRI**

No. 734

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:26-56

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

SERMON "Empowering Interventions"

*HYMN "Come, Thou Almighty King" (verses 1-3) No. 148

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastoral Prayer (including prayer concerns)

Time of Silent Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father Who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer Response "Jesus, Name Above All Names" No. 177

DELIGHTING IN GIVING

(The offering plates are at the back of the sanctuary.)

Invitation to Present Our Offerings

Offertory "Like a Child" *Andrew Foster*

*Doxology "Give Thanks" No. 359

*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Ever-present God, be present in these gifts, that others may know your loving presence. Make them be signs of your presence, signs of your love, signs of Christ, and signs of Christmas love. In gratitude and hope, we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN "Come and Find the Quiet Center" No. 477

*BENEDICTION

Leader: What we do now, you and me, will effect eternity. God's counting on me. God's counting on you

People: What we do now, you and me, will effect eternity. God's counting on me. God's counting on you.

Leader: Hoping we'll all pull through, hoping we'll all pull through, hoping we all pull through, me and you.

People: Hoping we'll all pull through, hoping we'll all pull through, hoping we all pull through, me and you.

Leader: God be in our heads and in our understandings.

People: God be in our eyes and in our looking.

Leader: God be in our mouths and in our speaking.

People: God be in our hearts and in our caring.

All: God be at the end and at our departing. Amen. Amen.

*POSTLUDE

GUEST PASTOR - Rev. Russ Chamberlain

MUSIC DIRECTOR - Kim Kuda

DEACON & LAY READER - Cora Rose

DEACON OF THE MONTH - Ray Hassell

MUSIC TEAM - Kim Kuda, Andrew Foster