



*Hope Congregational Church
United Church of Christ*

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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... For nothing will be impossible with God."

Hymn (Sung to tune of "Away in a Manger")

*The candle of peace shines so bright with God's plan.
The wolf will lie down and will dwell with the lamb.
Our guns and our weapons, our hatred and war,
Will give way to gardens that heal and restore.*

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin, as though there was no justice. We live in fear, as though there was no grace. Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us to your truth, and teach us your paths, for You are the God of our salvation. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Friends, believe the Good News. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God.

***GLORIA PATRI**

No. 734

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my

holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

SERMON **“You’ll Shoot Your Eye Out”**

*HYMN “O Day of Peace” Insert

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 “Let the Church Say Amen”

Let the church say amen, Let the church say amen,
Altogether, let the church say amen.

DELIGHTING IN GIVING (Plates are at the back of the sanctuary.)

Invitation to Present Our Offerings
Offertory “We Pray for Peace”
*Doxology “Give Thanks” No. 359

*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

God of All Generations, in faith and hope we offer our gifts of money and of self, that we may be part of what you are doing in the world even now, as we watch for the coming of the Christ Child. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table
UCC Statement of Faith Back of hymnal
Communion Prayer
Sharing of the Bread and Cup (non-alcoholic)
Hymn “Waiting in Silence”

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

We thank you for nourishing us at this, your table. We thank you for the cloud of witnesses with whom we have gathered, and with whom we continue to gather. We thank you for the grace you have shown, and for the healing mercy you have given. We thank you that in these simple elements, you have shown us the path to deeper fellowship with you and with each other. May we never take this holy moment for granted. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” No. 71

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION - We invite you to sing with us:

*Now may the God of love fill you with joy and peace in believing.
May you abound in all joy, may you abound in all hope.
By the power of the spirit, the spirit of God,
The spirit of God be with you.*

GUEST PASTOR - Jonathan Ryder
MUSIC DIRECTOR - Kim Kuda
DEACON & LAY READER - Lori Russell
MUSIC TEAM - Andrew Foster, Sangho Nam, Kim Kuda



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 Wednesday, December 7th 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 11th after worship or you may contact Shirley at the office (434-2415) to pick up a star or to get the information from one of the stars in order to purchase gifts. All wrapped gifts must be into the church office by Sunday, December 18th, 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!

NEWS AND NOTES

1. We welcome **Jonathan Ryder** back to Hope Church and thank him for serving as our guest pastor for the Sundays in December. There will be **no worship on Sundays, December 25 and January 1.** **There will be a Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 p.m.**
2. Hope Church has been saddened this week by the passing of our long-time and devoted member, **Howard Partridge**, who passed away on November 29.
3. Please see an additional page for details regarding our “**Adopt a Family**” Christmas giving stars.
4. Please see the enclosed **order form for poinsettias** to grace our sanctuary for the Christmas worship services. Please note that all orders must be received by **next Sunday, December 11th.**
5. The “**Get Crafty**” group meets every **Thursday from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** Please bring your own crafts to work on as we enjoy fellowship with one another. Leave your stress at home! Everyone is welcome!
6. Don’t forget that “**SCRIP**” **gift cards** are still available to use instead of cash or credit card at your favorite retailer especially for **your Christmas gifts.** Orders for Christmas should be in to Rick Bushnell as soon as possible.
7. Don’t forget your used clothing for the **St. Pauly shed.**
8. **In light of the contagions with the emerging strains of Covid, we are encouraging people to wear masks, even if vaccinated, during worship.** Everyone will also 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 that week.