

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

Second Sunday of Advent - Holy Communion

December 5, 2021

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

INTROIT "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verse. 4) No. 154

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: There will be signs in the heavens and distress among the nations;

All: When Christ returns in power and glory, people will faint in fear.

One: But when you see these things, lift up your heads;

All: Our redemption is drawing near!

One: Heaven and Earth may pass away,

All: But the Word of God will stand unshaken.

Let us gather to worship together.

*HYMN "We Have Come to Join in Worship" No. 647

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

The Candle of Peace

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26-37

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.

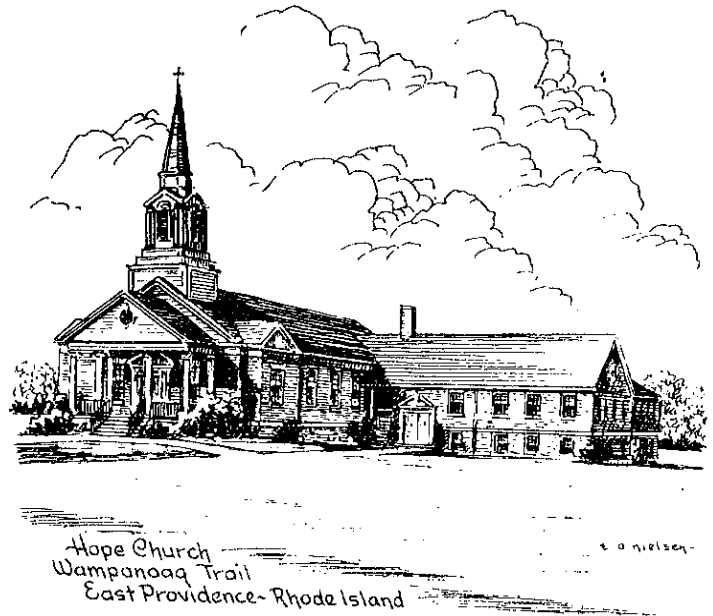
And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear 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... For nothing will be impossible with God."

NEWS AND NOTES

1. A very special welcome back and thanks to our supply pastor for the month of December, Jonathan Ryder.
2. Our **guest speaker, next Sunday, December 12**, will be **Rev. Dr. Patty Kogut**, Southeast Region-Area Conference Minister. Please encourage others to join us as we welcome our Conference Minister.
3. **"Adopt a Family" stars** are on the tree outside the office. Please take a star or two to make Christmas extra special for some needy children. All wrapped gifts must be into the church office by **Friday, December 17th with the star attached to the package**. Thanks.
4. Enclosed is the **order form for poinsettias** to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas services. The **deadline is next Sunday, December 12th**.
5. **3 M's Christmas Luncheon will be on Friday, December 17th** at The Crossroad Pub in Warren at 12:30 p.m. Anyone interested in attending should call Sarah Tonole at 392-1978.
6. **"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.
7. 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.**

In light of the emerging contagions with the Omicron strain of the virus, we are asking/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: hopecongri.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.



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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 spirits are restless ‘til sin and war cease.
One candle is lit for the reign of God’s peace.*

*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 READINGS Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

James 5:7-11

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Indeed we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

SERMON "The Waiting is the Hardest Part"

*HYMN "Lord of All Hopefulness" No. 469

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 "Peace, Peace, Peace" Andrew Foster

*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"

Kim Kuda

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 "God, Your Gift of Peace is Precious" Insert

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

GUEST PASTOR - Jonathan Ryder

MUSIC DIRECTOR - Kim Kuda

DEACON & LAY READER - Donna Hassell-Winter

MUSIC TEAM - Andrew Foster, Dale Magnuson, Kim Kuda



Second Sunday of Advent