



Hope Church
Wampanoag Trail
East Providence - Rhode Island

**Hope Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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Hope Congregational UCC

Order of Worship 12-10-2023, 10:30 AM

2nd Sunday of Advent

**Gathering Music: “Every Valley” from
Messiah (by G.F. Handel) Austin
Burns, tenor**

Welcome & Announcements

CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Isaiah 40)

One: A voice cries out declaring God’s presence.
Comfort, O Comfort my people, says God.

Many: **We come preparing the way of the Lord.
Together, we actively wait for God’s peace.**

One: A voice cries out declaring God’s equity.
Valleys shall be lifted, and Hills be made low.

Many: **We come to make straight in the desert a highway.
Together, we’re pressing toward God’s**

peace.

One: A voice cries out declaring steadfastness. Grass withers, flowers fade, but God's word stands forever.

All: We lift up our voices with strength and good tidings. Together, we carry out God's peace.

Opening Hymn: "Come Light of Light into My Heart"

Come light of lights 59

SING TOGETHER:

- Bring in both parts one by one.
- When the melodies are well established try singing as a round as indicated.

The musical score is written in 12/8 time. It features two parts: Part 1 (treble clef) and Part 2 (bass clef). The melody is divided into five sections labeled A, B, C, D, and E. The lyrics are: 'Come light of lights in - to my heart. Come wis - dom of spi - rit in - to my heart. Come wis - dom of spi - rit in - to my heart. Come'. The score includes repeat signs and a double bar line at the end.

Part 1 A B C D E
Come light of lights in - to my heart. Come

Part 2
Come light of lights in - to my heart. Come

wis - dom of spi - rit in - to my heart. Come

wis - dom of spi - rit in - to my heart. Come

Words: tr. from a Celtic chant of the Céile Dé order.
Music: Ruth Cunningham, © 2006 by Ruth Cunningham. Used by permission.

• May be sung with as few as two round groups on each part.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF PEACE -

Waiting for Peace

Reader One: “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” (Isaiah 11:9-10 NRSV)

Reader Two: We are the followers of that root of Jesse Isaiah spoke of. We are the ones who are now called to stand as a signal to the world, to all of creation, that peace is the will of the one who created us. Peace is the knowledge of the Lord that we proclaim from sea to shining sea.

Reader One: “In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea proclaiming. “Repent for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” And “bear fruit worthy of repentance” (Matthew 3:1,2, 8 NRSV).

Reader Two: We light these candles, the candle of joyful hope and the candle of proclaimed peace, in part to remind ourselves that we are a people rising toward God's promise. But we also light them as a sign to the world, an announcement there are some who hold on to hope and there are some who work the ways of peace. We stand as a sign that Emmanuel is still our fervent prayer.

*(Light the first two **Purple candles** on the Advent wreath)*

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION & RECONCILIATION

One: Spirit of God, who dwells within our hearts,
Wean it from that which aims to separate us from you.
In this moment of collective worship
Take the dimness of our souls away.

Many: **Let us seek you. Let us find you.**
Teach us to feel that you are always nigh
As we lift up our voices with strength

**to worship you.
Amen.**

Assurance of God's Grace

One: We come to you, Creator, not asking for
an empty or entitled peace;
We come to you asking that you call us to
the carpet.
Remind us to dig deeper to the wells of
truth.
Help us see beneath the surface level
arguments and beyond viral news clips.

**Many: Embolden us to be the revolutionaries
you have called us to be so that all
injustice might be eradicated and
peace that surpasses understanding
may reign.**

- **Gloria Patri**

*Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the **Spirit, One**;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen. Amen.*

A Time for All Ages / Story Moment

PASSING THE PEACE

Leader: God calls us to create a community
which welcomes all:
To care and love unconditionally,
To free us and create a welcome for all.
May the Peace of Christ be with you!

Many: And also with you!

Leader: Let share that welcome with each other,
that Love!

Scripture: Mark 1: 1-8 (NRSVUE) Deacon

1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ.

2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead
of you,

who will prepare your way,

3 the voice of one crying out in the
wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight,’”

4 so John the baptizer appeared in the
wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of
repentance for the forgiveness of

sins. ⁵ And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Sermon/Reflection: "Baptized into forgiveness" Rev. Bob

Hymn: "People Look East" No. 161

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Prayer Requests & Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer: (recited) (using "debts" and "debtors")

Prayer Response: Let the Church Say Amen
All

*Let the church say amen, Let the church say
amen,*

Altogether, let the church say amen.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY Rev. Bob

***Special Music: “Prepare Ye, the Way of the Lord” (from Godspell)
Austin & Music Team***

Offering Hymn: “Give Thanks”

*Give Thanks, with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his
Son.*

*And now let the weak say, “I am strong,”
Let the poor say, “I am rich,”
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks!*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

**We dedicate these gifts that have been shared
for the fortification of the beloved community.
Let these gifts usher peace into this world and
signal to the people that God is with us.
Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: “O Come, O Come
Emmanuel” No. 154**

Benediction

**Benediction Response (sung): “God Be with
You”**

*God be with you,
God be with you,
God be with you ‘till we meet again.*

*O---God be with you,
God be with you,
God be with you ‘till we meet again.*

**Recessional Music: “Comfort, Comfort Now
People” (No. 155) Austin &
Music Team**

Calendar & Announcements

- **Stewardship Reminder: *Please memorialize your commitment to our faith community. Your participation & donations enable us to spread Jesus' message of love to all!!!***
- Rev. Bob will be in the office this week.
 - Tuesday and Thursday at Hope
 - Wednesday at Riverside

If you wish to visit, contact Rev. Bob directly by phone, (401) 339-6134 or email, nolan062400@gmail.com to arrange your visit.

- The “**Get Crafty**” group meets at Hope Church on Thursday evenings at 6:30 PM. All are welcome. Meetings are suspended until January, 2024.
- ***Cobweb Community thrift shop @ Riverside Church Cobweb Shop***
Wednesday-Thursdays 9-12 & Second Saturdays of the month 9:00 AM-12:00 PM.
- ***Lighthouse Community food rescue mission @ Riverside Church*** Wednesdays 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Thursdays 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM, Fridays 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
- **Advent Book Read** – We will be reading the book, ***Holy Moments*** by Matthew Kelly. See

Rev. Bob for a copy. Stay tuned for dates and times!

- **Property & Finance Committee meets Tuesday (12/12) at 6 PM in the Pickett Room**
- **Deacons meet on Wednesday (12/13) at 6 PM on zoom.**

ORDER FOR POINSETTIAS

I would like to order Poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas services.

Please order for me:

_____ Poinsettias at \$15.00 each or

\$_____ Donation towards Christmas decorations

Total enclosed \$_____

Check one of the following:

_____ I will take my plant(s) home.

_____ Please give my plant(s) to a shut-in.

Dedication to read:

In loving memory of

_____ or

In honor of

Given by _____

Name: _____

Tel. #: _____

Please pay when ordering by December 17th!!