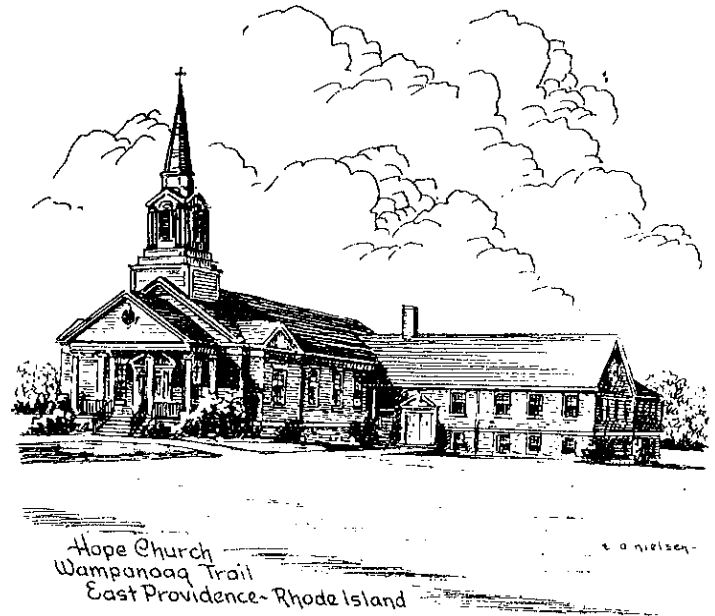


## NEWS AND NOTES

1. The **3M's Group** will have their monthly luncheon/meeting on **Tuesday, December 13th** at 12 noon at Twin Oaks in Cranston. *Everyone is welcome!* Please let Sarah Tonole know if you plan to attend.
2. **Stars** are on the tree outside the office for our **"Adopt a Family"** Christmas giving. 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." Any donation would be greatly appreciated! Please contact Deacon Cora Rose at (401) 829-0970 if you have any questions or need further information.
3. 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 **today!!**
4. There will be **no worship on Sundays, December 25 and January 1.** **There will be a Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 p.m.**
5. The **"Get Crafty"** group will meet on the **15th and the 29th** this month **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: [hopecongr.org/?page\\_id=90](http://hopecongr.org/?page_id=90). You can click on the "plus" mark for that week.



## *Hope Congregational Church United Church of Christ*

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# WORSHIP CELEBRATION

*Third Sunday of Advent*

**December 11, 2022**

**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

One: The earth and all that is in it belong to the Holy One.

**All: Look, here is our God, for whom we have waited.**

One: This is the Holy One, for whom we have waited.

**All: Let us be glad and rejoice in our salvation.**

One: Who shall ascend the hill of the Holy One? And who shall stand in this holy place?

**All: We come, seeking the face of God.**

\*HYMN                      “For the Music of Creation”                      Insert

## LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

The Candle of Joy

Scripture Reading    Matthew 1:18-25

*This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give*

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

*birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel” (which means “God with us”). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.*

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

*The candle of joy will remind us to sing.  
For God is at work, a new gift he will bring.  
The proud will be humbled, the lowly will rise.  
God’s kingdom is one of delight and surprise.*

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**Patient, Forgiving Spirit, we come seeking your face. We hold on to ancient angers and hurts, and refuse to believe that you alone can make all things new. Like Mary and Martha, we have forgotten your promises of eternal life. Like the crowd that mourned for Lazarus, we have not believed that we would see your glory. Forgive our unbelief, O God. Bring us back, and restore our trust in you. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The Holy One shows us a vision of a new heaven and a new earth, where everyone will live in peace and blessing. Trusting in God’s promise to wipe away all our tears, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen**

\*GLORIA PATRI

No. 734

SCRIPTURE READING 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.

## SERMON

“ ‘Maybe Christmas,’ He Thought, ‘Doesn’t Come From a Store’ ”

\*HYMN “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” No. 191

## 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 “Like a Child”

\*Doxology “Give Thanks” No. 359

\*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

**O God, from your abundant stores you have showered blessings upon us. To you, we return a portion of those blessings as a sign and symbol of our covenant with you. Accept these gifts, and use them to continue the work of your church in this world. Through Christ we pray, Amen.**

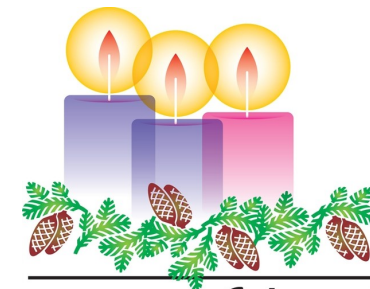
\*CLOSING HYMN “Lord, We Long for Words of Comfort” Insert

\*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



THIRD SUNDAY OF *Advent*