



Hope Church
Wampanoag Trail
East Providence - Rhode Island

**Hope Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
120 Wampanoag Trail
East Providence, Rhode Island 02915**

**Tel. (401) 434-2415 FAX (401) 434-2041
E-mail: hopechurchep@verizon.net**

[Facebook.com/HopeChurchRI](https://www.facebook.com/HopeChurchRI)

**Rev. Robert W. Nolan, Pastor
Cell (401) 339-6134
Email: nolan062400@gmail.com**

Hope Congregational UCC

Order of Worship 12-17-2023, 10:30 AM
3rd Sunday of Advent

- = Please Stand as you are able

•

Gathering Music: "Light One Candle"
by Peter Yarrow (of Peter, Paul, & Mary)
Austin & Music Team

Welcome & Announcements

Deacon Lori Russell

- **CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Isaiah 40)**

One: O magnify our God with me and let us
exalt God's name together.

Many: **Our souls magnify the Lord. Our spirits
rejoice in God our Savior!**

One: We will bless the Lord at all times;
God's praise shall continually be in our
mouths.

Many: **Our souls magnify the Lord.
God's mercy endures from generation
to generation.**

One: Let our souls makes their boasts in the Lord;
Let the humble hear and be glad.

All: Our souls magnify the Lord
for the Mighty One has done great things.

• **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 consists of three systems of staves. The first system has two staves: Part 1 (top) and Part 2 (bottom). Part 1 is divided into five sections labeled A, B, C, D, and E. The lyrics for Part 1 are: 'Come light of lights in - to my heart. Come'. Part 2 has the lyrics: 'Come light of lights in - to my heart. Come'. The second system has two staves with the lyrics: 'wis - dom of spi - rit in - to my heart. Come'. The third system has two staves with the lyrics: 'wis - dom of spi - rit in - to my heart. Come'. The score includes various musical notations such as treble clefs, time signatures, and note values.

Words: tr. from a Celtic chant of the Céille 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 JOY - Waiting for Joy

Reader One: We have lit the first two candles,
one for hope and one for peace.
Today we light the third candle, the

candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us—in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together.

Reader Two: Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share.

Reader One: But how often do we let our preparations—or our memories—push joy to the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude.

Reader Two: So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share.

(Light the first two Purple candles and the Pink candle on the Advent wreath)

**PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION &
RECONCILIATION Deacon Lori Russell**

One: Womb of Creation, we often get caught up
in what we do not have –
The material things we lack, the access
and privilege we may lack,
The answers, even, that seem to escape
us in crucial moments.
Forgive us for the times we forgot to
remember you.
Hold us accountable for the moments we
failed to see you in
The blessings of ages past.

Many: **Help us reconnect with our joy and our
gratitude. Remind us to name our joys,
our miracles, our deliverances, our
redemptions, one by one by one, for
you are there in them all.**

**Assurance of God's Grace (Inspired by Isaiah
61:1-4, 8-11)**

One: God of Mary, Mother of Jesus – and all of
the lowly who seek to be lifted –
God of Isaiah, who felt the Spirit upon him

calling him to bring Good News—
Let your Spirit fall upon us in this hour.
Out of the ruins, remind us of your
everlasting covenant.
Anoint us as we seek to share and
experience your Good News.

**Many: Bind our broken hearts. Awaken us to
the liberation within and among us.
Embolden us to proclaim your favor
As we seek you more deeply.
Amen.**

- **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

One: God calls us to create a community which
welcomes all:

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

**Special Music "Light of the World"
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 joy into this world and signal to the people that God is still setting captives free. Amen.

- ***Closing Hymn: “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” No. 344***

Benediction (Inspired by 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24):

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: “Don’t Let the Sun Go Down” by Elton John & Bernie Taupin
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 will resume meeting at Hope Church on Thursday evenings at 6:30 PM in January. All our welcome.
Prayer squares, a pocket-sized version of a prayer shawls is available to take with you and for someone you might know!

- **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

- Property and Finance Group will meet today after church.
- **Advent Book Read** – We will be reading the book, ***Holy Moments*** by Matthew Kelly. See Rev. Bob for a copy. Due to a change in the Property & Finance Committee meeting at Hope, we will resume meeting in January. Stay tuned . . .

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!!