

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

First Sunday after Christmas

December 26, 2021

10:00 a.m.

NEWS AND NOTES

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

INTROIT "Welcome, Jesus Christ"

Insert

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Praise the Lord!

All: Praise God in Heaven!

One: Praise the Lord from the Earth!

All: Young and old alike, men and women together!

One: Praise the Lord!

All: Alleluia! Amen!

*HYMN "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" No. 198

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God of wonder, you surround us with signs of your glory and surprise us with your presence, yet we often miss the marvels you place before us. Forgive our dullness and make us alert to the ways you make yourself known, that we might be witnesses to your good news and proclaim your extravagant love; through Jesus the Christ we pray, Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The Lord has forgiven us, let us also forgive one another.

All: Amen. Thanks be to God!

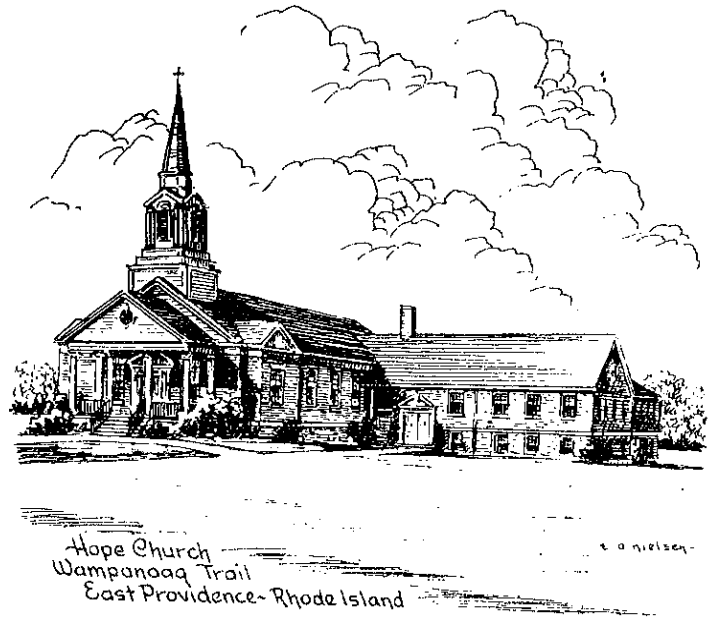
*GLORIA PATRI No. 734

1. As we begin the new year, **our guest pastor for January and February will be Rev. David Mehl.** Please make a special effort to attend Worship next Sunday, January 2nd, to welcome Rev. Mehl to Hope Church.
2. **2021 Annual Reports are due to the office by January 7th.** Please email them to the church office if possible.
3. **Annual Meeting - Sunday, January 23, 2022** after worship
4. 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: hopecongre.org/?page_id=90. You can click on the "plus" mark for that week.

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



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KEEPING CHRISTMAS

Henry Van Dyke

It is a good thing to observe Christmas day. The mere marking of times and seasons, when men agree to stop work and make merry together, is a wise and wholesome custom. It helps one to feel the supremacy of the common life over the individual life. It reminds a man to set his own little watch, now and then, by the great clock of humanity which runs on sun time.

But there is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day, and that is, keeping Christmas.

Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world; to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground; to see that your fellow-men are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life; to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness--are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and the desires of little children; to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old; to stop asking how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough; to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear on their hearts; to try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you; to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you; to make a grave for your ugly thoughts, and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open--are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world--stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death--and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas.

And if you keep it for a day, why not always?

But you can never keep it alone.

SCRIPTURE READING John 1:9-18

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

CONTEMPORARY READING

"Keeping Christmas" by Henry Van Dyke

SERMON "Good King Wenceslas Looked Out..."

*HYMN

"Carol at the Manger"

No. 199

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

(The offering plates are at the back of the sanctuary.)

Invitation to Present Our Offerings

Offertory "Good King Wenceslas"

*Doxology "Give Thanks" No. 359

*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Loving God, we give thanks for Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Receive the gifts we offer in union with Christ's gift for us. Clothe us with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, that we may be Christ for others. In his name we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" No. 218

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

GUEST PASTOR - Jonathan Ryder

MUSIC DIRECTOR - Kim Kuda

DEACON & LAY READER - Lori Russell

MUSIC TEAM - Andrew Foster, Dale Magnuson, Kim Kuda