



# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent December 3, 2023

New Hope Lutheran Church  
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[www.newhopegf.org](http://www.newhopegf.org) Rev. Tammy Bull

*Our mission: to share our faith in Christ by serving all with respectful compassion.*

## GATHERING

Gathering Music:

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude:

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who shapes the whole creation, who comes with might and mercy, who fills the hungry with good thing. **C: Amen.**

L: Let us approach the throne of grace with repentant hearts.

*(silence for reflection and self-examination)*

**C: Faithful God, we confess that we have been unfaithful to you. Like dry leaves and withered grass, our lives are blown about by our sins and the powers of evil around us. Restore us, O God; let the light of your face shine on us, and we shall be saved. Amen.**

L: God is patient, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. In the name of + Jesus Christ, I bring you this good news: You are free from all that imprisons you; your sins are forgiven; God heals your broken hearts. Live in peace and harmony as you wait for the day of God. **C: Amen.**

Gathering Song: Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

ELW #244

1. Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;  
The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.  
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.

2. The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near;  
Go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.
3. The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff'rings bore,  
Shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold;  
In triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.
4. Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;  
Arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see  
The day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

#### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

We Are Waiting For Jesus (v. 1)

ACS #905

1. We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.  
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.  
Sun of justice, shine upon us; we are trusting in your promise.  
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

The Advent Wreath is Lit - The candle of Hope

We pray... **Eternal God, as we light this candle, we thank you for your gift of hope. Give us patience as we wait for the coming of Christ. Amen.**

We Are Waiting for Jesus (v. 2)

2. We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.  
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.  
Loving Shepherd, walk beside us; stir our hearts, and gently guide us.  
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

L: Let us pray together the prayer of the day... **C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### **WORD**

L: The 1<sup>st</sup> Reading is from Isaiah 64:1-9

L: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Psalm: 80:1-7, 17-19

L: Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;

**C: shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.**

L: In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.

**C: Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

L: O Lord God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

**C: You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.**

L: You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

**C: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

L: Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.

**C: And so we will never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.**

L: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;

**C: let your face shine upon us and we shall be saved.**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

L: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

ACS p. 33

L: The holy Gospel is according to Mark, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

L: The gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Children's Time

Sermon

Rev. Tammy Bull

Hymn of the Day: Each Winter as the Year Grows Older

ELW #252

1. Each winter as the year grows older, we each grow older, too.  
The chill sets in a little colder; the verities we knew seem shaken and untrue.
2. When race and class cry out for treason, when sirens call for war,  
They over-shout the voice of reason and scream till we ignore  
all we held dear before.
3. Yet I believe beyond believing that life can spring from death,  
That growth can flower from our grieving, that we can catch our breath  
and turn transfixed by faith.
4. So even as the sun is turning to journey to the north,  
The living flame, in secret burning, can kindle on the earth  
and bring God's love to birth.
5. O Child of ecstasy and sorrows, O Prince of peace and pain,  
Brighten today's world by tomorrow's, renew our lives again;  
Lord Jesus, come and reign!

## Reception of New Members

Today we welcome the following persons by transfer from other ELCA congregations: *Jera Anderson; Russ Bates & Marcia Swenson; Steve & Linda Bennetts; Myrna DeBolt; Charlotte Depping; Crystal Dewell; Scott Friskics, Jennifer Smith & Colin Smith-Friskics; Cheyenne Hall & Elle Fay Thomas; Julie & Rich Haviland; Greg & Holly Hesel; Jennifer & Addie Johnson; Jaclyn Kurtz; John, Carrie & Charlie Parker; Deana Peterson; Pat Sponheim; Arvin Swenson; Rose Ulery; Barbara Valentine; Blenda Varner; Rob, Mari, Matthew, Erica & Jim Wilbur; Donna Winters*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

### Prayers of the People

P: As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the needs of the Church, the human family, and all the world.

Prayer Refrain: Hear Our Prayer

ELW #178

Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:

Peace to all people, hope for each soul.

God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

(The prayers continue and each petition ends... "God of grace... **hear our prayer.**"  
At the conclusion of the last petition, we sing ELW #178 once again.)

### Sharing the Peace of Christ

L: the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.      **C: And also with you.**

**The Offering:** (At this time we bring our gifts and offerings to God in gratitude and joy. In response to God's love, we care for others in the name of Jesus. We do this, in part, by extending our weekly worship beyond the four walls of the church via livestreaming. We appreciate your gifts of time, money, energy, and prayers to this work! If you are our guest today - either in person or online – we invite you to join us in caring for God's people and God's world!)

### Offertory:

Offertory Prayer: **C: Merciful God, in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you embrace our lives with your great love for humanity. With joy and gladness we ask that these gifts may be for many a sign of that love, and that we may continue to share in your divine life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution & Lord's Prayer

P: "In the night in which he was betrayed..."

**C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Be Known to Us

ACS p. 40

Hymn during Communion: In This Feast of Love

ACS #962

1. In this feast of love, in this feast of love,  
Lord, you share your blood and your body, Jesus, Lamb of God.
2. In this bread and wine, in this bread and wine,  
You have promised, Lord, to be with us, Lamb... of God divine.
3. Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us peace, O Lord;  
Fill us with the joy of your Spirit, ever-living Word.

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen us, unite us, and keep us in his grace. **C: Amen.**

L: Let us all pray... **C: We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever. Amen .**

### SENDING

L: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Almighty God, Father, (+) Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Sending Song: The King Shall Come

ELW #260

1. The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks,  
when beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.

2. Not as of old a little child, to bear and fight and die,  
but crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky.
  3. Oh, brighter than the rising morn when Christ, victorious, rose  
and left the lonesome place of death, despite the rage of foes.
  4. Oh, brighter than that glorious morn shall dawn upon our race  
the day when Christ in splendor comes, and we shall see his face.
  5. The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray: come quickly, King of kings.
- L: Go in peace. Remember the poor.                      **C: Thanks be to God!**

Accompanist: James Rickley, organ  
Reader: Holly Heser  
Assisting Minister: Ron Coons

Cantor: Gaynell Tempel  
Fellowship: Holly & Greg Heser

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**Keeping in prayer...**, Carrie Dawes, Chris Bender, Dawn, Doris, Brian, Kathy's friend, Barb Valentine, Beth, Helen, Doris, Jim, Don & Donna, Rick & Karen, Ann, Jennifer, Diana, Rose Ulery, Deana Peterson, Amy, Ted, Carl & Harley, Marilyn, Angie, Dorothy Sowa, Sandy Kirkegaard, Noah, Elaine Rice, Dorothy Roseth, Jerry, Toni Sperle, Steven, Megan, Scott, Haley, Judi Jonas, Esther Bender, Reta, Sharron.

### **Announcements for the week of December 3:**

- Mon., 12/4: 1<sup>st</sup> Monday Night Quilters meet from 6-8 pm in the Social Hall
- Thu., 12/7: Handbells rehearse at 5:40 pm in the Sanctuary
- **NEXT SUNDAY (12/10):** All-Comer's Choir – come to rehearse at 9 am and stay to sing during worship!

**Thank you...** to everyone who helped decorate the sanctuary for Advent!

**Worship Texts for Next Sunday:** Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

### **Advent & Christmas Schedule**

Dec. 10 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent w/ All-Comer's Choir

Dec. 17 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent w/ Handbells – Congregation participation as we tell the story of Jesus' birth. Come in your own costume or choose one when you get here!

Dec. 24 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent – No morning worship on this day

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve – Worship at 5 pm with candle lighting and Holy Communion

Dec. 31 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas – Morning service of readings & carols at 10 am