



2nd Sunday of Advent December 10, 2023

New Hope Lutheran Church
3125 5th Ave. S., Great Falls, MT (406) 315-1203
www.newhopegf.org Rev. Tammy Bull

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

GATHERING

Gathering Music: *My Lord, What a Morning*

arr. Michael Hassell

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: *Longing for Messiah*

Mark Hayes

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: Hark, the Glad Sound!

ELW #239

1. Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne, and ev'ry voice a song.
2. He comes the pris'ners to release, in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.
3. He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,
And with the riches of his grace to enrich the humble poor.

4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace, your welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.

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 Peace

We pray... **Lord of the nations, as we light this candle, hear our cries for peace: peace in our hearts, peace in our homes, peace in our world. 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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

L: The 1st Reading is from Isaiah 40:1-11

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

Choir Anthem: *Come Now, O God*

2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

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

Gospel Acclamation

ACS p. 33

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8

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: Messiah

1. Someone's shouting from the desert. Someone's shouting from the sea.
Someone's shouting from the mountain. Someone's shouting from the valley.
Messiah, come and be our King. Messiah, come and be our King.
2. Someone's shouting from the city, "I am young, I am cold."
Someone's shouting from the country, "I am lonely, I am old."
Messiah, come and be our King. Messiah, come and be our King.
3. Someone's shouting, "I am broken." Someone's shouting, "Make me whole."
Someone's shouting, "Come and change me." Someone's shouting, "Save my soul."
Messiah, come and be our King. Messiah, come and be our King.

L: Living in trust and hope, we confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed

ELW p. 105

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

L: 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: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

arr. Jim Lucas

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: Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW #264

1. Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:
REFRAIN: Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

2. God's people, see him coming: your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!
REFRAIN: Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!
3. Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing: (refrain)
4. His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding: (refrain)

L: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude: *Mary, did You Know?*

Mark Lowry /arr. Alex Zsolt

Accompanist: James Rickley, organ

Cantor: Victoria Bull

Reader: Dee Wood

Fellowship: Barbara Ovitt & Leanna Coulter

Assisting Minister: Ron Coons

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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 10:

- TODAY: Executive Team meets after worship; Confirmation students meet from 1-3 pm in the Library
- Wed., 12/13: WOW! children's church school – 6-7 pm in the sanctuary
- Thu., 12/7: Handbells rehearse at 5:40 pm in the Sanctuary
- **NEXT SUNDAY (12/17):** Congregational participation Christmas story

Worship Texts for Next Sunday: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Advent & Christmas Schedule

Dec. 17 – 3rd 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 – 4th 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 – 1st Sunday of Christmas – Morning service of readings & carols at 10 am

Please note: 2023 year-end gifts need to be sent to the church no later than 12/31 to be included in your giving statement. Our constitution stipulates that voting members must be on record as having communed and contributed in the current/previous year.