



God With Us!

3rd/4th Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 17, 2023

New Hope Lutheran Church
3125 5th Ave. S. (406) 315-1203 www.newhopegf.org

GATHERING

Gathering Music:

Welcome & Announcements

Hand Bell Prelude: Sing We Now of Christmas

arr. K.L. Buckwalter

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace. **Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – the 3rd Candle

We Are Waiting for Jesus (v.1)

ACS #905

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.

Let us pray... **Wondrous God, today we light the candle of joy. May the foundation of faith and our attitude of hope help us put love into action every day as we welcome Jesus with joyful hearts. Amen.**

Song: We Are Waiting for Jesus (v.2)

ELW #905

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.

(Instructions for congregational participation)

God With Us!

The Annunciation

(Mary and Joseph come forward while the song is sung)

Song: He Came Down

ELW #253

1. He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.
2. He came down that we may have light;
He came down that we may have light;
He came down that we may have light; hallelujah forevermore.
3. He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace; hallelujah forevermore.
4. He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy; hallelujah forevermore.

No Room in the Inn

The Innkeeper Provides the Stable

Jesus is Born

(Innkeeper and some animals come forward while the song is sung)

Song: Away in a Manger

ELW #277

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

The Angel Announces Jesus' Birth to the Shepherds
The Heavenly Crowd of Angels Appear to the Shepherds

(Shepherds, Sheep, and Angels come forward while the song is sung)

Song: Hark, the Herald Angels Sing ELW #270 v. 1&3 only

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

The Angels Depart and the Shepherds Go to the Stable
The Shepherds Go Back to Work Praising God

(Other villagers and "regular folks" come forward as the song is sung)

Song: O Come, All Ye Faithful ELW #283 v. 1&2 only

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and adore him, born the king of angels: O come, let us adore him.
O come, let us adore him. O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
2. The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! O come, let us adore him.
O come, let us adore him. O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Appearance of the Star

Wise Ones Visit King Herod

Wise Ones Follow the Star to the Stable

(The Star and Wise Ones come forward as the song is sung)

Song: As With Gladness Men of Old

ELW #302 v. 1,2,&3

1. As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led by thee.
2. As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.
3. As they offered gifts most rare at thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ to thee, our heav'nly king.

Wise Ones Worship Jesus with Gifts

We Bring Our Gifts & Offerings as Signs of Worship

(The congregation is invited to bring regular offerings and special offerings and place them in the baskets/bowls at the manger. The special offering for December is designated for Meals on Wheels.)

Offertory:

Song: What Child is This?

ELW #296 v. 3 only

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvations brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

We Share God's Love – Jesus – With the Whole World

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – the 4th Candle

Let us pray... **Wondrous God, we now light the last candle – the candle of love. Fill our hearts to overflowing with your love, so that we may gladly and freely share it at Christmas-time and always. Amen.**

Song: Joy to the World

ELW

#267

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing...
And heav'n and nature sing... and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy...
Repeat the sounding joy... repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns invest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found...
Far as the curse is found... far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love...
And wonders of his love... and wonders, wonders of his love.

L: Go in peace. Remember the poor. **C: Thanks be to God!**

Postlude:

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN TODAY'S PROGRAM!!!

Accompanist: James Rickley, organ

Cantor: Gaynell Tempel

Reader: Dee Wood

Fellowship: Hand Bell Choir

Assisting Minister: Ron Coons



Keeping in Prayer... Eloise Moorhead, Lilith, Chris Bender, Dawn, Doris, Brian, Kathy's friend, Beth, Doris, Jim, Arnie Depping, Larry & Peggy Johnson, Rachel, Don & Donna, Ann, Jennifer, Diana, Rose Ulery, 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.

Advent/Christmas Schedule

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.

Committee Reports are due in the church office by Sun. Dec. 31st for inclusion in our congregation's annual report book. Reports can be emailed to newhopelutheranf@gmail.com. The annual meeting of the congregation will be on Sunday, Jan. 28th following worship.

If you have Thrivent insurance products you may be eligible to direct **Choice Dollars** to New Hope in addition to your regular giving. This is a different program than the Thrivent Action Grants that many of you have written to help with many projects at the church. If you have questions, or need help with Choice Dollars or Action Grants, contact Trudi Schmidt. Thanks!