



# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent December 1, 2024

New Hope Lutheran Church  
3125 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Great Falls, MT (406) 315-1203  
[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: *Procession*

Garrett Parker

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: *Le Mystere de L'incarnation*

Richard Blake

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **C: Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*(silence for reflection and self-examination)*

L: God of mercy,

**C: we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

L: God of might,

**C: we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

L: God in our midst,

**C: we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

L: A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through (+) Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

**C: Amen.**

Gathering Song: Fling Wide the Door

ELW #259

1. Fling wide the door, unbar the gate; the King of glory comes in state;  
The Lord of lords and King of kings, the Savior of the world who brings  
his great salvation to the earth. So raise a shout of holy mirth  
and praise our God and Lord, Creator, Spirit, Word.
2. He is the rock of our belief, the heart of mercy's gentle self.  
His kingly crown is holiness; his scepter is his loveliness;  
he brings our sorrows to an end. Now gladly praise our king and friend,  
and worship him with song for saving us from wrong.
3. Oh, happy towns and blessed lands that live by their true king's commands.  
And blessed be the hearts he rules, the humble places where he dwells.  
He is the rightful Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his,  
creator of the world, our only strength for good.
4. Come, Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ; our hearts are open wide in trust.  
Oh, show us now your lovely grace, upon our sorrows shine your face,  
and let your Holy Spirit guide our journey in your grace so wide.  
We praise your holy name, from age to age the same.

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.

L: As we light the candle of *hope*, we acknowledge that we live in a world that trades in isolation and comparison, competition and fear.

**C: We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around, causing us to live in connection and compassion, mutual support and liberation. Come, Lord Jesus.**

We Are Waiting for Jesus (v. 2)

ACS #905

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: We pray together the prayer of the day... **C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, 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 Jeremiah 33:14-16

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

Responsive Psalm: 25:1-10

L: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

**C: My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

L: Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

**C: Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.**

L: Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

**C: Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

L: Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

**C: You are gracious and upright, O Lord; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

L: You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

**C: All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

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

Gospel Acclamation: Halle, Halle, Hallelujah  
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah. Halle, Halle, Hallelujah.  
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

ELW #172

Gospel Reading: Luke 21:25-36

**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: 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 come, 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: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**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 (*petitions end "Lord in your mercy" ... "hear our prayer."*)

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: *Soliloquy*

Robert J. Powell

Offering Response: Create in Me a Clean Heart

ELW #186

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Offertory Prayer: **C: God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and 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

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

Wait for the Lord (sing twice)

ELW #262

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart.

1. O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!  
Oh, kindle, Lord most holy, your lamp within my breast  
To do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.
2. I lay in fetters groaning; you came to set me free.  
I stood, my shame bemoaning; you came to honor me.  
A glorious crown you give me, a treasure safe on high  
That will not fail or leave me as earthly riches fly.
3. Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me.  
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.  
Oh, love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace  
In love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race.
4. Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted, who sit in deepest gloom,  
Who mourn your joys departed and tremble at your doom.  
All hail the Lord's appearing! O glorious Sun, now come,  
Send forth your beams so cheering and guide us safely home.

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: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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: 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: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude: *O Come, Little Children*

Johann A.P. Schulz/ arr. Dale Wood

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Accompanist: James Rickley  
Reader: Julie Haviland  
Communion Assistant:

Cantor: Victoria Bull  
Fellowship: Glen & Leanna Coulter  
Acolyte:

**Keeping in prayer...** Jim; Sue; Dee; Lois & Frank; Rebecca; Danny; Triston; MaryAnn; Carl & Harley; Ann; Ace; Arvin; Beth; Arnie; Peggy & Larry; Don & Donna; Sandy; Noah; Dorothy; Toni; Scott; Haley; Esther; Reta; Elaine;

### **Announcements for the week of December 1:**

- **TODAY:** Special meeting of the congregation in the Social Hall immediately following the worship service.
- Today: Community World AIDS Day service and rededication of the AIDS memorial rock at Central Christian Church (1025 Central) at 2 pm.
- Wed. 2/4: ***Flowing Waters*** noon music series in the sanctuary.
- Wed. 2/4: Confirmation class at 2:30 pm in the Library.
- Wed. 2/4: WOW! Children's ministry from 6-7 pm in the Social Hall.
- Thu. 2/5: Helping Hands board meeting at 6:30 at Helping Hands.

### **Advent & Christmas Special Services Schedule**

Dec. 15 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent – Congregation participation as we tell the story of Jesus' birth. Come in your own costume or choose one when you get here!

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