



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

## December 8, 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: *Jesus Is Lord*

John Innes/ arr. Brian Glyncannon

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: *Song for a New Morning*

Carl Simone

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: 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:  
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!  
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:  
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!
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:  
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

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 *peace*, we acknowledge that we live in a world that races for money and success, that worships busyness and productivity, that hoards and consumes.

**C: We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around, so we will know that there is enough and that we are enough, and so we can be still and rest. Come, Lord Jesus.**

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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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 1<sup>st</sup> Reading is from Malachi 3:1-4

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

Responsive Reading: Luke 1:68-79 (*Zechariah's Prophecy*)

L: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

**C: He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.**

L: Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,

**C: to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.**

L: And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.

**C: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

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 3:1-6

**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: On Jordan's Banks

ELW #249

1. On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!
2. Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.
3. We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;  
Without your grace we waste away like flow'rs that wither and decay.
4. Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more;  
Oh, let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.
5. All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won,  
Whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.

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: *Grant Us Thy Peace*

James Denton

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.

Hymn during Communion: O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

ELW #241

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.**

1. Blessed be the God of Israel who comes to set us free  
And raises up new hope for us: a Branch from David's tree.  
So have the prophets long declared that with a mighty arm  
God would turn back our enemies and all who wish us harm.
2. With promised mercy will God still the covenant recall,  
The oath once sworn to Abraham, from foes to save us all;  
That we might worship without fear and offer lives of praise,  
In holiness and righteousness to serve God all our days.
3. My child, as prophet of the Lord you will prepare the way,  
To tell God's people they are saved from sin's eternal sway.  
Then shall God's mercy from on high shine forth and never cease  
To drive away the gloom of death and lead us into peace.

L: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Postlude: *A Trumpet Song*

Steven Scott

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Accompanist: James Rickley

Cantor: Gaynell Tempel

Reader: Melanie Jensen

Fellowship: Donna Winters & Char Depping

Communion Assistant: Vicki Evans

Acolyte:

The December Special Offering benefits Meals on Wheels.

**Keeping in prayer...** The Wilbur family as they grieve the death of Mari's father Don; Jim; Sue; Dee; Lois & Frank; Rebecca; Danny; Triston; MaryAnn; Carl & Harley; Ann; Ace; Arvin; Beth; Arnie; Peggy & Larry; Sandy; Noah; Dorothy; Toni; Scott; Haley; Esther; Reta; Elaine;

### **Announcements for the week of December 8:**

- Wed. 12/11: ***Flowing Waters*** noon music series in the sanctuary.
- Wed. 12/11: Confirmation class at 2:30 pm in the Library.
- Wed. 12/11: Installation of the Rev. Ryan Eikenbary at Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. 6:00 pm
- Wed. 12/11: WOW! Children's ministry from 6-7 pm in the Social Hall.
- Fri. 12/13: Game Night at the church from 6:30 – 8 pm in the Social Hall

### **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