

1st Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 2024



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

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

GATHERING

Gathering Music: *Tidings of Comfort and Joy*

Ellen Jane Lorenz

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: *Chime Prelude*

L. N. Porter

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

C: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(a brief time of silence is kept)

L: God-with-us,

C: we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.

L: Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, + forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song: Angels, from the Realms of Glory

ELW #275

1. Angels, from the realm of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the new-born king.

2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light. (refrain)
3. Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star. (refrain)
4. All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One. (refrain)

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.**

Glory to You, God

ACS p. 31

L: We pray together the Prayer of the Day...

C: Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word. Grant that in all things we may think and act according to your good will, and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 (CEV)

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

Responsive reading of Psalm 148

L: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

C: Praise the Lord, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

L: Praise the Lord, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

C: Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

L: Let them praise the name of the Lord, who commanded, and they were created.

C: who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.

L: Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

C: fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

L: mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

C: wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;

L: sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

C: young men and maidens, old and young together.

L: Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

C: The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!

2nd Reading: Luke 2:21-40 (CEV)

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

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia

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Gospel: Luke 2:41-52 (CEV)

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Time

Sermon

Rev. Tammy Bull

Hymn of the Day: That Boy-Child of Mary

ELW #293

Refrain:

That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable, a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.

1. What shall we call him, child of the manger?
What name is given in Bethlehem? (refrain)
2. His name is Jesus, God ever with us,
born here among us in Bethlehem. (refrain)
3. How can he save us, how can he help us,
born here among us in Bethlehem. (refrain)
4. Gift of the Father, to human mother,
makes him our brother in Bethlehem. (refrain)
5. One with the Father, he is our Savior,
heaven-sent helper in Bethlehem. (refrain)
6. Gladly we praise him, love and adore him,
give ourselves to him in Bethlehem. (refrain)

L: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith...

Nicene Creed

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C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us, and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People (each petition ends... "Hear us O God... **your mercy is great.**")

Sharing the Peace of Christ

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

MEAL

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, through the ministry of hospitality. 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 Music: *New Year's Song*

Robert Schumann/arr. Allen James

Offering Response: Create in Me

ELW #186

Offertory Prayer: **C: Abiding God, under the cover of winter's darkness, you bring forth life. Nourish us with earth's bounty, that we may freely share the gifts you have first given us, through the one who gives his life for the world, Jesus Christ, 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 and Lord's Prayer

P: In the night [...] Let us pray with confidence the prayer Jesus taught:

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 Communion

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

Be Known to Us

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Hymn during Communion: Let All Together Praise Our God

ELW #287

1. Let all together praise our God before the highest throne;
Today God opens heav'n again and sends the only Son,
and sends the only Son.
2. From God's right hand the Son descends, is born an infant small,
And lies in poverty, his bed a manger in a stall, a manger in a stall.
3. O tender Child, you veil in flesh the splendor of your might;
A servant's garb now wraps the one who clothed the sky with light,
who clothed the sky with light.
4. Your mother feeds you tenderly, sings you a lullaby,
While angels, hailing David's heir, your glory magnify, your glory magnify.

5. A wonderful exchange you make: you take our flesh and blood,
And in return give us to share the shining realm of God,
the shining realm of God.
6. Unlock the door again today that leads to paradise;
The angel bars the way no more. To God let praises rise,
to God let praises rise!

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: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds in (+) Christ Jesus. **C: Amen.**

Sending Song: He Comes to Us as One Unknown

ELW #737

1. He comes to us as one unknown, a breath unseen, unheard;
As though within a heart of stone, or shriveled seed in darkness sown,
A pulse of being stirred, a pulse of being stirred.
2. He comes when souls in silence lie and thoughts of day depart;
Half-seen upon the inward eye, a falling star across the sky
Of night within the heart, of night within the heart.
3. He comes to us in sound of seas, the ocean's fume and foam;
Yet small and still upon the breeze, a wind that stirs the tops of trees,
A voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.
4. He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and birth;
To bear within our mortal frame a life, a death, a saving name,
For ev'ry child of earth, for ev'ry child of earth.
5. He comes in truth when faith is grown; believed, obeyed, adored;
The Christ in all the scriptures shown, as yet unseen, but not unknown,
Our Savior and our Lord, our Savior and our Lord.

L: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus **C: Thanks be to God!**

Postlude: *For Christmas*

Carl Simone

Accompanist: James Rickley

Cantor: Gaynell Tempel

Reader: Becky Timmons

Fellowship:

Communion Assistant:



ANNOUNCEMENTS for the Week of December 29:

Wed. 1/1 – New Year’s Day – Church office closed. No WOW! or confirmation classes scheduled.

Keeping in Prayer... Mari and family following the deaths of her parents; Sumner; Carrie; Jim; Sue; Dee; Lois & Frank; Rebecca; Danny; Triston; MaryAnn; Carl & Harley; Ann; Arvin; Beth; Arnie; Peggy & Larry; Sandy; Noah; Dorothy; Toni; Scott; Haley; Esther; Reta; Elaine.

THANK YOU... to everyone who helped out before, during, and after our Christmas Eve worship!

THANK YOU... to the crew who worked on Friday and Saturday to begin preparations for the new flooring and seating!

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