

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT MEDITATION

* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Pastor: During the season of Advent, we wait in the darkness of a broken world.

Lighters: We light the second Advent candle as a sign of our longing for the coming light of Christ, whose power will heal and deliver us.

All: Come, Refiner's Fire, and purify us with love's flame, so that we might wholly live for God.

* **HYMN 83** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

* CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus, we long for your coming.

Yet, we want your coming to be domesticated.

**We want you to comfort us in our afflictions,
but not to afflict us where we are too comfortable.**

We have not listened to the words of Malachi:

"But who can endure the day of his coming?"

Forgive us, O Lord.

**By the power of the Spirit, give us the courage truly to
welcome you, even in the ways you challenge us.**

Silent Prayers & Assurance of Pardon

* SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

Hymn 92 "While We Are Waiting, Come"

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Bold font indicates congregational participation.

* You are invited to stand in body or in spirit.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Philippians 1:3-6

ANTHEM *An Advent Prayer* Allen Pote

Come holy Jesus, come to free us from our sin,
Come holy Jesus, and make us pure within.
Inspire each heart with illumined surprise,
Enkindle a flame anew.
Increase our faith and strengthen our lives,
Show us the joy of living life in you.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Malachi 3:1-4

SERMON "Longing for Healing"
Second in a Series for Advent: Every Longing Heart

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* **HYMN 466** (five times) "Come and Fill Our Hearts"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Westminster Shorter Catechism* (Q. 35)

Q. What is sanctification?

**A. Sanctification is the work of God's free grace by which
we are renewed throughout in the image of God and
are enabled more and more to die to sin and live to
righteousness.**

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Offering

Offertory Teach Me to Walk in the Light arr. L.H. Pedersen

* *Doxology* (Hymnal, back page)

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your
kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as
we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time**

**of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

GOING OUT TO SERVE

* **HYMN 314** "Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness"

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Hymn 314, refrain "Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness"

POSTLUDE *Snow* Rachel Portman

END OF WORSHIP ... BEGINNING OF SERVICE



The candles in worship: The four candles on the branch on the communion table are lit consecutively over the four Sundays of Advent. Three of the candles are purple, the liturgical color of Advent, and one is pink, representing the joy that Christ's coming is near. The white candle (the Christ candle) reminds us of the presence of Christ's spirit in worship (though during Advent it remains unlit, as a sign that we are waiting for the coming of Christ on Christmas). The smaller candle is in a candle holder made by a member of our partner church, Iglesia El Divino Salvador in Guatemala, and it reminds us of our covenant with them.

The Righteous Branch

The branch on the communion table represents God's promise of a coming ruler for Israel. As the prophet Jeremiah says, "I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land" (Jeremiah 33:15). The lighted candles on the branch represent our longing for the coming of Christ.

Today's liturgists: Nancy Spann and Jordan Sluder-Owensby

Today's greeters: Bill & Marlene Johnson

Today's ushers: Jim & Madelyn Clow

Fellowship: Tom Fife's Care Group

Christmas Eve Worship Service

Join us on Monday evening, December 24, at 6:00 PM for our Christmas Eve worship service. It will be a service of lessons and carols, with the sanctuary lights dimmed toward the end of the service for the singing of "Silent Night" by candlelight. Family members and friends of all ages are welcome!

“Every Longing Heart” Continues

The theme of this year’s Advent series, “Every Longing Heart,” comes from the well-known Advent hymn, “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus.” One verse of this hymn concludes with the words, “Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of *every longing heart*.” What did Israel long for in exile? And what do we long for as we experience “exile” in our own lives? What are the deepest longings of the human heart? Join us this Advent season as we explore the universal human experience of longing and where the fulfillment of our longings resides. Up next in the series:

December 16: “Longing for Union” (Isaiah 54:4-8)

December 23: “Longing for Home” (Zephaniah 3:14-20)

“There’s No Place Like It: Meditations on the Idea of Home”

Our sense of home deeply shapes our life and faith journeys. In our 9:30 AM class during Advent, we will use several familiar biblical texts as starting places to explore different dimensions of our sense of what is “home.” How are we at home in space, in time, in our bodies, and in our relationships? When have we experienced alienation from home? Join leader Win Word-Sims as we explore biblical stories about alienation and homecoming and share about our own stories. Time will be set aside each Sunday to remember migrants and refugees around the world who have left or lost their homes, and who are still searching for a place of belonging. We meet in the downstairs classroom (Room 104).

Out-to-Lunch Bunch

Everyone is welcome to join the Out-to-Lunch Bunch for lunch after church today! We will be going to Pomodoros Cafe. See Marlene Johnson for more information about today’s lunch outing.

Alternative Christmas Giving Is Here

Stop by the Outreach table in the Narthex to make a donation of \$10 or more to one of the organizations below and pick up a card saying that you have made a donation in honor of your friend or loved one. This year we are sponsoring (1) the Eblen Energy Project (local), which provides families with heating and cooling assistance, (2) Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (national), which is the emergency and refugee program of the PC(USA), and (3) educational scholarships for the children of our sister community in Guatemala (global). Visit the Equal Exchange table and consider giving fair trade items, such as coffee, tea, chocolate, or olive oil. We are also offering items from the Wi’am Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center.

December Fellowship Meal

Join us on Sunday, December 16, after worship for a “Christmas Tea” featuring delightful finger foods and desserts. All are welcome, and if you are able, please bring a festive dish for the table. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or contact Terri Carpenter at (704) 400-5409.

Advent Lectio Divina Group

Join us on Tuesdays, December 11 & 18 at 6 PM for an hour of contemplative reflection on Scripture and group spiritual direction. Meaning “spiritual reading” in Latin, *lectio divina* is a simple, facilitated group process that invites participants to contemplate how God is speaking to them personally through selected scripture readings. There are two kinds of reading—one is for *information*, and the other is for *formation*. Reading for *information* is like reading a newspaper, filling our mind with the facts. Reading for *formation*, though, is like reading a love letter—we savor every word, allowing what we read to deepen our relationship with the one who writes to us. When we read the Bible for *formation* rather than simply for *information*, we read it in a holistic way that allows us to be formed by God through Scripture. All are welcome, and no experience is required. Contact Pastor Kim to sign up.

Worship bulletin announcements for Sunday, December 16 are due to Administrator, Erin May, by noon on Wednesday, December 12.

Calendar

Sun	9	11:00 AM	Worship
		12:30 PM	Out-to-Lunch Bunch (see Marlene)
		4:00 PM	Youth Group
Tue	11	2:30 PM	Faith Formation
		6:00 PM	Advent Lectio Divina Group
Wed	12	7:00 PM	Choir
Thurs	13	6:30 PM	Justice & Reconciliation Meeting
Sun	16	9:30 AM	Sunday Morning Class
		11:00 AM	Worship
		12:15 PM	Christmas Tea

New Hope Presbyterian Church

We are a welcoming, inclusive faith community, seeking to respond to Christ’s call to love and serve, through ministries of compassion and social justice.

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Kim Wells, Pastor | Erin May, Church Administrator

Rob Blackwell, Director of Music Ministry/Pianist

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New Hope

Presbyterian Church

“Including, Renewing, Serving”

Second Sunday of Advent
December 9, 2018
11 o’clock



“Longing for Healing”

Second in a Series for Advent:



“Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of *every longing heart*.”
—“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”