

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *What Child Is This* William Dix

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT MEDITATION

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Where can we go from the Spirit of God?
Where can we flee from God's presence?

On Earth and in heaven, God is here.

Emmanuel, God with us!

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,"

Even the darkness is not dark to you.

Emmanuel, God with us!

You knit us together in our mother's womb.

We praise you, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; that we know very well.

Emmanuel, God with us!

Let us come and worship God who dares to come to us in flesh.

Emmanuel, God with us.

* HYMN 147 "The First Nowell"

* CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and soul and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Silent Prayers

Assurance of Pardon

* SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

Hymn 137 "He Came Down"

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

...that we may have light

...that we may have peace

...that we may have joy

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 2:41-52

ANTHEM *Christmas Lullaby* John Bell

Lullaby, lullaby, sleep, oh Holy Child, your time has come.

Lullaby, lullaby, God is here.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Colossians 3:12-17

SERMON "One Size Fits All"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* HYMN 132 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH adapted from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the Gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to eternal life.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Offering

Offertory *The First Noel* Traditional

* *Doxology* (Hymnal, back page)

* *Prayer of Dedication*

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

After each request, the congregation will respond by singing the following refrain, adapted from Hymn 692:

Spirit, open my heart, to the joy and pain of living, as you love may we love, in receiving and in giving, Spirit open my heart.

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 136 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Hallelujah Chorus* G. F. Handel

END OF WORSHIP ... BEGINNING OF SERVICE



The candles in worship: The four candles on the branch on the Communion table were lit consecutively over the four Sundays of Advent. On Christmas Eve, we also lit the white candle (the Christ candle) as a sign of Christ's birth and presence with us in worship. The smaller candle is in a candle holder made by a member of our

Bold font indicates congregational participation.

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

partner church, Iglesia El Divino Salvador in Guatemala, reminding us of our covenant with them.

Today's liturgists: Peg Lewis

Today's greeters: Woody, Janet and Austin Ferrell

Today's ushers: Laura Brown and Kim Presley

Fellowship: Tom Fife's Care Group

We welcome Loudon Young as our guest preacher today! Loudon grew up at New Hope and is currently a seminarian under our care at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia.

Out to Lunch Bunch

Everyone is welcome to join the Out-to-Lunch Bunch after church today! We will be going to Iannucci's. Please see Marlene Johnson.

Poinsettia Pick Up

Did you order a poinsettia this year in memory or in honor of a loved one? You may pick up your poinsettia after worship today or anytime through next Sunday, January 6.

Next Sunday, we welcome Rev. Dr. Ken Meeks back to the pulpit.

Beginning in 2019, Ken will begin serving as New Hope's Parish Associate for Visitation, spending approximately ten hours per week visiting our members, especially those who are homebound.

"There's No Place Like It: Meditations on the Idea of Home"

Our last class in the series will take place next Sunday, January 6 at 9:30 AM. 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. This last class in the series will focus on how we are (or aren't) at home in our relationships. We meet in the downstairs classroom (Room 104).

New January Class: "Psalms Conversations"

Many of us have studied or prayed with individual Psalms. But have we ever listened in on the conversation that the Psalms are having with each other? In his new book, *Psalm Conversations*, author Jim Chatham, a retired PC(USA) pastor and friend of New Hope, enters into the mind and heart of the Psalms editor and looks at how the editor makes the Psalms interact. Join us on Sundays, January 13 & 20 for a two-week study of *Psalm Conversations* with the author himself. We will be blessed to have Jim leading the class!

January Tuesday Night Book Study: *Enrique's Journey*

Join us in the Narthex at 7:00 PM on Tuesday night, January 29, for a discussion of the book *Enrique's Journey*, which tells the story of a Honduran boy's journey to the United States to find his mother eleven years after her departure from Honduras in search of work. During this season when caravans of migrants are making their way north from Honduras and other Central American countries, this book is a timely read and an opportunity for deepened understanding and compassion. Books will be on sale in the Narthex starting January 6 for \$10. We recommend getting a head start on your reading for January's discussion, since the book is about 300 pages long.

New Members Class

Interested in learning more about New Hope Presbyterian Church and the possibility of membership? Contact Kim at pastornhpc@gmail.com for more information about our next 2019 New Members Class.

MANNA Food Bank

Come join our New Hope volunteer team on the second Tuesday of every month from 4:00-5:30 PM. Our next date is coming up soon on Tuesday, January 8. We meet directly at MANNA (627 Swannanoa River Road, Asheville) and do a variety of service activities. You can join us just one time, on a regular monthly basis, or whenever you can. Questions? Contact leader Linda Lewis at (828) 483-6296.

Calendar

Sun	30	11:00 AM	Worship
		12:30 PM	Out to Lunch Bunch
Wed	2	6:00 PM	Worship Committee
		7:00 PM	Choir
Sun	6	11:00 AM	Worship

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.

3070 Sweeten Creek Road, Asheville, NC 28803 | (828) 274-0191

Kim Wells, Pastor | Erin May, Church Administrator

Rob Blackwell, Director of Music Ministry/Pianist

www.newhopepcusaasheville.org

New Hope

Presbyterian Church

"Including, Renewing, Serving"

First Sunday after Christmas Day
December 30, 2018
11 o'clock



"One Size Fits All"



"As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience."

Colossians 3:12