

## GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

**PRELUDE**      *Angels We Have Heard on High*    arr. Patricia Jaeger

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SILENT MEDITATION

### ADVENT CANDLE PROCESSIONAL

*The fourth Advent candle is lit while the first, second, and third verses of hymn 85 are sung by two soloists and the choir. The congregation joins in the singing of verse four.*

Soloist: Light one candle to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
He shall bring salvation to Israel,  
God fulfills the promise.

Soloist: Light two candles to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,  
gently lead them homeward.

Choir: Light three candles to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway  
for the king of glory.

**All:      Light four candles to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
He is coming, tell the glad tidings.  
Let your lights be shining.**

*Leader and people then share in the following spoken call and response:*

Leader: Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.

**People: Look, the young woman is with child and shall  
bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.**

\* **HYMN 107**      “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

### \* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*In preparation for confession, the congregation sings verse one of hymn 82:*

**Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.**

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**Bold font** indicates congregational participation.

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

**Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

*Prayer of Confession*

**God of the future, in Christ you are coming to bring all  
peoples and nations under your rule.**

**Yet, we confess that we have not expected your kingdom,  
for we live casual lives, apathetic toward our callings,  
ignoring your promised judgment of truth-telling.**

**We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth,  
and refuse your justice and peace.**

**In your mercy, forgive us, O God.**

**By your Spirit, help us to welcome Christ’s Way, and to  
seek the things that will endure when Christ comes.**

*Silent Prayers*

*Assurance of Pardon*

*In response to the assurance of pardon spoken by the liturgist,  
the congregation sings verse two of hymn 82:*

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever, now they gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

### \* 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.**

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON**      Matthew 1:18-25, p. 783 (NT)

**ANTHEM**      *Advent Lullaby*      John Bell

Lullaby, lullaby, wait till tomorrow.

Lullaby, lullaby, wait till tomorrow,

Your time will come, your time will come.

Lullaby, lullaby, God comes tomorrow.

Lullaby, lullaby, God comes tomorrow,

And God is here, and God is here.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON**      Isaiah 7:1-16, p. 554 (OT)

**SERMON**      “The Sign of Immanuel”  
*Glimpses of Hope*

## RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

\* **HYMN 88**      “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

\* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**      from *A Brief Statement of Faith* (10.2)

**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 life eternal.**

## GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*Glimpse of Hope from Guatemala*      Susan Maveety

*Offertory*      *In the Bleak Midwinter*      arr. Sunita Stanislow

\* *Doxology*      (Hymnal, back page)

\* *Prayer of Dedication*

## 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 102**      “Savior of the Nations, Come”

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**                      *What Child is This*                      arr. Patricia Jaeger

**END OF WORSHIP ... BEGINNING OF SERVICE**



**We light two candles in worship.** The white candle reminds us of the presence of Christ’s spirit in worship. 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.

**Today’s liturgist:** Susan Maveety  
**Today’s greeters:** Leslie Hillman and Bill Higgins  
**Today’s ushers:** Kim Sluder and Tracy Owensby

**We thank our guest instrumentalists today:** Jean Moxley, harpist, and Ruth Young, flautist.

**Special Offering: Christmas Joy**

Today we will be receiving our denomination’s Christmas Joy Offering. This offering supports pastors and retired pastors in need and racial-ethnic education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. (Please see the enclosed envelope.) Please make checks out to New Hope Presbyterian Church with Christmas Joy in the memo line. Thank you.

**Out-to-Lunch Bunch**

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

**Christmas Eve Worship Service**

Join us at 6 PM on Tuesday, December 24, for a Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols. The whole family is welcome! Come sing all your favorite Christmas carols, listen to Scripture’s Christmas story, and take in the still wonder of candlelight as we sing “Silent Night.”

**The office will be closed** on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24 and 25, in observance of Christmas.

**Deep Blue for Advent**

Deep blue is the color of the clear, predawn sky—the color that covers us in the dark, cold hours before the sun rises. Thus, many churches use blue for Advent as a sign of our hope-filled anticipation of the promised light of Christ breaking over the horizon at the dawn of a new day.

**Advent Series on Isaiah: *Glimpses of Hope***

This Advent, our lectionary sermon scriptures come from the prophet Isaiah, and each passage speaks to things we deeply hope for: peace between nations, reconciliation of enemies, renewal of life, and God’s presence with us. Join us in worship as we catch these glimpses of hope.

**Narthex Banners: Catching Glimpses of Hope**

Look closely at the large, paper lace banners in the Narthex to find the following “glimpses of hope”: plowshares and pruning hooks, the wolf and the lamb, blooming crocuses, the stump of Jesse, the wise men, the shepherds, the angels, and Mary, Joseph, and Jesus.

**Alternative Christmas Giving Table in the Narthex**

This season, Outreach Ministry is sponsoring alternative Christmas giving to three agencies: (1) ABCCM Medical Ministry, (2) Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and (3) scholarships for Guatemalan children. You are invited to make a minimum donation of \$10 to receive an “honor card” to send to a loved one, telling them that you have made a donation in their honor. We also have some fair trade items for sale.

**Worship bulletin announcements** for Sunday, December 29 are due to Administrator, Erin May, by noon on Thursday, December 26.

**Sunday Morning Class on Break**

Our Sunday morning class will be on break on December 29 and January 5. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 12, at 9:30 AM in the downstairs classroom (room 104). Jim Chatham will be teaching a class called “Fugitives and Wanderers on the Earth”: a study of Genesis 3, 4, and 11. Ejected from Eden, how does humankind cope in a dangerous and hostile world, all while seeking in vain to reclaim paradise lost?

**Calendar**

Sun	22	12:45	PM	Out-to-Lunch Bunch (See Marlene)
Tue	24	6:00	PM	Christmas Eve Service
Sun	29	9:30	AM	No Class (Christmas Break)
		11:00	AM	Worship
		12:45	PM	Out-to-Lunch Bunch (see Marlene)

**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  
Ken Meeks, Parish Associate | [www.newhopepcusaasheville.org](http://www.newhopepcusaasheville.org)

*New Hope*

*Presbyterian Church*

“Including, Renewing, Serving”

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 22, 2019  
11 o’clock



“The Sign of Immanuel”  
Fourth in the Series: *Glimpses of Hope*



“Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son,  
and shall name him Immanuel.”  
(Isaiah 7:14)