

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *In Darkness* David Lenz

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

The first and second Advent candles are lit while the first and second verses of hymn 85 are sung by two soloists:

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.

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

Leader: The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall live with the kid,

**People: the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.**

HYMN 106 “Prepare the Way, O Zion”

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession & Silent Prayers

Assurance of Pardon

* SHARING CHRIST’S PEACE

Hymn 92 “While We Are Waiting, Come”

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Malachi 3:1-4, *p. 778 (OT)*

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 3:1-6, *p. 834 (NT)*

SERMON “Near to Our Hearts”
Second in the Series: Drawing Near

Bold font indicates congregational participation.

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

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostle’s Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Offering

Offertory *Upon the Wind There Comes a Song* Traditional

Doxology Hymn 82

Prayer of Dedication

THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord’s Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks ...

Let us pray for God’s rule on earth as Jesus taught us, saying:

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.

The Words of Institution

The Feast

All the bread we serve is gluten-free, and our juice is non-fermented.

Prayer After Communion

GOING OUT TO SERVE

HYMN 89 “For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits”

Piano plays refrain, soloist sings refrain, congregation sings refrain. Soloist sings verses 1-4, congregation sings refrain after each verse. Congregation sings verses 5-6 and refrain after each verse.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Patapan* Bernard de la Monnoye

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: Emily Neel

Today’s greeters: Leslie Hillman and Margaret Marsh

Today’s ushers: Laura Brown and Kim Presley

Princettias for the Sanctuary

Today is the deadline to order princettias. The cost for each potted plant is \$6, and order forms are available in the Narthex. Please place your fully completed form and money in the box provided.

Alternative Christmas Giving

In lieu of giving a traditional gift, make a charitable donation in honor of a loved one. In return for your donation (minimum \$10), you will receive a card to give to your loved one describing where your donation in their honor is going. Look for the Alternative Giving table in the Narthex on Sunday mornings during Advent! Unable to come to church? Send your donation to New Hope and indicate in the memo line which fund you wish to support (or, if you would like to support both funds, indicate the amount you wish to donate for each fund). We will mail or deliver your card(s) to you. This year, you are invited to make a donation to one or both of two funds: (1) *educational scholarships*

for Guatemalan children and youth in our sister church, and (2) resettlement support for Afghan refugees in Asheville through Catholic Charities.

Men's Brunch Bunch will meet at 10:30 AM on Saturday, December 11 at J.K's on Long Shoals. We gather every other Saturday to meet, eat, and enjoy fellowship together! Contact Bruce Rasmussen at (828) 633-0327.

Gingerbread House Making

Join in the fun and fellowship! On Tuesday, December 14 from 10 AM to 12 PM, we are going to be making gingerbread houses. Kits and supplies will be provided. There will be no charge to participate, but donations will be welcomed. We will work in teams of two or three and be spaced appropriately to follow our current guidelines. If you are interested and want to share your creative skills, please sign up in the Narthex or call Erin in the office by Sunday, December 12. When houses are finished, they will be displayed in the Narthex.

Christmas Eve Services

This year we are having two Christmas Eve services at 5 PM and 7 PM! We want to be able to accommodate our larger attendance numbers on Christmas Eve while also maintaining our socially-distanced seating in the sanctuary. Please register for either the 5 PM or the 7 PM service by contacting Erin May at (828) 274-0191 or officenewhope@gmail.com. Thank you.

Equal Exchange Products

Buying fair trade products through the Presbyterian Coffee Project ensures that more of the money you spend on coffee (or tea) reaches the hardworking farmers who actually grow it. Visit the table in the Narthex. We are offering coffee, tea, and chocolate bars at a special reduced price through Advent.

Worship bulletin announcements for Sunday, December 12 are due to Administrator, Erin May, by noon on Wednesday, December 8.

New Hope COVID Policy

Mask Up! Whether you are vaccinated or not vaccinated you need to wear a mask while inside the church.

New Air Purifier in the Sanctuary

In order to increase our safety in the sanctuary, we have purchased a new air purifier, a Medify MA-112, which has a medical-grade HEPA filter and ionizer. It is able to filter particles as small as 0.1 microns (the

coronavirus is slightly larger at 0.125 microns). It also provides about two complete air exchanges per worship service.

Please sanitize your hands upon entry. Hand sanitizer is available at all entry points and in various other locations around the building. Remember to keep your hands washed as needed.

Please stay away from church IF you are sick, have COVID symptoms, have been exposed to someone with COVID.

Please do not move any of the chairs in the sanctuary. Our new seating layout took a lot of exact measuring and effort to set up, so we would appreciate it if you would refrain from moving seats.

Please observe a "touchless" Passing of the Peace of Christ.

While individuals may use their own discretion about accepting hugs and handshakes outside of the sanctuary, during the passing of the peace we will refrain from touching so that those who aren't comfortable with that yet aren't put on the spot. (And, when you're outside the sanctuary, please ask before you hug someone to make sure they're comfortable.)

Please do not let the Narthex get crowded. We will not be serving coffee or food after worship for now. As you leave the sanctuary, please make a conscious effort to help the Narthex not get too crowded by spreading into outdoor spaces to socialize if a lot of people are present.

Communion: Communion servers are vaccinated and will wear masks and sanitize hands. Juice will be served in individual glass cups, and pieces of bread will be served with tongs. Please follow the ushers' directions in coming forward and return to your seats with your elements in hand. Please wait until the pastor indicates that it is time to partake, and we will all partake together.

Please know that the Session may change this policy, either by loosening or tightening these restrictions, as circumstances change.

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

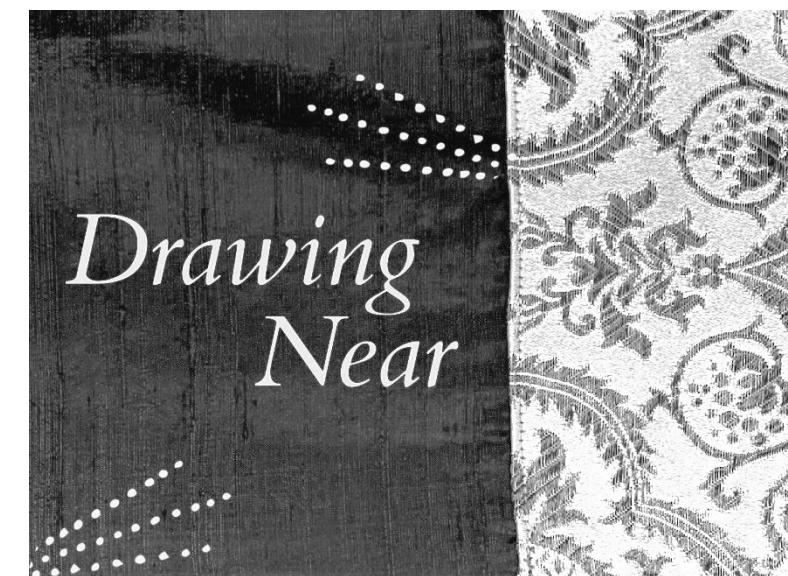
New Hope Presbyterian Church

"Including, Renewing, Serving"

Second Sunday of Advent
December 5, 2021
11 o'clock



"Near to Our Hearts"



"Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight."
(Luke 3:4)