

## The Gathering

**PRELUDE** *What Child Is This* Traditional

**WELCOME**

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

We are here because we have heard the promise of peace,  
and we have faith its day will come.

**Praise God! Tell the good news!**

We are here because we have heard the promise of justice,  
and we have faith its day will come.

**Praise God! Tell the good news!**

We are here because we have heard the promise of hope,  
and we have faith its day will come.

**Praise God! Tell the good news!**

We are here because we have heard of the birth of Jesus,  
and we have faith his day is here.

**Praise God! Tell the good news!**

\* **HYMN 140** "Once in Royal David's City" vv. 1-2

### \* CONFESSION AND PARDON

*Call to Confession*

*Prayer of Confession*

**God of glory, what you have prepared from of old,  
we have celebrated with joy.**

**Yet, the wonder of Christmas quickly fades,  
and we return to living as if the incarnation of God  
had never broken into time and space in Jesus Christ.**

**Forgive us, O God, for our amnesia.**

**By the power of your Spirit, help us to live the wonder of  
Christmas daily, that we might be beacons of hope in  
an aching world.**

*Silent Prayers & Assurance of Pardon*

### \* SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

Hymn 137 "He Came Down" vv. 1, 3-4

Love ... Peace ... Joy ...

**Bold font** indicates congregational participation.

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

## The Gospel

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**FIRST LESSON** *Hearing the News of the Manger* Luke 2:8-14

Reflection

Hymn 128 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

**SECOND LESSON** *Seeking the Manger* Luke 2:15-16

Reflection

Hymn 145 "What Child Is This" vv. 1-2

**THIRD LESSON** *Telling Others about the Manger* Luke 2:17-18, 20

Reflection

Hymn 136 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" vv. 2-3

**FOURTH LESSON** *Pondering the Manger* Luke 2:19

Reflection

Hymn 144 "In the Bleak Midwinter" vv. 3-4

## Our Response

\* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from *A Brief Statement of Faith* (11.2)

**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

*Invitation to Self-Offering*

*Offertory* *Home For The Holidays* Robert Allen

\* *Doxology* "Angels We Have Heard on High"

*Refrain only:* **Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

\* *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 110** "Love Has Come"

### \* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE** *Go Tell It On The Mountain* Traditional

### END OF WORSHIP ... BEGINNING OF SERVICE



**The candles in worship:** The four blue candles were lit consecutively over the four Sundays of Advent. The white candle (the Christ candle) was lit on Christmas Eve as a sign of Christ's birth. The smaller candle is in a candle holder made by a member of our partner church, Iglesia El Divino Salvador in Guatemala, reminding us of our covenant.

**Today's liturgist:** Bunk Spann

**Today's greeters:** Woody, Janet and Austin Ferrell

**Today's ushers:** Jay and Susan Maveety

**The cover art** is called "Shepherds" by Hannah Garrity of A Sanctified Art LLC. Visit their website at [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org).

### Exploring Membership

Interested in learning more about New Hope and the possibility of membership? Contact Kim at [pastornhpc@gmail.com](mailto:pastornhpc@gmail.com) for more information about upcoming opportunities.

## MANNA Food Bank

We have a group that serves monthly at MANNA Food Bank throughout the year. Come join our New Hope volunteer team on the second Tuesday of every month from 4:15-5:30 PM. Our next date is coming up on Tuesday, January 11. We meet directly at MANNA (627 Swannanoa River Road, Asheville) and do a variety of service activities getting food ready for those who need it. 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.

### New Hope COVID Policy

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

#### Air Purifier in the Sanctuary

In order to increase our safety in the sanctuary, we have purchased an 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](http://www.newhopepcusaasheville.org)

*New Hope*

*Presbyterian Church*

“Including, Renewing, Serving”

First Sunday after Christmas

December 26, 2021

11 o'clock



“Responding to the Manger”



“This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

Luke 2:12