

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Ode To Joy* Ludwig Van Beethoven

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The first Advent candle is lit while the soloist sings the first verse of hymn 85:

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

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

Leader: Today we light the candle of hope to remind
ourselves that God is at work in this world.

**People: From generation to generation, God has
shown us mercy. Let us rest in the hope of
God's promise to make all things right.**

*** HYMN 105** "People, Look East"

*** CONFESSION AND PARDON**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of today and God of tomorrow, you say,
"Bring your full self. There's room for you here."

But we say, "Our lives are too messy."

God of today and God of tomorrow, you say,
"Bring all your dreams. There's room for you here."

But we say, "It's too risky to hope."

God of today and God of tomorrow, you say,
"Bring all your grief. There's room for you here."

But we say, "Some things are easier to forget."

God of today and God of tomorrow,
we know in our hearts that there's room for us here.

Forgive us for withholding our full selves from you.

Forgive us for giving you only our Sunday best.

Help us remember, today and tomorrow:

There's room for every story.

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 Luke 1:46-50 (NT)

ANTHEM *My Soul Calls Out With A Joyful Shout* Traditional

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great
And my spirit sings of the Wondrous things
That you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight
And my weakness you did not spurn
So from east to west shall my name be blest
Could the world be about to turn?
My heart shall sing of the day you bring
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn!

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 1:1-17 (NT)

SERMON "A Place for Your Story"

First in the Series: From Generation to Generation

*** HYMN 93** "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe in the God who made promises to Abraham,
who wrestled with Jacob, who provided for Ruth,
who called to Moses, who grieved with Bathsheba,
who made a covenant with David, who appeared in a
dream to Joseph, and who gave hope to Mary.
We believe in a God who has been loving, inviting,
challenging, and transforming us from generation to
generation. And we believe that same God is here with us
now, saying, "Come on in; there's room for you here."**

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Offering

Offertory Praise To The Lord, The Almighty Traditional

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 104** "O Lord, How Shall I meet You"

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Carol Of The Bells* Traditional

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: Jay Maveety

Today's greeters: Pat Koonts and Margaret Marsh

Today's ushers: Laura Brown and Kim Presley

2023 Stewardship Update

Last Sunday, November 20, we reached 83% of our goal for member contributions. There is still time for you to help us reach 100%! Pledge cards are available in the church office in the rack above the mailboxes. Or, contact Erin at officenewhope@gmail.com or (828)274-0191 if you would like a pledge card mailed to you, or a digital copy emailed to you. Thank you for your generosity.

Bold font indicates congregational participation.

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



2022 Advent Theme from A Sanctified Art

In the first chapter of Luke, pregnant Mary sings the song of protest and praise that we have come to know as the Magnificat: Mary’s soul “magnifies” the Lord. In this song, Mary also recognizes that God’s blessings extend far beyond her: “God’s mercy is for those who fear God *from generation to generation.*” The same divine mercy that called forth the Magnificat from Mary’s lips is also at work in our lives. How did the people who were waiting for Christ’s birth experience God’s liberating love in their lives, and how are we, generations later, called to continue living out and passing on that story?

From Generation to Generation: An Advent Devotional

A Sanctified Art’s Advent devotional leads readers through the Advent season with poetry, artwork, and commentary on our Advent Scriptures. This year it’s available as an e-reader! Simply go to online.flippingbook.com/view/261712895. In order to protect their work, please refrain from sharing the link with those outside our congregation. If you would like a printed copy of the devotional, please contact Erin at officenewhope@gmail.com or (828) 274-0191.

Princettias for the Sanctuary

What is a *princettia*? It’s a pure white poinsettia, and this Advent we invite you to purchase one or more for the adornment of our sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one. The cost for each potted plant is \$8, and order forms will be available in the Narthex. Please place your fully completed form and money in the box provided. The deadline for orders is Sunday, December 11.

Worship bulletin announcements for Sunday, December 4 are due to Administrator Erin May by noon on Wednesday, November 30.

Men’s Brunch Bunch

Men’s brunch bunch will meet at 10:30 AM this Saturday, December 3 at Abeja’s House Cafe on Hendersonville Road. We gather every other Saturday to eat and enjoy fellowship. Questions? Contact Bruce Rasmussen at (828) 633-0327.

MANNA Food Bank

Come join our New Hope volunteer team directly at MANNA Food Bank on Friday, December 9, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. We meet directly at MANNA (627 Swannanoa River Road, Asheville). Questions? Contact team leader Linda Lewis at (828) 483-6296.

Advent Workshops

There are still two Advent workshops coming up on the following Saturdays in December: (1) December 10, making a folded craft ornament, and (2) December 17, making an angel from Christmas cards. Workshops will be held between 10:30 AM and 2:00 PM. There will be a brief devotional, lunch (please bring your own), and the craft project. Instructions and kits will be provided. Kits will cost \$5 or less. Please sign up with Nan Riley by email at revjohnanfnp@aol.com. We need a count so we know how many kits to assemble. Thank you!

Small Groups

Our Faith Formation leaders are considering using small groups to help us strengthen our relationships, enhance our experience of community, and deepen our faith. We invite you to take a short survey if you are interested in exploring the possibility. Filling it out does not commit you to a small group. To access the online survey, contact Pastor Kim at pastornhpc@gmail.com and she will send you the link. It should only take about three minutes to complete. Thank you!

Cover Art: Genealogy of Christ | Lauren Wright Pittman

Theme Graphic: Lauren Wright Pittman & Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Liturgy: adapted from Words for Worship | Sarah Speed

A Sanctified Art, LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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”

First Day of Advent
November 27, 2022
11 o’clock



“A Place for Your Story”



“God’s mercy is for those who fear God *from generation to generation.*” (Luke 1:50)

In the image above, Christ is represented as the rose at the center. The women in the genealogy at the opening of Matthew’s Gospel are imaged as foundational leaves upholding Christ and ensuring the continuation of his lineage.