

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Prelude in A Minor* J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

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: Today we light the candle of joy to remind
ourselves of the good news Christ is bringing.

**People: From generation to generation, God has
blessed us with sources of joy even during
struggle. Let us make room for God's joy to
blossom and unfurl in our hearts.**

* **HYMN 82** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

* CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**God of mercy, a million times a day
we have the opportunity to be gracious,
to assume the best in others,
and to give others the benefit of the doubt.**

**A million times a day we could choose a better way,
but so often we don't.**

**Fear kicks in, insecurities take the wheel,
and the pressure of comparison hits the gas pedal.**

**Forgive us for forgetting the example of Joseph.
Give us the courage to love more deeply than before,
and the wisdom to choose a better way.**

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)

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 1:18-24 (NT)

SERMON "A Place for Your Gifts"
Second in the Series: From Generation to Generation

* **HYMN 94** "Now the Heavens Start to Whisper"

Soloists sing the first verse. Congregation sings the second and third verses.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in the God whose forgives abundantly.
We believe in the God who told Joseph to name the child
Jesus, meaning "God helps,"
and Emmanuel, meaning "God with us."**

**We believe in the God who speaks to us,
like the angel of the LORD spoke to Joseph,
and who guides us by the Holy Spirit.**

**We believe in the God who calls us to a new way—
to choose grace over grudges,
compassion over resentment,
and love over hate.**

This we believe.

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Offering

Offertory *Canon in D* Johann Pachelbel

Doxology (Hymnal, back page)

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

*We serve a gluten-free option alongside our regular bread, and our juice is
non-fermented.*

Prayer After Communion

GOING OUT TO SERVE

* **HYMN 107** "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

*During the singing of the hymn, you are invited to come forward with your
monthly Daily Change offering to fight hunger, both here and throughout the
world. Please place your cash or check in the soup can by the Communion Table.*

* CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE *People Look East* Eleanor Farjeon

END OF WORSHIP ... BEGINNING OF SERVICE



Bold font indicates congregational participation.

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

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: Woody Ferrell
Today's greeters: Jean and Russ Moxley
Today's ushers: Herschel and Linda Lewis

2023 Stewardship Update

Last Sunday, November 27, we reached 86% 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.

2022 Advent Theme from A Sanctified Art

Pregnant Mary sings the song of protest and praise that we have come to know as the Magnificat: Mary's soul "magnifies" the Lord. 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 love in their lives, and how are we, generations later, called to continue living out and passing on that story?

Next Sunday, December 11: Choir Cantata in Worship

In lieu of the sermon, our choir will be singing the cantata *The Silence and the Sound: A Cantata for Christmas*, by Heather Sorenson.

Princettias for the Sanctuary

Princettias are pure white poinsettias, 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 is \$8 each, and order forms are available in the Narthex. Please place your fully completed form and money in the box provided by Sunday, December 11.

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: (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 (\$5) will be provided. 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!

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 donate to one or both of two funds: (1) educational scholarships for Guatemalan children; (2) BeLoved Asheville's BeLoved Village: 12 microhomes for those who have struggled with housing insecurity.

Sunday, December 25: Christmas Morning Brunch

Join us On Christmas morning before our worship service for brunch at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. The Congregational Life team will be preparing the food, so you don't need to bring anything. Please sign up in the Narthex or call Erin in the office. We look forward to sharing this special time together!

Cover Art: The Courageous Choice | Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Liturgy: adapted from Words for Worship | Sarah Speed
A Sanctified Art, LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Worship bulletin announcements for Sunday, December 11 are due to Administrator Erin May by noon on Wednesday, December 7.

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

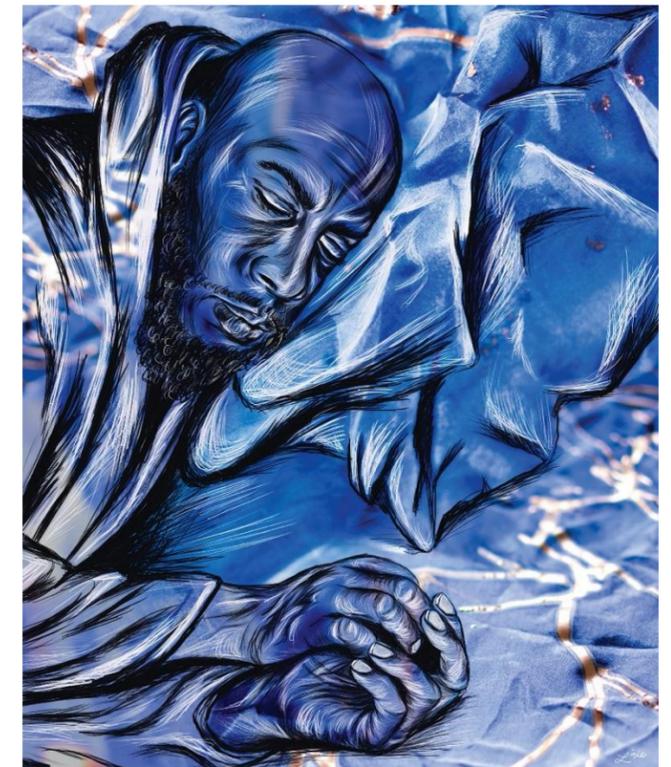
Presbyterian Church

"Including, Renewing, Serving"

Second Sunday of Advent
December 4, 2022
11 o'clock



"A Place for Your Gifts"



"An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream..."
(Matthew 1:20)

"In this image, I've captured Joseph in the liminal space where his dreams will soon shape his reality. He rests his head on a folded blanket, which represents the woven tapestry of his ancestors who also made difficult choices for good. Gold interconnecting lines, like the roots and branches of a family tree, envelop him, symbolizing the beautiful web of regeneration that will come from his courage." –artist Lisle Gwynn Garrity