



The Best Christmas Ever
“Hope”

December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent

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PRELUDE / COUNTDOWN
WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor

WELCOMING OF GUESTS

Pastor

PASSING THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT
CANDLE Liturgist

Liturgist: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

Congregation: We are glad to be here in this community, with this family. It is a place of joyful hope, of radical welcome. It is a place where, together, we can wait in wondrous anticipation for the kingdom to come.

Liturgist: "Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that God may teach us God's ways and that we may walk in Gods paths'"

Congregation: We light this candle as a sign of our hope, our joyous hope that we can be restored – our faith restored, our strength restored, our confidence restored, our joy restored as we watch and wait with all God's people for the promise to be fulfilled.

CHORAL RESPONSE
Choir

We Are Waiting

*SONGS OF PRAISE
See Screen

Here I Am to Worship

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Modern Affirmation

Liturgist

Congregation: We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.

We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ and find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth.

Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI (Inspired by *Angels We Have Heard on High*)

See screen

(Please be seated after the singing of the Gloria Patri)

**Stand as you are able.*

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 9:2 (NKJV)

Liturgist

2 The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light;
Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined.

Liturgist: This is the word of God for the people of God.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S

SERMON

Pastor

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Dear Lord, we want our light to shine. We ask You to help us to remember that we need to be plugged in to Your power and we need to be turned on for Jesus. In Jesus' name, Amen.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5:14-

16

Liturgist

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. ¹⁶ "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Liturgist: This is the word of God for the people of God.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

PRESENTATION OF PRAYERS AND PRAISE

Pastor

If you have a prayer need or praise that you would like to share with the congregation, please fill out a card and pass it toward the center aisle of the congregation as we are singing the Hymn of Preparation. The pastor will collect the cards during the song and pray over the cards at the chancel rail.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

4)

#188 UMH

Christ Is the World's Light (v. 1-

(Remain seated)

PASTORAL

PRAYER

Pastor

SERMON

Pastor

Title: The Best Christmas Ever

Theme: Hope

Main Idea: We have eternal hope in Jesus, the light of God to all nations, and we can share hope - shine the light - so that others may have it too.

RECEIVING OF TITHES AND SACRIFICES (Celebrating Our Gifts) OFFERTORY PRAYER

Gracious God, in this season of anticipation, we offer our gifts with hopeful hearts. As we prepare for the fullness of your kingdom, may these offerings be a sign of our readiness and desire to live attentively. Use them to bring justice, righteousness, and joy to our world. Surprise us with your presence and help us to look up, to pay attention, and to embrace the hope you bring. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY SONG

Let the Lower Lights Be

Burning

Choir

*DOXOLOGY
Blessings

Praise God, From Whom All
See screen

HOLY COMMUNION

*HYMN OF CELEBRATION
3) CEL #431

Shine, Jesus Shine (v.1-

*COMMISION

/

BENEDICTION

Pastor

Beloved, go from this place blessed with a hope that takes root and grows, preparing us to notice, listen, and join in with God's kingdom work among us...and all of God's children said...Amen.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE
Fellowship

See screen

Love and

POSTLUDE

*The flowers are given to the Glory of God
and in Celebration of the Season of Advent*

By

Donna and Bob Corson