



ORDER OF WORSHIP
December 20, 2020
Fourth Sunday in Advent

Hopewell UMC has a vision to be a community of hope for a hurting world.

Mission Statement: *We are a home for ALL people to be transformed by the love of God and grow in mind, body, and spirit.*

Our Core Values: *Worship. Learn. Serve. Love.*

WELCOME

PRELUDE: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" performed by Amy Chaplin, arranged by Karen Roth, available from Sonology Music (sonologymusic.com)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: O come, God of the nations bind us together in one heart and mind.

People: Our souls magnify the Lord and our spirits rejoice in God for God has looked upon us with favor.

Leader: God has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly. God has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

People: God of Justice, God of Peace, we open our hearts to you this Advent season. Give us grace to be instruments of your peace.

Leader: Today we light the candle of Peace as we are reminded of the peace that can originate only from You, O God, - a Peace that surpasses all human understanding, in honor of the coming of the Prince of Peace, Jesus the Christ, we light the candles of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace.

(light all four candles around the wreath)

All: "Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel."

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Host of Hosts, from sunrise to sunrise, and generation to generation, we are your people.

People: You have been with us wherever we have gone.

Leader: You will be with us wherever we may go.

People: You planted us in a land flowing with milk and honey, then you planted our salvation in Mary's womb.

Leader: Jesus, who is the Christ, is planted firmly in each one of us.

People: Our souls magnify the Lord. Our spirits rejoice in God, our Savior. Amen

OPENING PRAYER:

Patient God, we come to You this day, in the rush of the preparation for holiday celebrations, we need the hope, love, joy, and peace that this season represents. We listen once again with wonder to the magnificent words of Mary as she proclaims her faithful participation in Your most miraculous gift of a Savior. Open our hearts this day, Lord, to receive the words and the blessings, to be fed by Your amazing grace, and to be transformed into instruments of Your peace, able to share with others as you have shared with us. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

OPENING HYMN:

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

UMH #218

JOYS & CONCERNS PASTORAL PRAYER LORD'S PRAYER

SCRIPTURE: Old Testament: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 (NRSV)

God's Covenant with David

7 Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, 2 the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." 3 Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

4 But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 5 Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? 6 I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. 7 Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" 8 Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; 9 and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies

from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. 10 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, 11 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. 16 Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

New Testament: Luke 1:46-55 (NRSV)

Mary's Song of Praise

46

And Mary said,

47

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

48

for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

49

for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

50

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

51

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

52

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

53

he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

54

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

55

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

HYMN OF PREPARATION:

The Friendly Beasts

UMH #227

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Children's Christmas Pageant

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY:**

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH #95

***CLOSING HYMN:**

Mary Did You Know, performed by Lou Steele

(by Buddy Greene and Mark Lowry; CCLI Song# 839225 / CCLI lic # 57980; Vocals - Lou Steele - Accompaniment courtesy of Piano Nest (<http://YouTube.com/ThePianoNest>))

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE