



**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**December 6, 2020**  
**Second 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**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Leader: God of Love, you created the universe and all that is in it. You created all things and called them good.

**People: God of Love, you wove into life a beautiful diversity from your infinite palette of creativity. All the creatures that walk or swim, crawl or fly sing praises to you.**

Leader: On this second Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of Love to remind us that the God of unconditional Love calls us home to love all things, all people, all creatures, all plants, the Earth, and all of Creation.

(Light two purple candles)

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

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Listen! The voice of God calls out across the ages.

**People: We hear and respond. We rise up to worship God from the valleys, the mountains, and the plains.**

Leader: Like a shepherd God leads us and tenderly gathers us together. Comfort, comfort O my people says our God of love.

**People: The grass withers and the flower fades; but the love of God endures forever! Amen.**

## **OPENING PRAYER:**

**Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins so that we may celebrate the commemoration of the nativity, and so that we may await with joy the coming in glory of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.**

## **OPENING HYMN:**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

UMH #196

## **CHILDREN'S MOMENT JOYS & CONCERNS PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **SCRIPTURE: Old Testament: Isaiah 40:1-11 (NRSV)**

God's People Are Comforted

40

1

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

2

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

3

A voice cries out:  
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

4

Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

5

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

6

A voice says, "Cry out!"  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"  
All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

7

The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

8

The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

9

Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”

10

See, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

11

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

### **New Testament: Mark 1:1-8 (NRSV)**

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,  
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’”

4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. 8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

**HYMN OF PREPARATION:**

*Open Our Eyes, Lord* (sung 3X)

TFWS #2086

**SERMON:**

*Home is Where the Heart Is*

Rev. Laura Steele

**OFFERING**

**\*DOXOLOGY:**

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

UMH #95

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**\*CLOSING HYMN:**

*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

UMH #381

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**