

**HOPE CHURCH**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
December 10, 2017 ~ 11:00 AM

**THE APPROACH TO GOD**

PRELUDE *Kommst du, nun, Jesu (Jesus, are you coming from heaven to earth now?)*  
J S Bach  
*Veni Emmanuel (O Come, O Come Emmanuel)*  
Margaret Sandresky

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP *Who Are We Waiting For?* Ruth Elain Schram  
Who are we waiting for?  
The promised Messiah, God's only Son; the Treasure of heaven, the Holy One.  
That's who we're waiting for.  
Who are we waiting for?  
The Wonderful Couns'lor, the King of kings; our Savior, Redeemer, salvation brings.  
That's who we're waiting for.

SENTENCES

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.  
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.  
**A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God."** *from Isaiah 40*  
Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet,  
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.  
**Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,  
and righteousness will look down from the sky.** *from Psalm 85*  
Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things,  
**strive to be found by God at peace.** *from 2 Peter 3*

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN Red #59 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* FREU DICH SEHR

\*SALUTATION

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\*Congregation to rise in body or spirit  
**Bold type indicates congregational response**

ADVENT PRAYER

**God of Life, Spirit of Wisdom,  
open our hearts to the strength and beauty  
of your presence among us  
in our lives and in our world.**

**Come among us as holy fire  
to reveal, to purify, to renew our hearts,  
making in us a home for righteousness and peace.**

**Prepare us with the voices of prophets in our midst  
to receive you and to follow you,  
that faithfulness and goodness  
may spring up in abundance in your people.**

**Lift us up, bring us low, level us, guide us,  
that your Spirit may prepare in us a way  
for the One who is true life  
for us and all your children. Amen.**

\*THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

SACRED DANCE *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding*

"Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding;  
"Christ is nigh!" we hear the cry,  
"Cast away the works of darkness,  
All you children of the day!"

st.1 & 2 Weisse, st.3 Wiersma

See, the Lamb, so long expected,  
Comes with pardon down from heav'n.  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
One and all, to be forgiv'n.

All creation joins in witness,  
God's salvation sown on earth.  
Faithfulness shown all around us;  
Ever through the Spirit, birth.

## ADVENT LITANY

Come, Emmanuel, God with us;  
**we long for your light to shine among us.**  
Speak to us of your forgiveness and healing  
**and call us as your people.**

Let us hear what the Lord will speak;  
**for God will speak peace**  
**to those who turn to God in their hearts.**

Love and faithfulness will join hands;  
righteousness and peace will kiss:  
**faithfulness will spring up from the ground**  
**and the Lord will give what is good.**

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
**and all people shall see it together.**

*the Advent candle is lighted*

## THE WORD OF GOD

### WORD WITH THE CHILDREN

Rejoice! Rejoice!

John R. Paradowski

**Prepare the way for Jesus who comes to bring us peace.**

**We light a candle on this day and join our hearts to say:**

**“Rejoice! Rejoice Emmanuel.” Jesus brings us peace.**

*Children ages 3 through grade 5 leave for Children’s Worship*

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 40:1-11

*p. 581*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 85

*cantor: verses; congregation: refrain*

Right-eous-ness and peace, right-eous-ness and peace,  
shall go be-fore the Lord, be-fore the Lord.

LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.  
You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. *refrain*

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people,  
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.  
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land. *refrain*

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.  
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,  
and righteousness will look down from the sky.  
The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.  
Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps. *refrain*

THE EPISTLE LESSON 2 Peter 3:8-15a

*p. 988*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL LESSON Mark 1:1-8

*p. 812*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON *Advent Wisdom: Creating Strength and Beauty*

PRAYER FOR BLESSING *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Susan Geschke

## THE RESPONSE TO GOD

\*CONFESSION OF FAITH *Our Song of Hope* – VII.21

*approved in 1978 by the RCA as a statement of faith*

**We sing to our Lord a new song;  
we sing in our world a sure Hope:  
God will renew the world through Jesus,  
who will put all unrighteousness out,  
purify the works of human hands,  
and perfect their fellowship in divine love.  
Christ will wipe away every tear; death shall be no more.  
There will be a new heaven and a new earth,  
and all creation will be filled with God's glory.  
Come, Lord Jesus:  
we are open to your Spirit.  
We await your full presence.  
Our world finds rest in you alone.**

LIFE OF HOPE

CALL TO PRAYER *Wait for the Lord*

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." The second staff contains the melody for the second line of text: "Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!" The notes are primarily quarter and eighth notes, with some rests and a final cadence.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

*Throughout the prayer the following response will be used:*

Lord, in your mercy;

**Hear our prayer.**

*followed by the song "Wait for the Lord" above*

*. . . ending with the Lord's Prayer*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as 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.**

OFFERING Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad, and pass it back.

Offertory *Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain*

Climb to the top of the highest mountain, joyous tidings proclaim to the world,  
Lift up your voice, shout the good news: behold, your Lord comes to you.  
He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will carry the lambs in his arms,  
He will ever keep them safe from harm. Behold, your Lord comes to you.  
He who made the stars in the heaven, He who fashioned the earth and the sea,  
From time eternal he was God, the Alpha and Omega, he. Behold, your Lord!  
He will come in power and glory, he will rule with mercy and truth,  
Hope of the nations, light of all the world.  
He will love the little children, he will hold them in his arms.  
Love him and trust him as a little child. Behold, your Lord comes to you.

\*Doxology *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**praise God, all creatures here below;**

**praise God above, ye heavenly host;**

**\* Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost, Amen.**

**\*or praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*RECESSIONAL HYMN Red #56 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

STUTT GART

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers*

Paul Manz

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## TODAY

Assisting in worship today are Pastor Jill Russell, preacher; Pastor Beth Carroll and Pastor Gordon Wiersma, liturgists; Kim & Kevin Rosenau and family, Advent Litany readers; Ben Sikkink, representing the Deacons, crucifer; Ben Sikkink, reader; Barbara Knoops, elder prayer; Jubilate Choir directed by Brian Carder; Carillon Choir directed by Rhonda Edgington; Chancel Choir directed by Brian Carder; Rhonda Edgington, organist; Claire Martin, flute; Gary Rizner, cello; Kristine Bradfield, cantor; Albert Bradfield, soloist; Ciara Perez, Sacred Dance.

**Children ages 3 through grade 5** are invited to leave the sanctuary after the Word with the Children to participate in **Children in Worship**. The story for 3-year-olds and Pre K = *Angel Visits Joseph*; kindergarten and grade 1 = *Annunciation/Visitation to Elizabeth*; grades 2 and 3 = *Guided Meditation*; grades 4 and 5 = *Messiah: Prophet, Priest & King*. **Children's Bulletins** are available at each door for ages 3-6 & ages 7-12. Plug into Worship worksheets are also available. Please return writing & coloring utensils to the doors after the service.