



# Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

New Hope Lutheran Church

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Welcome - Thank you for sharing worship

Leading Worship

Ministers

Presiding

Ministry of Music

Worship Assistant

Reader

Ushers

Tech Team

Sound

Video

Every Member and Friend

Pastor Jeff Swanson

Gail Manago

Steve Marshall

Steve Marshall

Leta Marsh & Larry Tarin

Kathy Brosch, Miguel Hernandez, Jeff Strom

Howard Swan

Craig Sharp/Steve Marshall

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

## Lighting The Advent Wreath

**Please stand and sing together: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ELW 257, verse 5**

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

### *Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

**L:** At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming. O Emmanuel,

**C: Open us up to your coming.**

**L:** We gather together to allow our deeply held hopes to be reshaped by God's promises. O Emmanuel,

**C: Open us up to your coming.**

**L:** We wait for the day when God will make for us a future that is no longer predicated on our fear. O Emmanuel,

**C: Open us up to your coming.**

**L:** We find a new receptivity within us that desires God's will over our own will and relies on God's justice and mercy to accomplish it. O Emmanuel,

**C: Open us up to your coming.**

**L:** Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of these candles, whose flames bring warmth to winter and fill this place with the glow of hope.

**Amen.**

### **Lighting Two Candles – Peace, Hope and Joy**

**Let us sing together: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ELW 257, verse 6**

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

**Prayer Of The Day**— *this prayer collects us together in prayer before the triune God and turns us toward the scripture themes of the day.*

Let us pray - O God, through your Son you have promised to be with your church forever. On this 25th anniversary as the congregation of New Hope, we give you thanks for those who founded this community and for signs of your presence in this congregation today. Increase in us, the people of New Hope, a spirit of faith and love so that our fellowship can be an example to all. We're sorry for the times when we as a congregation have failed and we ask your help as we seek to do better in the future. Help us to grow in discipleship, help us to be a place which doesn't just welcome, but also includes. We pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Come Holy Spirit and speak to us through the scripture readings,

*Assigned but not read: Isaiah 12:2-6 In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Is. 12:6)*

### **The First Reading is from the 3rd Chapter of Zephaniah**

*The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.*

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. <sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup> The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing <sup>18</sup> as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. <sup>19</sup> I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. <sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

Come Lord Jesus

**Fill our hearts**

### **The Second Reading is from the 4th Chapter of Philippians**

*Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.*

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Come Lord Jesus

**Fill our hearts**

### **The Gospel is from the 3rd Chapter of Luke**

*John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.*

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" <sup>8</sup> Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." <sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup> He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money

from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,<sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.<sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”<sup>8</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to You O, Christ**

**Message:**

**Pastor Jeff Swanson**

### **ELW 254 (Red) Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,<br/>born to set thy people free;<br/>from our fears and sins release us;<br/>let us find our rest in thee.<br/>Israel's strength and consolation,<br/>hope of all the earth thou art,<br/>dear desire of ev'ry nation,<br/>joy of ev'ry longing heart.</p> | <p>2 Born thy people to deliver,<br/>born a child, and yet a king;<br/>born to reign in us forever,<br/>now thy gracious kingdom bring.<br/>By thine own eternal Spirit<br/>rule in all our hearts alone;<br/>by thine all-sufficient merit<br/>raise us to thy glorious throne.</p> |
|---|--|

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788 Music & Text: Pubic Domain

### **The Prayers**

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

God who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower your people in taking risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good news. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God who creates, you hold in balance diverse ecosystems. Encourage efforts to protect wild lands from devastation. Teach us to care for animals and people in the path of destructive fires and storms. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures, judges, and lawyers in actions steeped in love and restoration. Increase the desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. Show your compassion and remember your people in love. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God who abides, you dwell among the people of New Hope. Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here. Help us learn how to include, not just to welcome. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God who consoles, we thank you for the time we have had with loved ones who have passed. Comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

**Peace** - *Matthew 5:23-24 If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your sister or brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Also Romans 16:16, 1 Corinthians 16:20, "greet one another," a symbol of peace and of love.*

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**Our Offerings to God** *In gratitude to God we return a part of what he has given us as an offering realizing that all we have is God's. The offering that is gathered is for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need locally and worldwide. **Enjoy the special music as the gifts are gathered.***

*After the gifts are gathered, please stand as you are able and join in singing.*

## **Let Us Adore Him**

**(purple 49)**

O come let us adore Him  
King of Heaven Lord of All  
O come let us adore Him  
The Savior of us all

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Let us Pray, Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## The Meal

**Communion** – Simply being here makes you a part of the New Hope Family. We invite and welcome everyone to share this sacred time of fellowship, forgiveness and renewal. More importantly, it is Jesus himself who welcomes and urges you to come forward. In this “meal” of Communion we believe that Christ is truly present and comes to us, in, with and under the bread and wine. Christ’s real presence is one of the great mysteries of faith. This gift of Christ’s very self in the bread and wine proclaims God’s saving Word, feeds and nourishes our faith, forgives our sins, and sends us into the world to continue to be Christ’s real presence in the world today.

Christ is here among us.

**Christ is truly with us.**

## Words of Institution

Please join in singing the Lord's Prayer together:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Give us this day our daily bread, forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive them, who trespass against us, forgive us our trespasses

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Oh Lord, lead us not, into temptation, but,  
Save us from evil, and the, kingdom, the power and the, glory forever will be yours

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven

## Invitation To Communion

Come to Christ’s banquet.  
**Feast on God’s gift of grace.**

## **Communion Distribution**

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say; The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you. Each person may respond, Amen. The wine is red, if you prefer grape juice is light color. Place your empty cups in the baskets on the side.*

## **Come To The Child (green 75)**

Come to the Child of Bethlehem  
See Him the Son of God and man  
Think of the life that now has filled our flesh and bone  
Come to the Child in wonder now  
Think of our God imagine how  
Heaven could fill this simple Child of Bethlehem

Come and worship, Come and honor Him  
Come and bow Now lay your pride and plans aside  
Come and praise Him, Lift your heart to Him  
He is your God He is your hope and He is love

Come to the table of the Lord  
See Him the bread and wine out-poured  
Think of the holy life He brings to every heart  
Come to the feast in wonder now  
Think of His love imagine how  
You are invited to this table of the Lord

Alleluia Alleluia  
Holy Lamb of God the Savior of the world  
Alleluia Lord we lift our hearts  
You are the Way You are the Truth and You are love

Come to the Child of Bethlehem  
See Him the Son of God and man  
Think of the life that now has filled our flesh and bone  
Come to the Child in wonder now  
Think of our God imagine how  
Heaven could fill this simple Child of Bethlehem  
Worship your Lord this simple Child, of Bethlehem.

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## Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray: Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

Amen.

## Announcements

- ✚ **The Angel Tree** – Please bring the gifts and/or food for Cristo Rey today by 2pm.
- ✚ **Today**, join us for lunch for New Hope's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary provided by El Buen after worship service. Share your stories and memories of the past 25 years
- ✚ **Christmas Eve** Service will be at 4:00pm
- ✚ **New** Flower Chart is up. Mark your favorite dates to bring flowers
- ✚ **For** other announcements, see your bulletin

## WOV791(Blue) Alabare

### Refrain

Alabaré, alabaré, alabaré a mi Señor.

Alabaré, alabaré, alabaré a mi Señor.

- 1 John saw the number of all those redeemed,  
and all were singing praises to the Lord.  
Thousands were praying, ten thousands rejoicing,  
and all were singing praises to the Lord. *Refrain*
- 2 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood has set us free from ev'ry sin.  
Power and riches and wisdom and strength  
and honor and all blessing shall be his. *Refrain*
- 3 Sing with the people, the people of God,  
and join creation in a joyful hymn.  
Blessing and honor and glory and might  
to God and to the Lamb be without end. *Refrain*

Text: Manuel José Alonso and José Pagán; English text composite Music: Manuel José Alonso, José Pagán  
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## Benediction Blessing

## We Are Sent Into The World To Share What Has Been Given To Us

Please stand as you are able

Please join in singing the **Sending Song**

***Brothers, sisters, all are we part of God's great family.  
As we go from this place, may God keep us in His grace.  
May God keep us in His grace.***

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRESENCE TODAY.

We are so glad you worshipped here today and invite you again. If you are looking for a faith family we invite you to consider New Hope.

The Mission of New Hope is to discover, experience, and share God's love with our hearts, hands and voices.

New Hope's Vision: As followers of Christ we will:

- encourage a spiritual journey
- celebrate the diversity and gifts that each person brings
- learn from each other
- engage with the world around us

### Commemorations

#### **Las Posadas (LLC), Monday, December 16, 2024**

This celebration, long popular in Mexico, takes its name from the "posadas," or lodgings, sought by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Their search is reenacted in a neighborhood, unsuccessfully, until finally they are welcomed in, and a party commences.

#### **Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552, Friday, December 20, 2024**

Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.

**Readings for December 22:** Micah 5:2-5a *From Bethlehem comes a ruler*, Luke 1:46b-55 You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52), Psalm 80:1-7 (alternate) Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7), Hebrews 10:5-10 / *have come to do your will*, Luke 1:39-45 [46-55] *Blessed are you among women / My soul magnifies the Lord*

## No More Business as Usual

Lutherans looking for gospel may hear John the Baptizer's preaching as primarily law. It can be difficult to reconcile his fire-and-brimstone style with the joy that traditionally belongs to the third Sunday of Advent. Yet despite John's harsh words for the crowds, the people seem eager for his teaching—"What then should we do?" They keep asking questions fervently, even when the answers call them to higher expectations of moral and selfless living. It's the kind of teaching that people associate with the Messiah: good news that business as usual is on the way out and something new is on its way in. The status quo of greed, selfishness, scarcity, and complacency no longer has power. A new day of mutual sharing and justice is almost here. Images of the winnowing fork and the ax at the root of the tree suggest clearing out old habits and fears to make room for something new. In calling people to repentance, John invites them to turn away from the old life and turning toward God's new life. John has even better news: The Messiah is indeed coming, one who will not only call people to high expectations, but also enable that faithful living. Because the Messiah is coming to baptize "with the Holy Spirit and fire," life will never be the same. Through baptism business as usual will be replaced by a fruit-bearing, joy-yielding, grace-filled relationship with God. It's an excellent reason to "rejoice always" (1 Thess. 5:16): The Lord is near!



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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