



# Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 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

Vicar Thania Drake

Gail Manago

Karen Miller

Ruth Huckaby

Angie Gifford & Monika Hughes

Kathy Brosch, Miguel Hernandez, Jeff Strom

Howard Swan

Craig Sharp/Steve Marshall

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

## Lighting The Advent Wreath

**Please stand and sing together: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ELW 257, verse 3**

- 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might,  
as to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times you gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *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: Prepare us for your coming.**

L: We gather together to get ready for what? Only heaven knows. O Emmanuel,

**C: Prepare us for your coming.**

L: We wait for the day when God will create a prevailing peace on the earth, and natural-born enemies turn into newborn friends. O Emmanuel,

**C: Prepare us for your coming.**

L: We get ready for God to come close by laying our lives open to Jesus, asking him to sort through all our mixed motives. O Emmanuel,

**C: Prepare us for 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.

**C: Amen.**

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

**Let us sing together: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ELW 257, verse 4**

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free  
your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *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 - Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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: Luke 1:68-79 In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us. (Lk. 1:78)*

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

*God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.*

<sup>1</sup> See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; <sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Come Lord Jesus  
**Fill our hearts**

### **The Second Reading is from the 1st Chapter of Philippians**

*The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.*

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup> constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Come Lord Jesus  
**Fill our hearts**

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

*John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.*

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; <sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

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

**Message:**

**Vicar Thania Drake**

## **ELW 264 (Red) Prepare The Royal Highway**

1 Prepare the royal highway;  
the King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley  
a level road appear!  
Then greet the King of glory,  
foretold in sacred story:

### *Refrain*

Hosanna to the Lord,  
for he fulfills God's word!

2 God's people, see him coming:  
your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before him!  
Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you!  
No more shall doubt assail you!

### *Refrain*

3 Then fling the gates wide open  
to greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet ev'ry nation  
its tribute too may bring.  
All lands will bow before him;  
their voices join your singing: *Refrain*

4 His is no earthly kingdom;  
it comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom  
and justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding  
for kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

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## **The Prayers**

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

Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict. Enrich the work of Cristo Rey and the Border Servant Corps. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering. Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our preparations, and bless the efforts by worship teams, musicians, clergy, and lay leaders as they do your work. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. 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.**

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. .... To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen**

## The Lord’s Prayer

**P** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us join together praying as Jesus taught us:

**C** **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; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

## 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** - Pick a name for a gift and/or food for Cristo Rey. Bring the gifts and food by next Sunday
- ✚ **Please sign** up on the back table for the lunch that El Buen will provide on Sunday, December 15 after service for New Hope's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Share your stories and memories and wear your favorite Christmas sweater
- ✚ **Congregational meeting** today after service to vote on the 2025 budget and vote for council members
- ✚ **For tickets** for the Living Christmas Tree at 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church on December 14, see Christine Swan



## ACS 949 (Blue) Keep Your Lamps Trimmed And Burning

- 1     Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
for this work's almost done. *Refrain*

### *Refrain*

Children, don't grow weary;  
children, don't grow weary;  
children, don't grow weary,  
for this work's almost done.

- 2     Darker midnight lies before us,  
darker midnight lies before us,  
darker midnight lies before us,  
for this work's almost done. *Refrain*

- 3     Lo, the morning soon is breaking,  
lo, the morning soon is breaking,  
lo, the morning soon is breaking,  
for this work's almost done. *Refrain*

- 4     Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
for this work's almost done. *Refrain*

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## **Blessing**

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light God, our hope for the journey,  
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **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**

**Lucy, martyr, died 304, Friday, December 13, 2024**

Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year.

**John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591, Saturday, December 14, 2024**

John was a member of the Carmelite monastic order, and worked to reform it. His writings reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation.

**Readings for December 15: Zephaniah 3:14-20 Rejoice, the Lord is in your midst, Isaiah 12:2-6**

In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Is. 12:6), **Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice, the Lord is near, Luke 3:7-18 One more powerful is coming, baptizing with fire**

## **Your Kingdom Come on Earth**

Luke sets the preaching of John the Baptist clearly in the midst of the political and religious environment of his day. We are told the names of the emperor, governor, and other political rulers of the day. They are the ones who are supposed to care for the welfare of the citizens of their territories. Although John gave his message while he was in the wilderness, it was intended to have its impact in the farms, villages, and cities where the ordinary and the powerful live out their daily lives. John is not satisfied with the way things are, and his words help prepare us for the coming of one who will turn the world upside down. John's words tell us to examine our own lives and the world around us. We should not be complacent in the face of injustice, but instead seek forgiveness and strive for lives that bear fruit according to God's vision for the world. We all have the potential to "over-spiritualize" the Bible and our faith, so that they become disconnected from the real needs of the world around us. This potential can be even greater in the days around Christmas, as we may seek to justify over-spending on gifts, excessive eating and drinking, or simply desire to escape from the difficulties of ordinary life for a time. John provides a warning about ignoring the truth about our sinfulness and the brokenness in the world. But John also repeats the promise that God ultimately will not settle for the way things are in the world, and that God's salvation will be made known in the one who is to come: Jesus.



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

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Katie's Pantry Directors  
Rocky Mountain Synod  
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Pastor Jeff Swanson  
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