



# First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

New Hope Lutheran Church

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Katie's Pantry – 915-494-0456

<https://www.facebook.com/Katiesfoodpantry/>

Welcome - Thank you for sharing worship

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Presiding

Ministry of Music

Worship Assistant

Reader

Ushers

Tech Team

Sound

Video

Every Member and Friend

Pastor Jeff Swanson

Gail Manago

Vicki Gannon

Vicki Gannon

Angie Gifford & Karen Miller

Kathy Brosch, Miguel Hernandez, Jeff Strom

Howard Swan

Craig Sharp/Steve Marshall

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

## Lighting The Advent Wreath - Peace

**Please stand and sing together: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ELW 257, verse 1**

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

### *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: Wake us up to your coming.**

**L:** We gather together to expect the unexpected and imagine the unimaginable. O Emmanuel,

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

**L:** We wait for the day when God will recycle tanks into tractors and transform minefields into soccer fields. O Emmanuel,

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

**L:** We stay awake by telling stories that offer a glimmer of a future and agitate dormant hope within us. O Emmanuel,

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

**L:** Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of this candle, whose flame brings warmth to winter and fills this place with the glow of hope.

**C: Amen.**

**Let us sing together: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ELW 257, verse 2**

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
embracing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beauty come and stay;  
teach us your will and guide our way. *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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father 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: Psalm 25:1-10* To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. (Ps. 25:1)

**The First Reading is from the 33rd Chapter of Jeremiah**

*In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name—"The LORD is our righteousness"—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.*

<sup>14</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Come Lord Jesus  
**Fill our hearts**

### **The Second Reading is from the 3rd Chapter of 1 Thessalonians**

*Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.*

<sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. <sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup> And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup> And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Come Lord Jesus  
**Fill our hearts**

### **The Gospel is from the 21st Chapter of Luke**

*God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.*

Jesus said:<sup>25</sup> "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." <sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>34</sup> "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

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

## W & P 36 Emmanuel (sing twice)

Emmanuel Emmanuel  
His name is called Emmanuel  
God with us revealed in us  
His name is called Emmanuel

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## The Prayers

God of righteousness, we live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill New Hope and the church around the world with renewed passion for our shared mission. Deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering. In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another, especially the work of Katie's Pantry. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have passed before us. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. 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

### 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
- ✚ **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
- ✚ **Congregational Forum** today at 11:00am to discuss 2025 budget  
Copies of budget are available in the back of church
- ✚ **Congregational meeting** on December 8 at 11:00am to vote on the 2025 budget and vote for council members
- ✚ **See** Christine Swan for tickets for the Living Christmas Tree at 1st Baptist Church
- ✚ **"Get Together"** Lunch on December 17 at 12:00pm at Olive Garden on Transmountain  
Sign up sheet in the back if you will be attending
- ✚ **See your** bulletin for other announcements

## W & P 80 King Of Kings *(sung twice)*

King of kings and Lord of lords Glory hallelujah  
King of kings and Lord of lords Glory hallelujah  
Jesus Prince of Peace Glory hallelujah  
Jesus Prince of Peace Glory hallelujah

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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

**Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552, Tuesday, December 3, 2024**

A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

**John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749, Wednesday, December 4, 2024**

A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, *The Fount of Wisdom*, remained influential for centuries.

**Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342, Friday, December 6, 2024**

Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey. According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.

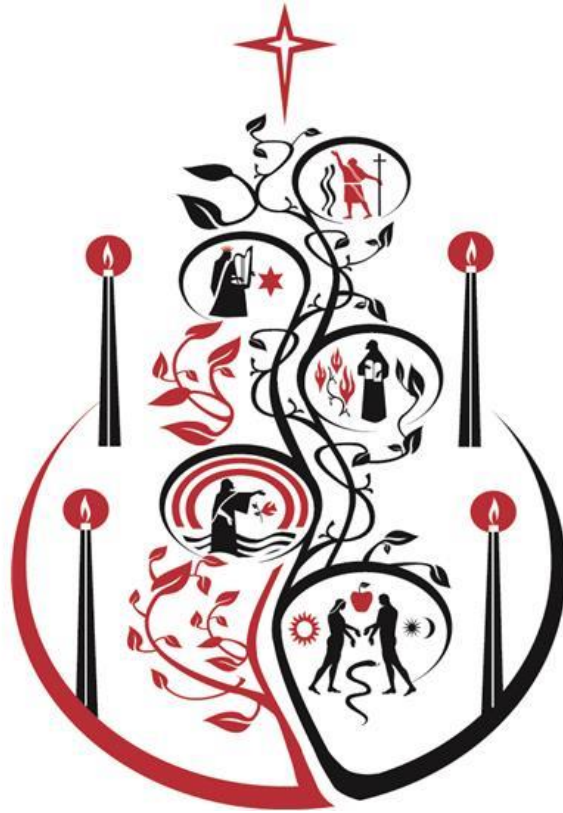
**Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397, Saturday, December 7, 2024**

While a governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized. He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead St. Augustine to faith.

**Readings for December 8: Malachi 3:1-4** *My messenger is a refiner and purifier*, **Baruch 5:1-9** (alternate)

*The return of scattered Israel*, **Luke 1:68-79** *In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us.* (Lk. 1:78), **Philippians 1:3-11** *A harvest of righteousness on the day of Jesus Christ,*

**Luke 3:1-6** *Prepare the way of the Lord*



## **Don't Wait for the Kingdom—See It**

As Advent begins, we look forward to the celebration of Jesus' first coming to the world in the light of a text that promises his final coming. We, like the gospel writer, Luke, live in the time between these two "advents" of Jesus. Today's gospel gives us guidance on how to live faithfully as we wait for Jesus to return. However, in this in-between time, it is easy for us to become distracted and lose sight of the promises of Jesus. Daily tasks and routines can lull us into apathy. Ease and success can allow us to ignore our spiritual needs. Struggles, setbacks, and disappointments can cause us to lose hope and fall into despair. But Jesus tells us we should not feel beaten down or defeated by the struggles of this world, but instead "stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" (Luke 21:28). Jesus goes on to say that there will be signs, signs of new life and growth, such as the sprouting of a leaf on a fig tree in the summertime. These signs are perceptible to us here and now. These signs help us know that God's kingdom is coming. In fact, they remind us that in Jesus, God's kingdom has already come near, and Jesus words will not pass away until this kingdom has fully come. We should live with our eyes focused on today's signs that demonstrate God's reign and trust that Jesus' redemption of the world will one day be complete.



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Interim Pastor  
Katie's Pantry Directors  
Rocky Mountain Synod  
ELCA Churchwide

Pastor Jeff Swanson  
Mary Anez & The Rev Jeff St. Clair  
The Rev Dr. Meghan Aelabouni, Bishop  
The Rev Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop