



Christmas at House of Hope

The Advent and Christmas season is a very special time of year for the Motet Choir. December at House of Hope is punctuated by some of the most beloved traditions in our church life. For Motet Choir members, we find ourselves working on multiple projects at one time. We learn Advent anthems while also preparing the large work for Christmas Eve and music for the Tableaux Service. In choosing Advent anthems, I have learned through trial and error to select works that don't lean too much into Christmas. These four weeks of waiting and anticipation are special, so I try to select works that fit this character.

As for Christmas Eve, HOH Director of Music Aaron Miller and I hire a large orchestra, and we have written a number of the carol and hymn settings over the last six years. The work that goes into the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is massive—from rearranging the space to accommodate an orchestra, to writing arrangements, and presenting the large choral work and anthems. This year, in recognition of the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, I have selected Felix Mendelssohn's cantata *Vom Himmel hoch*, built around the hymn tune and text by Martin Luther (better known as "From Heaven Above"). It is a colorful and powerful cantata constructed very much in the style of Bach's six cantatas that make up the larger "Christmas Oratorio." Since the Motet Choir was busy with Stephen Paulus' opera around Reformation Sunday this fall, I thought I'd extend recognition of this significant anniversary into the Christmas season.

Knowing that the hustle and bustle of December impacts nearly everyone these days, we do not take for granted the way in which music and the word can offer respite and inspiration for our congregation.

—Matthew Culloton, Choirmaster

ADVENT SERVICES

Sunday, December 3

The First Sunday of Advent

10 a.m. Worship

David A. Van Dyke, preaching

11:15 a.m. Advent Celebration and
Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long

Sunday, December 10

The Second Sunday of Advent

10 a.m. Worship

David A. Van Dyke, preaching

11:15 a.m. Choir School Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 17

The Third Sunday of Advent

10 a.m. Worship

David A. Van Dyke, preaching

11:15 a.m. Christmas Pageant

Saturday, December 23

5:30 p.m. Traditional Tableaux Service

Child care available for children under 6.

Sunday, December 24

The Fourth Sunday of Advent | Christmas Eve

10 a.m. Worship

David A. Van Dyke, preaching

7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Carillon Recitals by
David Johnson

7:30 p.m. Candlelight Service

David A. Van Dyke, preaching

Aaron David Miller, organist

The Motet Choir and the Bach Chamber
Players, Matthew Culloton, conductor

Child care available for children under 6.

10 p.m. Candlelight Service

David A. Van Dyke, preaching

Aaron David Miller, organist

The Motet Choir and the Bach Chamber
Players, Matthew Culloton, conductor

No child care available.

Visit hohchurch.org for live-stream.

The Gift of Waiting

Reverend David A. Van Dyke

Advent is a season of waiting and watching. It is a season of high expectations that something is about to happen, which makes our waiting rather unique. During Advent, we wait in hope knowing that the promised one has come among us, and will come again in new and unexpected ways. In our waiting, we reaffirm that God is always capable of breaking in and startling us when we least expect it, with God's power and presence in our midst. As we prepare for Christmas, observing Advent is always important. This year, however, it seems particularly timely as well.

As Nancy and I prepare to enter a new phase in our lives, and as the church enters its own time of transition, we are all entering a season of waiting. You will be waiting for the arrival of your new pastor. And so as we all enter a time of Advent waiting, here are a couple of thoughts. If you will be waiting for the Messiah to come in the form of your new pastor, you will surely be disappointed. While the themes of waiting for a new pastor and waiting to celebrate Christ's arrival yet again may be similar, they are in no way the same. Secondly, waiting is not a passive exercise or an inactive time. Waiting can and should be a time of great productivity, of vigilantly keeping awake and staying alert, of preparing the way—all of the Advent themes apply here. And they apply to my transition as well.

While I am retiring, I am not planning to sit idly in a chair, doing nothing. Although my comfortable chair with view overlooking the Potawatomi Marsh will be a perfect place to do that on occasion. I plan, however, to actively wait to see what God has in store for me,

remaining open to new possibilities. My prayer for you during the church's time of waiting, is that you

will actively prepare for your future. During this time of waiting, you will have opportunities to express your hopes and desires for this congregation's future. You will have an opportunity, and the needed time, to prepare the way for this congregation to welcome a new pastor and together, chart your future course. Because I know what a great gift this congregation has been to me, I will eagerly anticipate watching your future unfold and will continue to hold you in my prayers.

While I have mixed feelings about retiring and leaving St. Paul, I am mostly excited about what lies ahead. I am looking forward to a change of pace and new opportunities to serve that may present themselves—opportunities that, as of yet, I can't begin to imagine. In that regard, I feel like a child on Christmas Eve. Throughout my time in ministry, I have been showered with many gifts—more than I deserve. I know gifts and opportunities to serve will continue to come my way. Nancy and I are looking forward to celebrating one last Christmas in the Manse, a place we have felt privileged to call home for the past ten and-a-half years. And we are profoundly grateful for the gift and opportunity to have travelled this journey with you. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and all the best in 2018 and beyond.

Peace.

—David



WORSHIP

10 a.m.

Sunday, December 3

First Sunday in Advent

David A. Van Dyke, preaching

Motet Choir:

Remember, O Thou Man, Ravenscroft

Thou Shalt Know Him, Sirrett

St. Nicholas Choir:

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning,

arr. Helgen

Sunday, December 10

Second Sunday in Advent

David A. Van Dyke, preaching

Motet Choir:

Stay with Us, Hovland

He Watching Over Israel, Mendelssohn

St. Cecilia and St. Nicholas Choirs:

Gloria sei dir gesungen, arr. Bach

Sunday, December 17

Third Sunday in Advent

David A. Van Dyke, preaching

Motet Choir:

A Glorious Day is Dawning, Miller

I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes, Lauridsen

St. Nicholas Choirs:

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened,

Mendelssohn

Sunday, December 24

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Christmas Eve

David A. Van Dyke, preaching

10 a.m. Worship

7 and 9:30 p.m. Carillon Recitals

7:30 p.m. Candelight Service

Organ and orchestra-led hymns and carols

10 p.m. Candlelight Service

Motet Choir:

Vom Himmel hoch, Mendelssohn

Sunday, December 31

First Sunday after Christmas

Jeffrey T. Foels, preaching

Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem

by Maya Angelou

Into this climate of fear and apprehension, Christmas enters,
Streaming lights of joy, ringing bells of hope
And singing carols of forgiveness high up in the bright air.
The world is encouraged to come away from rancor,
Come the way of friendship.

It is the Glad Season.
Thunder ebbs to silence and lightening sleeps quietly in the corner.
Flood waters recede into memory.
Snow becomes a yielding cushion to aid us
As we make our way to higher ground.

Hope is born in the faces of children.
It rides on the shoulders of our aged as they walk into their sunsets.
Hope spreads around the earth. Brightening all things,
Even hate which crouches breeding in dark corridors.

In our joy, we think we hear a whisper.
At first it is too soft. Then only half heard.
We listen carefully as it gathers strength.
We hear a sweetness.
The word is Peace.
Is it loud now. It is louder.
Louder than the explosion of bombs.
We tremble at the sound. We are thrilled by its presence.
It is what we have hungered for.
Not just the absence of war. But, true Peace.
A harmony of spirit, a comfort of courtesies.
Security for our beloved and their beloveds.

We clap hands and welcome the Peace of Christmas.
We beckon this good season to wait a while with us.
We, Baptist and Buddhist, Methodist and Muslim, say come.
Peace.
Come and fill us and our world with your majesty.
We, the Jew and the Jainist, the Catholic and the Confucian,
Implore you, to stay a while with us.
So we may learn by your shimmering light
How to look beyond complexion and see community.

It is Christmas time, a halting of hate time.

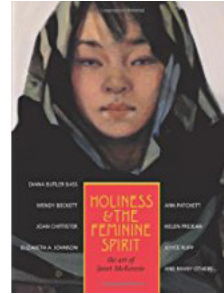
*As a special holiday treat, Dr. Maya Angelou shares a poem she wrote for the 2005 White House tree-lighting ceremony.
View her reading the poem at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrcUnDorY7E>*



Recommended Spiritual Read

Holiness and the Feminine Spirit: The art of Janet McKenzie

Edited by Susan Perry (Orbis Books, 2009)



This book is a collection of paintings by Janet McKenzie and a collection of writings by a variety of spiritual and theological writers of our time. McKenzie invites us into new visual understandings of who Jesus was by painting Mary with an Asian face or the visit between Elizabeth and Mary depicted as two dark-skinned women leaning into one another, womb to womb. Katharine Jefferts Schori wrote a beautiful reflection on McKenzie's multi-racial, whole world Epiphany. Elizabeth A. Johnson responds to a painting of 'Jesus of the People' and others respond in both poetry and prose to images of the Holy Family, Jesus at Gethsemane, Mary's sorrow after the crucifixion, and even some of the saints. This is a visual and thought-provoking way to journey through Advent and into Christmas.

Suggested book on prayer:

Friendship with Jesus: A Way to Pray the Gospel of Mark, by David L. Miller (Augsburg Books, 1999)



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call the office at (651) 227-6311.



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Try our new online directory—a way for members to connect in deeper, more meaningful ways.

If you haven't already, visit hohchurch.org and click "My HOH" to set up an account.

Harvest of Hope Bash — by the Numbers

155 tickets sold

60 bottles of wine won

8 Great Gatherings offered

16 children in child care

29 silent auction items
successfully bid on

57 pints of Larry Lee's pickles
purchased

65 gift cards won at Plinko and
the Spinning Wheel

7 terrific young jazz musicians

80 contributors to Fund-a-Need

Nearly \$60,000 dollars raised
for Mission Outreach

One great night of fellowship.

Our sincere gratitude to all who contributed and attended the Harvest of Hope Bash 2017. It is one way we manifest our faith outside the walls of our church. Thank you!



Al Palmer, owner, pictured with Missy Wilson

One Great Gathering has already taken place. Lucky HOH bidders enjoyed a tour of Gaytee-Palmer Minneapolis Stained Glass workshop with Dick Crone. The group learned how stained-glass windows are designed, made, and repaired. The tour began in the sanctuary where Gaytee-Palmer has restored several of House of Hope's 100-year old windows.



Twin Cities Houses of Hospitality: Melissa's Story

By Carrie Moore

Twin Cities Houses of Hospitality (TCHH) is an intentional community that engages young adults around connections between a life of faith, service, justice, and vocation. This venture is supported by The House of Hope Presbyterian Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church, among others.

It had been a hard day. Rain was pelting down and Melissa Howland had forgotten her umbrella. One of the college students Melissa was working with needed to find additional tuition money or she would have to drop out and another was withdrawing her college application because her family was not supportive. As Melissa unlocked the door of the TCHH house, she smiled because she knew the people behind that door would cheer her up.

Melissa is a first-generation college graduate. The 24-year old grew up in a single-parent, blue-collar family in Millis, MA. "My mom was determined that my siblings and I go to college, but we had no idea how to navigate it. There was no one to ask and no support system in place." She graduated from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA with a degree in Anthropology and Latin American Studies.



Like all TCHH residents, Melissa is doing a year of service. She works in Americorps with College Possible. "The kids ask questions from financial aid, to academic issues, to transferring—and I guide them through the process. I don't want them to struggle like I did. An elite college like Holy Cross doesn't know how to deal with low-income students. That's why I fight for my kids. They are all trying their best to navigate a system that wasn't set up for them."

"This is my second year with College Possible," says Melissa. "Last year, I was working two jobs, seven days a week to make ends meet, living in a shared house on the small stipend we receive. Coming home at the end of a bad day was misery. I ate dinner alone, completely isolated."

"I didn't want to do that again. Joining this great intentional community and having subsidized rent made everything easier. I love my work, appreciate TCHH, and am glad I stayed for a second year."

GIVE
GROW
SERVE
WELCOME

Stewardship – a way to come together

We know that the church is more than the sum of all its parts, all its assets, and all its people. It is a holy place, a place where God is present with us. It is like no other organization to which we may belong. It is unique because it is where we come together in the abundance and extravagance of God's love.

As the year draws to a close, please make your 2018 Stewardship pledge today.

We welcome your contributions many ways, including check, credit card, or stock transfer, among others. Enroll in automatic giving by visiting hohchurch.org and click the blue button on the home screen labeled "My HOH." To create an account, select "Need a Log in" or log into your My HOH account and manage your donations online.

If you have any questions or would like assistance in setting up the account, please contact Michelle, MichelleF@hohchurch.org, (651) 223-7556.

If you are making a payment toward your 2018 pledge in calendar year 2017, please be sure to indicate in the memo line of your check that it is for a "Prepaid Pledge for 2018." This ensures the correct allocation of your gift.

Please remember that to be credited for the 2017 tax year, checks must be postmarked by no later than midnight on December 31, 2017.

Thank you for your contributions. Your generous support is vital to this ministry.



Christmas Tableaux Service Saturday, December 23 at 5:30 p.m.

Few Victorian traditions have continued into the 21st century. However, House of Hope's unique Christmas Tableaux Service has been presented in our sanctuary for nearly 100 years.

In this service, the Christmas story is revealed through scripture readings, traditional carols and anthems sung by the Motet Choir, and staged with tableaux vivants (living pictures) of well-known paintings of familiar scenes from the nativity. Accompanied by unforgettable music, the paintings of Fra Angelico, Rembrandt, and others come to life with actors in stunning costumes and dramatic lighting. This service is suitable for age 6 and up, with child care provided for younger children.



Children, Youth, and Family Programming

Christmas Pageant Practice

Pre-kindergarten through sixth graders are invited for the Children's Christmas Pageant practice from 10:15–11 a.m. in the Great Hall on December 3, 10, and 17. If your child has a speaking part, please have your child attend all three practices.

Advent Celebration

Celebrate the start of the advent season on Sunday, December 3 at 11:15 a.m. Families will enjoy crafts, snacks, and carols during this festive time.

Children's Christmas Pageant

Celebrate the birth of Christ on Sunday, December 17 at 11:15 a.m. in the Great Hall. Nursery age children and their parents are invited to join Pastor Van Dyke on stage, as he narrates the Christmas story. Pre-kindergarten through sixth graders will bring the story to life through character roles and carols.

Tweens Christmas Party

Fourth through sixth graders are invited to a Christmas celebration on Friday,

December 8 at Sky Zone. Time TBD. Bring a white elephant gift to share. Cost is \$20 per person. R.S.V.P. to Kiera Stegall at KieraS@hohchurch.org or (651) 223-7547.

Children in Worship

Please note that pre-kindergarten through sixth graders are invited to join their families in the Sanctuary for worship on December 24 and 31. Come celebrate this special season as a family. Child care will be provided for infants through three-year old children.

Parent Meeting

As we move into a new ministry season, Kiera Stegall wants to make sure you know what changes are coming and wants your voice to be heard. How can we better serve our children and families at HOH? What is your favorite thing about the children and family ministry and what steps can we take to improve? As we embark on a new adventure in 2018, we want you to know about the exciting opportunities available to you and your children. Please come on Sunday, January 14 at 11:15 a.m. in

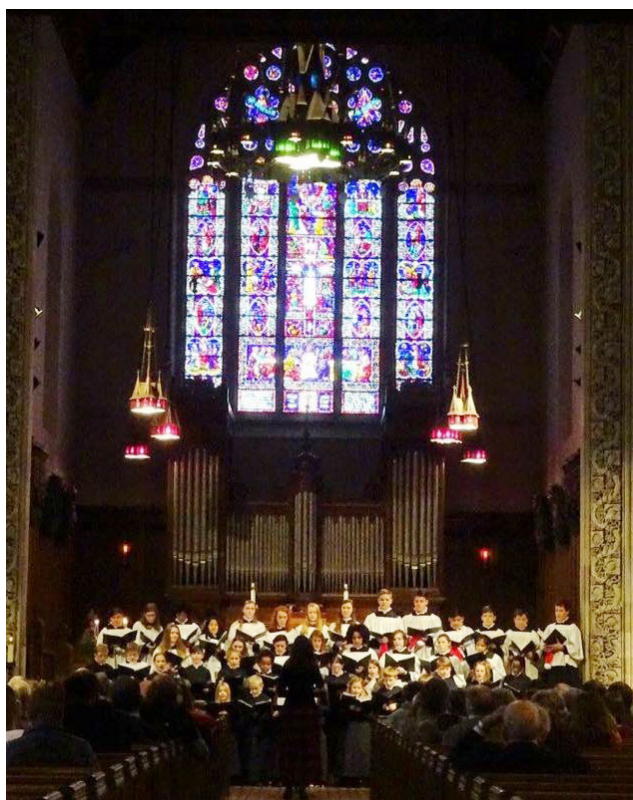
Dining Rooms A & B. Child care will be provided.

The Bible Tells Me So

Third graders will receive their Bibles during worship on Sunday, February 11. To prepare, third and fourth graders are invited to join Kiera Stegall downstairs in Dining Rooms A & B on January 14, 21, and 28 from 10:15–11 a.m. for a three-week Bible series. Children will learn the history of the Bible, the types of literature included in the Bible, and how to navigate the Bible. This class is filled with bizarre stories that are bound to bring laughter and fun.

High School Christmas Party

High School youth are invited to a Christmas Party on December 17 in the Youth Room. We will have a white elephant gift exchange (no money—find something from your attic or basement and wrap it) and an ugly sweater competition with prizes. Please bring a treat to share.



Choir School

Christmas is a favorite season for the Choir School.

There is always a shout of glee in October when we start preparing anthems and carols for Advent worship and our annual Christmas Concert. Music is selected to reflect the season, but also for its artistic and musical value and for faith formation. In keeping with the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, this Advent the choristers are singing two pieces by important Protestant composers J. S. Bach and Felix Mendelssohn. For the concert, the Choir School will sing carols from the Middle Ages to the present day as we join together to wait, prepare, and say, "Come, Lord Jesus."

—Sofia Ardalan

Here We Come A-Caroling!

Choir School Christmas Concert | December 10 at 11:15 a.m.

Listen to the beautiful voices of our choristers as they sing a festive program of anthems and carols to celebrate the Christmas season. Join us in the sanctuary following worship or watch via live-stream at hohchurch.org.

Sunday Exchange

The Sunday Exchange is an opportunity for both new and long-time members to connect about living true to our values in a changing world. This group will offer events and programs to help all feel connected within the church community.

Led by an experienced and knowledgeable lay person, this group will discuss spiritual questions and issues of concern in our world. This is a facilitated conversation, not a lecture. Join in these gatherings for an opportunity to share opinions and perspectives that matter to you.

Gather the last Sunday of every month for a group conversation about living what we call "a life of faith." No preparation required—all are welcome. Join us at 11:15 a.m. in Room 1. Child care available until 12:15 p.m.

December 31: Jesus said, "The Kingdom of God is within you." How's that going?

Cloister Art Gallery Christmas Traditions Around the World Exhibit December 5–January 7

Get into the Christmas spirit with a visit to the Cloister Art Gallery.

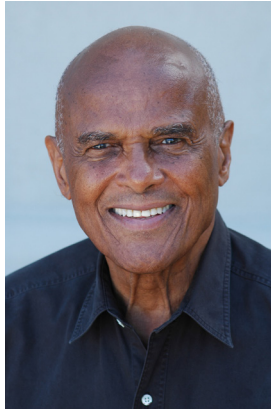
Please bring in art or recipes that represent a special Christmas tradition for your family. Cherished items from all heritages are welcome.

Stop in and be amazed.



SUNDAY SERIES

Harry Belafonte | January 14 at 2 p.m.



Legendary music artist and actor Harry Belafonte possesses unparalleled experience in the arena of world-wide social justice struggles. Through his friendship with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., his work as a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, his role as celebrity ambassador for juvenile justice issues with the ACLU, Belafonte provides a vital perspective on some of the most pressing issues of our time—from the Black Lives Matter movement to U.S. foreign policy and humanitarianism in Africa.

Sunday Series events are free and open to the public.



HOH celebrated Reformation Sunday on Sunday, October 29. Marking the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, this year's celebration served as a reminder that we are grounded in a tradition that is reformed by God, and always reforming.

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We have some exciting promotions to announce. David Goudzwaard-Vaught has been promoted to Executive Assistant for Pastors and Programs. He will assist the Pastor/Head of Staff and provide assistance to the program area. Debbie Tschida has been promoted to Administrative Assistant at the front desk where she will be the first point of contact for members and visitors. Anne Mitchell will take on additional responsibilities in the communications area and Connie Wooten will move to a full-time Administrative Assistant primarily working in the budget and finance area.

Thank you to all our hard-working staff for keeping things moving smoothly at the church.

First Habitat for Humanity Project of 2018

Planning has begun for our 2018 House of Hope Habitat for Humanity volunteer projects.

Our first job will be Saturday, January 27 at 1105 3rd Street in St. Paul Park.

We started this house last fall with our Faith Builders partners. Together we supplied 997 volunteer hours and essentially completed the exterior and made progress on the interior work. House of Hope contributed 200 of those volunteer hours. Thank you volunteers!



There is still more to do to get this house finished, such as trim work, painting, cabinets. All tasks can easily be accomplished by any volunteer with a little training. Join HOH volunteers for a fun and rewarding Saturday.

To sign up or learn more, contact Dave Olsen, davewolsen@yahoo.com.