

THE HOUSE OF HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"On that day the Lord their God will save them
for they are the flock of his people;
for like the jewels of a crown they shall shine on his land."
- Zechariah 9:16

Second Sunday in Advent | December 6, 2020 10 a.m.

Welcome

We are delighted that you have found the House of Hope online!

Our caring and active community welcomes you.

We extend the hospitality of Christ to all.

Our streamed worship takes place on Sundays at 10 a.m. You can access our service on the home page of our website and on Facebook.

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Stewardship Update. We invite all members and friends of House of Hope to join the 9 out of 10 individuals and families who have already increased or sustained their giving level in support of our 5 Campaign and funding our 2021 church budget. The average increase to date is approximately 9%. Thank you for your faithful generosity! On the home page, select “Support House of Hope” to pledge.

7@7 Advent Morning Prayer. Join us at 7 a.m. every weekday morning during Advent (Nov 30–Dec 23) for a special 7 minute online worship service which will include prayers, devotions, and music. This service will be posted daily at 7 a.m. on our website, Facebook and Instagram pages and can also be viewed throughout the day and Advent on our website.



Adult Enrichment—Today at 11:15 a.m.: *On A Christmas Morn*

Join Rev. Mark Barger Elliott and Choirmaster Matthew Culloton for a special live educational offering on December 6 from 11:15 a.m.- 12:15 p.m. as they discuss *The Singers - Minnesota Choral Artists'* new recording release *On a Christmas Morn*. To join: <https://bit.ly/OnAChristmasMorn>

Next Sunday—Adult Enrichment: *Backstage Tableaux Stories*

Sunday, December 13 at 11:15 a.m. via Zoom. Enjoy a panel discussion with Bill Gerry, Sherwood Pomeroy, Richard Poppe, and Sofia Ardalán. We encourage members to send Tableaux stories and photos in advance to hoh@hohchurch.org and join us for the Zoom discussion. <https://bit.ly/HOHBackstageTableaux>

Racial Justice in Healthcare: A Deliberative Dialogue. November 4 - December 9 (excluding Nov. 24) at 6:30 p.m. Please join us to address important issues that affect us all. The conversations reflect on current data, as well as biblical teachings and parables. Topics include: maternal and infant mortality, life expectancy disparities and financial barriers to care. Interested? Email Laurel Gamm: Irlgmm@gmail.com. Join via Zoom: bit.ly/RacialJusticeInHealthcare

Pastoral Concerns. If you would like a pastor to call you, or if you are ill at home, please call the church office at (651) 227-6311, to let us know. If you know someone else in the congregation who could benefit from a call, please contact the church.

Today's Cover Art: Lighted trees at House of Hope on Summit Ave. Photo Credit: Mark Barger Elliott



On September 15, the Session approved a 1-7-75-175 Initiative to enable us to prayerfully discern where God might be leading our congregation in the coming years. In addition, they set in motion a Long Range Planning Committee to assimilate input from the congregation and discern our mission and 7 major objectives we can tackle in the coming years as we move toward our 175th anniversary. Below are working documents approved by Session that we will discuss in January with further input from the congregation.

House of Hope Mission Statement

Hope is more than a word in our name—it is why we were founded on Christmas Eve in 1855.

Our inclusive and affirming community seeks to live out the word of God in our time. In the Presbyterian tradition we are Reformed, and yet always reforming. In this spirit we:

Glorify God in our worship and seek to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ by proclaiming the Gospel through preaching, prayer, and exceptional music;

Engage in a holy curiosity which seeks through ongoing learning to apply the teachings of the Bible and to follow the example of Jesus in our daily lives;

Offer fellowship to people both inside and outside the church, listening to and respecting perspectives other than our own;

Celebrate the dynamic and perpetual re-creation of God's world by nurturing a faithful expression of the arts from children's programs to hosting established artists and fostering musical gifts;

Create a welcoming spiritual home for people in all stages of life, from young families to singles, empty nesters to senior adults; and

Advocate for the just treatment of all people by offering tangible assistance and striving for structural change in racial equity, housing, and healthcare access, and environmental stewardship.

7 Objectives

1. Establish and implement a HOH Master/Site Plan that reflects our desire to be a hospitable and welcoming community.
2. Create and implement a HOH Master Financial Plan.
3. Develop and expand programs for children, youth, family, and adults.
4. Create dynamic new partnerships and programs to further our spiritual life through music, arts and adult education.
5. Update our governance system to be relevant to our current and future needs.
6. Take bold and courageous action to advance diversity, religious pluralism, social justice and environmental stewardship.
7. Capitalize on new technologies to engage prospective and current members.

THE APPROACH TO GOD

Prelude

People Look East
Aaron David Miller, Organ

English Carol

Welcome and Announcements

Mark Barger Elliott

Choral Antiphon

Choristers of the Choir School

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Peter, Becky, Ava, Leo, Otto Mayer

Hymn

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Linh Kauffman, Soloist

Veni Emmanuel

Call To Confession

Julia A. Carlson

The photographer Annie Leibovitz once wrote, "Nature is so powerful, so strong. Capturing its essence is not easy - your work becomes a dance with light... it takes you to a place within yourself." In worship we are invited to a place within ourselves where we discover both darkness and light. From that place of self-reflection and discovery, God invites us to step forward and to welcome the light of the world that awaits us in Bethlehem. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession

**God of the cosmos and the photon, we come before you keenly aware
we live our lives in the midst of choices. Choices where we embrace faith, love and hope
as well as choices that steer us towards acrimony, deception, and selfishness.
Accept, we pray, our contrition that we might begin anew to see and to reflect
your light into our lives and the world. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.
People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

THE WORD OF GOD

Time for Children

Lynn Barger Elliott

Anthem

Vom Himmel Hoch

Martin Luther, arr. JS Bach

St Andrew Choir; Sofia Ardalan, director

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her.
Ich bring' euch gute neue Mär,
Der guten Mär bring ich so viel,
Davon ich sign'n und sagen will.

*From heaven above to earth I come
To bear good news to every home,
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
Whereof I now will say and sing.*

Ach, mein herzliebes Jesulein,
Mach dir ein rein, sanft Bettelein,
Zu ruhn in meines Herzens Schrein,
Daß ich nimmer vergesse dein.

*Ah, dearest Jesus, Holy Child,
Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be
A quiet chamber kept for Thee:-*

First Lesson

Dan Miglets-Nelson

Psalm 27:1, Zechariah 9:16

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

He Watching Over Israel (from *Elijah*)

Felix Mendelssohn

He watching over Israel slumbers not nor sleeps.
Shouldst thou, walking in grief, languish,
He will quicken thee.

Second Lesson

Luke 1:26-35, 46-55

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

All the Light We Can See – Meditations on the Light of Advent

Mark Barger Elliott

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

Hymn

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Gabriel's Message

Affirmation of Faith — from *Confession of 1967*, 9:15-16

**God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind.
Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness.
But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant,
wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful people.
The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses
that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things
to serve the purpose of God's love. God has created the world of space and time
to be the sphere of God's dealings with humankind.
In its beauty and vastness, sublimity and awfulness, order and disorder,
the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator.**

Offering - Three ways to give:

- **Text Giving.** The House of Hope offers text giving. Text HOH to 73256 and click the link to complete your gift.
- **Website.** On the homepage, click "Giving at House of Hope" at the top or "Donate" at the bottom, then click the "Donate Now button", and follow the prompts. Members can also sign into MyHOH to give.
- **Mail.** Mail a check to 797 Summit Ave. Saint Paul, MN 55105

Offertory Music

*O God beyond all praising, we worship you today and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at every gift you send, at blessings without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word, we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.*

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn

Prepare the Way

Bereden väg för Herran

Benediction

Postlude

Carillon Postlude

David W. Johnson, Carillonneur

Christmas Memorials

Although we will not be offering poinsettias to take home this year, you may make a donation in any amount to the Mission Outreach Fund in memory or in honor of loved ones for publication in the December 20 bulletin. Click this link: <https://bit.ly/HOHChristmasMemorials2020> to reserve a place in the bulletin. You may also find this form and the prompt to 'donate now' by clicking the "Support House of Hope" link at the top of our website's homepage. You may also email DebT@hohchurch.org to submit names, and mail in a check with 'Christmas Memorial' in the memo line.

The deadline for reserving Christmas Memorials is Sunday, December 13.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL LM with refrain

Latin, c. 12th century

Stanzas 1-2 trans. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1854

Stanza 3 trans. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916

Adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1854

Accomp. John Weaver, 1988

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
 2. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir - its
 3. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples

cap-tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 by Thine ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 in one heart and mind; Bid en - vy, strife, and dis - cord

here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 cease; Fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.

Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

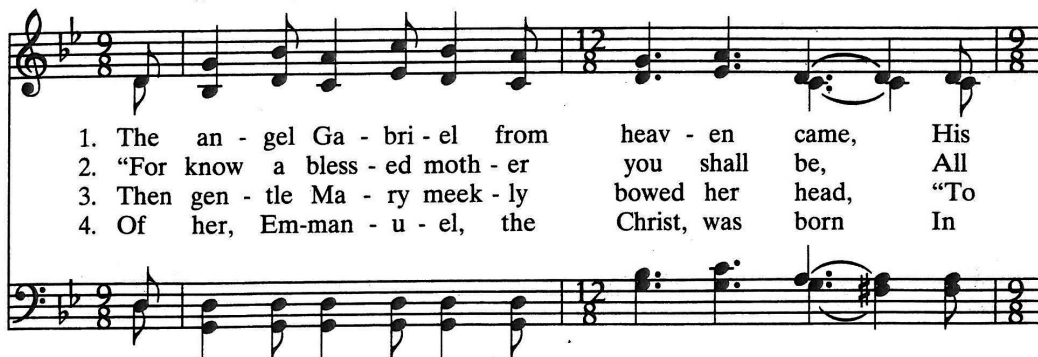
16

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE 10.10.12.10


Basque carol

Para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Arr. by Edgar Pettman and John Wickham



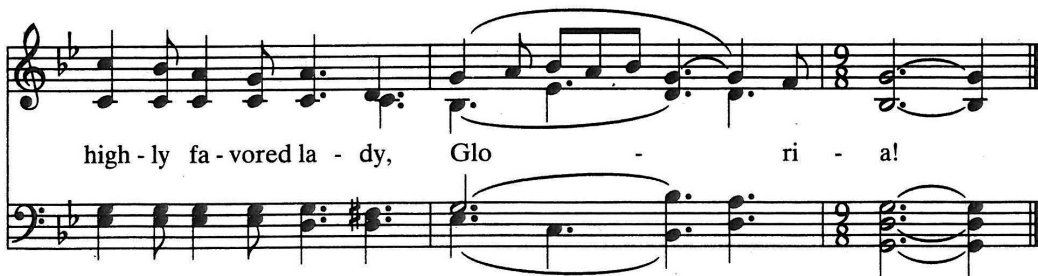
1. The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, His
 2. "For know a bless - ed moth - er you shall be, All
 3. Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head, "To
 4. Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born In



wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame; "All
 gen - er - a - tions praise con - tin - ual - ly, Your
 me be as it pleas - es God," she said, "My
 Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn, And



hail," said he, "O low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,"
 Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told." Most
 soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!

Prepare the Way

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain

Frans Mikael Franzen (1771-1847)

Adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980; alt. 1989

Then Svenska Psalmboken, 1697

Arr. American Lutheran Hymnal, 1930



1. Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, Your Christ is draw - ing near!
2. Christ brings God's rule, O Zi - on; He comes from heav - en a - bove.
3. Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; Your Sav - ior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley A lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, And jus - tice, truth, and love.
And tid - ings of sal - va - tion Pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, For grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow re - joic - ing, Their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



Refrain

ADVENT



O blest is Christ that came In God's most ho - ly name.



Christmas Sponsor-A-Family

In partnership with the YWCA, Sponsor-A-Family will look a bit different this year, however up to 80 families will still need Christmas gifts.

Go to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/HOHSponsorAFamily>

or stop by the church website to find the SignUp Genius link where you will find information on families, including ages and wish lists. For assistance with signing up to help, please contact the church office. Don't like to shop?

Donations are welcome and will be used to provide a grocery gift card for each family. Please mail all donations to the church office ATTN: Family Sponsor.

Prior Crossing Donation Drop-off

Volunteers will be at House of Hope to collect your donations for Prior Crossing on Wednesday morning, **December 9 from 10-12 a.m. and on December 16 from 1-3 p.m.**

You can drive up to the Portland Ave. Porte Cochere and place your donations in the bin and there will be someone to greet you during these times. Please wear a mask. In addition to the usual household items, we are also collecting the following items for the residents:

- 1) Warm winter gloves
- 2) Items to stock a "cooking pantry" like cooking oil, small bags of flour and sugar, salt and pepper, "complete" pancake mix and syrup, etc.
- 3) Simple meal items like pasta and spaghetti sauce, Ramen noodles, hearty soups, peanut butter and jelly, complete macaroni and cheese (like Easy Mac), etc.

If you have questions you can contact Jan Parkman (janparkman@gmail.com)
As always, thank you so much for your generosity to the residents of Prior Crossing!

The House of Hope Presbyterian Church

797 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105
(651) 227-6311 | hohchurch.org

Clergy

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Rev. Dr. Mark Barger Elliott, Co-Pastor Head of Staff
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The House of Hope
Presbyterian Church is a
Stephen Ministry Church.

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