

THE HOUSE OF HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Third Sunday in Advent | December 13, 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.

5

Stewardship Update. We invite all members and friends of House of Hope to join the over 150 individuals and families, 9 out of 10 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: *Backstage Tableaux Stories*

Sunday, December 13 at 11:15 a.m. via Zoom. Enjoy a panel discussion with Bill Geery, Sherwood Pomeroy, Richard Poppe, and Sofia Ardalan. 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>



The House of Hope Choir School Christmas Concert

will be streamed next week, December 20 at 4:00 p.m.

Visit the "stream" tab on our website to watch and enjoy!

Feminist Theology Class. Next Sunday, December 20 at 11:15 a.m. on Zoom. All are welcome to a time of learning and discussion around women's experience of God and the many gifts women bring to the church. Led by Rev. Julia Carlson. The Zoom link can be found on the website's events calendar.

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: Nuit de Noel (Christmas Eve) by Henri Matisse.



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

The Angel Gabriel
Aaron David Miller, Organ

Basque Carol

Welcome and Announcements

Lynn Barger Elliott

Choral Antiphon

Choristers of the Choir School

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Bill Teeple and Julie Schramke

Hymn

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates #8
Tim Bruett, Soloist

Truro

Call To Confession

Mark Barger Elliott

Author and Professor of Medicine, Rachael Naomi Remen once said, “We thought we could cure everything, but it turns out that we can only cure a small amount of human suffering. The rest of it needs to be healed, and that is different.” In worship, we recognize there are aspects of our lives that require healing. And we are reminded through prayer and song, scripture read and proclaimed, that we are often the source of the human suffering around us through our own words and actions. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession

God of wonder and light, as we continue on our journey to Bethlehem, we follow the light of a star that guides us to the “light of the world,” your son. As we step forward towards this incarnation of divinity in humanity, we also bring before you elements of our human selves that long for healing from disease and injury, despair and regret. Hear our silent prayers:

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

Anthem

Still, Still, Still

St Nicholas Choir; Sofia Ardalán, Director

Still, still, still, thy heart with joy I'd fill.
I'd sing thee a song and watch by thy manger,
Guard thee from harm and keep thee from danger.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'mid the oxen and the sheep.
The shepherds come to see thy glory,
Angels bend low to tell thy story.

Still, still, still, within thy holy will.
To thee, great God, my voice I'd raise,
With awe and wonder, sing thy praise.
Still, still, still, within thy holy will.

German Carol, arr. Robert Wetzler

First Lesson

Isaiah 58.1-3, 6-9a and Malachi 4:2

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Julia A. Carlson

Anthem

Remember O Thou Man

Motet Choir Section Leaders; Matthew Culloton, Choirmaster

Remember, O thou man, thy time is spent.
Remember, O thou man, how thou art dead and gone,
And I did what I can:
Therefore repent!

Remember Adam's fall from heaven to hell,
How we were condemned all
In hell perpetual,
Therefore to dwell.

Remember God's goodness, and his promise made!
How he sent his Son doubtless,
Our sins for to redress:
Be not afraid!

Thomas Ravenscroft

Second Lesson

Kiera Stegall

Matthew 1:18-25

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

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

Lynn Barger Elliott

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

Hymn

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

Es ist ein' Ros'

Affirmation of Faith — from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,

teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,

healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,

eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,

and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

With believers in every time and place,

we rejoice that nothing in life or in death

can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Offering - Three ways to give:

- **Website.** On the homepage, click "Support House of Hope", then click on "Donate Now"
Members can also sign into MyHOH to give.
- **Text Giving.** Text HOH to 73256 and click the link to complete your gift.
- **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

People, Look East

Besançon

Benediction

Postlude

Simple Gifts
Handbell Choir; Timothy Short, Director

arr. Carl Wilts

Carillon Postlude

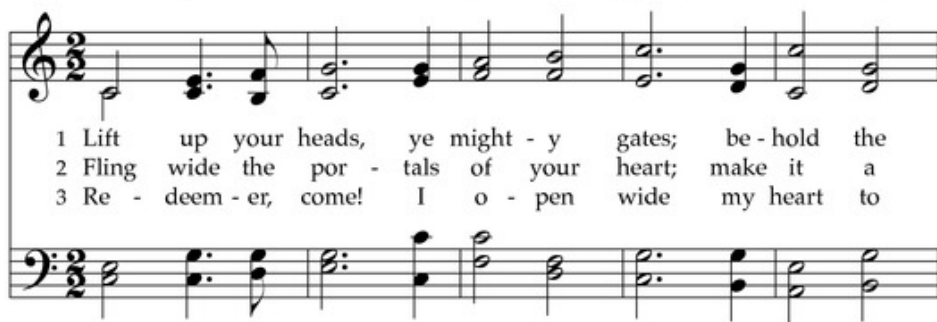
David W. Johnson, Carillonneur

Christmas Memorials

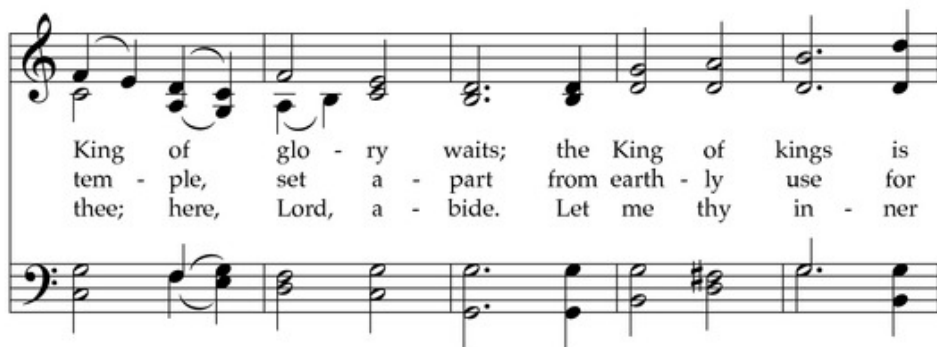
Although we will not be offering poinsettias to take home this year, you may make a donation in any amount to the Mission Outreach Fund in memory or in honor of loved ones for publication in the December 20 bulletin. Click this link: <https://bit.ly/HOHChristmasMemorials2020> to reserve a place in the 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 TODAY, Sunday, December 13.

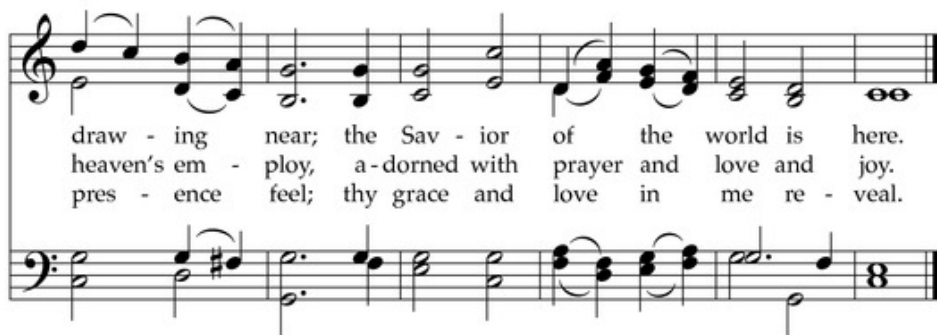
Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to



King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner



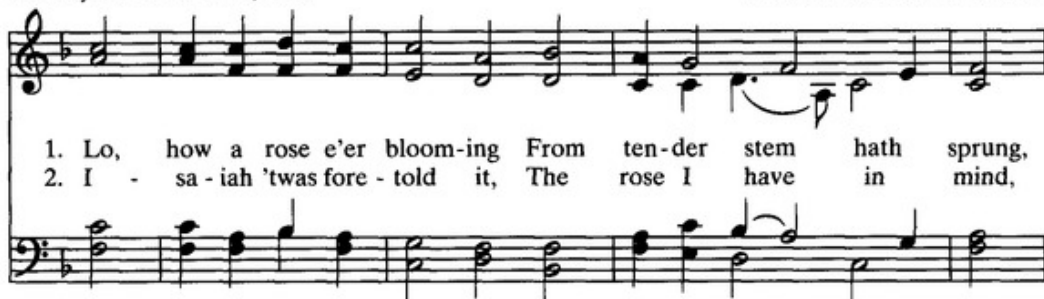
draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS' 7.6.7.6.6.7.6

German carol, 15th century
 Trans. Theodore Baker (1851-1934)
 Alt. Rejoice in the Lord, 1985

Alte Catholische Geistliche
 Kirchengesäng, Cologne, 1599
 Arr. Michael Praetorius, 1609



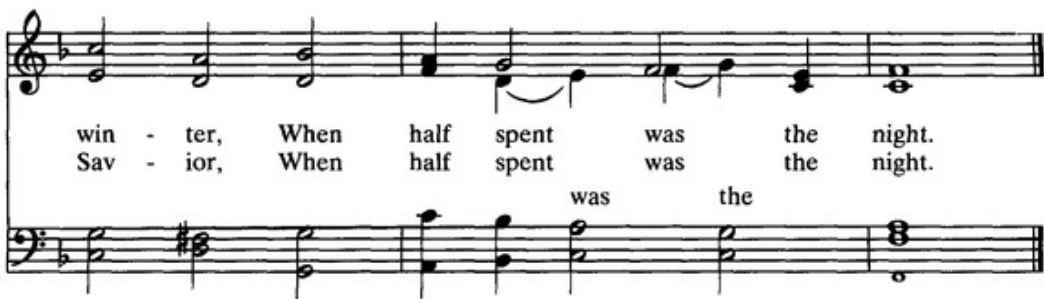
1. Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing From ten-der stem hath sprung,
 2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in mind,



Of Jes-se's lin-eage com - ing, By faith - ful proph - ets sung.
 With Ma - ry we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er kind.



It came a flower-et bright, A - mid the cold of
 To show God's love a - right She bore for us a



win - ter, When half spent was the night.
 Sav - ior, When half spent was the night.
 was the

People, Look East

12

Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965)
As in *Oxford Book of Carols*, 1964

BESANÇON 8.7.9.8.8.7

French folk melody
Harm. Martin Shaw (1875–1958)

1. Peo - ple, look east. The time is near Of the crown-ing of the
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, One more seed is plant-ed
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, Guard the nest that must be
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim One more light the bowl shall

year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, Trim the
there: Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, That in
filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for
brim, Shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, Bright as

Peo-ple, look east and sing to - day:
hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo-ple, look east:
course the flower may flour - ish.
fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo-ple, look east:

Love the guest is on the way.
Love the rose is on the way.
Love the bird is on the way.
Love the star is on the way.
Love is on the way.

5. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming

With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the Lord is on the way.

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, **December 16 from 1-3 p.m.** at 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:

- 1.) Warm winter gloves
- 2.) Cooking tools: measuring cups, measuring spoons, spatulas, muffin tins, pot holders, mixing bowls, plastic containers, etc.
- 3.) We have received a lot of basic cooking supplies (such as flour and sugar) and easy meal items, so no need to bring more unless you have already purchased them.
- 4.) Household items for The Closet that are especially needed are swifters, flatware, tall kitchen garbage cans, cooking pots and skillets.

**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

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



Program Staff

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