

# THE HOUSE OF HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby,  
keeping watch over their flocks at night.  
An angel of the Lord appeared to them,  
and the glory of the Lord shone around them...”

- Luke 2:8-9

Fourth Sunday in Advent | December 20, 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 179 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.



## The House of Hope Choir School Christmas Concert

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

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

**Feminist Theology Class.** Today, 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.

**Children and Family Ministry Worship** takes place on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Join Kiera Stegall, Sofia Ardalan, and Rev. Lynn Barger Elliott for a twenty minute gathering with a biblical teaching, spiritual vocabulary word, and prayer. Please visit the "House of Hope Parents" page or email Kiera Stegall at KieraS@hohchurch.org for more information.

**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:** Daniel Bonnell, *Seeing Shepherds*, 2011. Oil on canvas.



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.

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## THE APPROACH TO GOD

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### Prelude

*Venite Adoremus*  
Aaron David Miller, Organ

arr. Aaron David Miller

### Welcome and Announcements

Mark Barger Elliott

### Choral Antiphon

Choristers of the Choir School

### Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Ben, Ann, Margot, George Mack

### Hymn

*The Snow Lay on the Ground*  
Melissa Holm Johansen, Soloist

Venite Adoremus

### Call To Confession

Dan Miglets-Nelson

Author John O'Donohue wrote, "You may not be able to do much about the great problems of the world or to change the situation you are in, but if you can awaken the eternal beauty and light of your soul, you will bring light wherever you go." Let us pray:

### Prayer of Confession

**We recognize, O Lord, your light eternally shines forth from the dawn of creation. May that light, we pray, awaken in us once again an awareness of the beauty that surrounds us and how you call us to step forward towards the light soon to appear in Bethlehem. We offer you in prayer all that might hinder us on this Advent journey and prevent us from kneeling before the manger and your Son in awe and wonder. Hear our silent prayers:**

### Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

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## THE WORD OF GOD

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### Time for Children

Lynn Barger Elliott

## Anthem

*The Savior of the World is Born*

Gustav Holst

St Andrew Choir; Sofia Ardalan, Director

In Bethlehem that noble place  
As by prophecy said it was,  
Of Virgin Mary full of grace,  
Salvator mundi natus est.

Be we merry in this feast,  
In quo Salvator natus est.

On Christmas night an angel told,  
To shepherds watching o'er their fold,  
"In Bethlehem with beasties wolde,  
Salvator mundi natus est."

Behold, to you we bring great joy.  
For why? Jesus is born today  
To us of Mary that holy May,  
Salvator mundi natus est.

Then compassed were the shepherds quite,  
Around them shone a great light:  
"Dread ye naught," said the angel bright,  
Salvator mundi natus est.

"And thus in faith find Him ye shall,  
Lying poorly in oxen stall."  
The shepherd lauded God for all,  
Salvator mundi natus est.

## First Lesson

Genesis 1:1-5

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## Anthem

*Gaudete*

English/Scandinavian Carol, arr. Matthew Culloton

Motet Choir Section Leaders; Matthew Culloton, Choirmaster

Gaudete, Gaudete!  
Christus et natus  
Ex maria virgine,  
Gaudete!

*Rejoice, Rejoice!*  
*Christ is born*  
*Of the virgin Mary,*  
*Rejoice!*

Tempus ad est gratiae,  
Hoc quod optabamus;  
Carmina laetitiae,  
Devote redamus.

*It is now the time of grace*  
*That we have desired;*  
*Let us sing songs of joy,*  
*Let us give devotion.*

Deus homo factus est,  
Natura mirante;  
Mundus renovatus est  
A Christo regnante.

*God was made man,*  
*And nature marvels;*  
*The world was renewed*  
*By Christ who is King.*

Ezechiellis porta  
Clausa pertransitur;  
Unde lux est orta  
Salus invenitur.

*The closed gate of Ezechiel*  
*Has been passed through;*  
*From where the light rises*  
*Salvation is found.*

## Second Lesson

Julia A. Carlson

Luke 2:8-15

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

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## THE RESPONSE TO GOD

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## Hymn

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

St. Louis

## Affirmation of Faith — from *The Scots Confession*

**We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. By whom we confess and believe all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible, to have been created, to be retained in their being, and to be ruled and guided by God's inscrutable providence for such end as God's eternal wisdom, goodness, and justice have appointed, and to the manifestation of his own glory.**

## 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

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

In Dulci Jubilo

## Benediction

## Postlude

*Jul, jul strålande jul*

Gustaf Nordquist

Yule, Yule, glorious Yule, you who shimmer over snow covered forests.  
The jewels in the sky send their radiance down with light as calmness hovers over all of God's houses.  
Familiar hymns heard as in ages past as we wait for light, peace and joy.  
Yule, Yule, glorious Yule, you who shimmer over snow covered forests.

Come, come, blessed Yule and cover us with your white wings.  
Free us from strife, sorrow and pain in our daily lives and give us hope again.  
Wrap your white arms around us as we peacefully go to sleep and protect our families and children.  
Come, come blessed Yule, and cover us with your white wings.

## Carillon Postlude

David W. Johnson, Carillonneur

**The Communion Table Flowers** are given in memory of Lyle H. Fisher, Shirley Fisher Harris, and Anne Fisher Green.



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## Christmas Memorials

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**Christmas Tributes in memory or in honor of loved ones have been donated by friends and family of those named below. These gifts have been designated for the mission outreach of the church.**

Dr. Robert M. Ahrens, Sr.	Mr. and Mrs. HB Hall, Jr.	Vern and Beatrice Pearson
Teddy Altman	Gottlieb and Ingeborg Heidmann	Nancy Peterson
Marina Anderson	Bob and Marjorie Hennesy	Howard and Judith Peterson
Dennis Anderson	Esther Hewitt	Florence and Dr. Benjamin A. Pomeroy
Navonne Andre	Phil, Helen and Ardis Hill	Dr. Harold Pomeroy
Kathy Antonsen	Sam Joy	June & Dr. James Pomeroy
Behrouz Ardalan	Lillias Joy	Margaret L. and Dr. Benjamin S. Pomeroy
Charisse Ashing	John King	Benjamin A. Pomeroy
Margaret Ann Atmore	Donna Klein	John and Lydia Riedel
Marian and Fred Bailey	Lindsay Jean Knutson	Albert A. Rosner
Mary Elizabeth Bailey	Marian A. and Thomas J. Koeck	John Gavin Scott
Guy and Viola Baughman	Barbara Kuhn	Betty Sherrill
Marion and Gerhard Blomholm	Laura Lamb	Phyllis F. and Jack F. Sjoholm
Peter and Flora Borenz	Christian and Alta Larson	Manville D. Smith, Jr.
John Brainard	Herb and Norma Lewis	Edward and Mary Snyder
Jean Campbell	Gunnar Ljungkull	William and Marion Snyder
Elizabeth Campbell	Jon Ljungkull	Peter Snyder
Greg and Patty Cardinal	Loved Ones	Gordon A. Stephenson
Hubbell and Margaret Carpenter	Ann, Ruth and Robert Lyon	Chuck and Mary Ellen Stewart
Margaret and Ray Charlton	Lottie and Roscoe Lyon	Lowell Thornber
Mary L. Christensen	Robert Mairs	Carl and Reggie Thorsen
Virginia L. Christensen	Harriet McCloskey	Carl Thorsen
Ray Clark	George F. and Sara Mcl. Amend	Kari Thorsen
Miles and Olive Cooper	Captain Willis C. Michler	Dinh-Quang-Vinh
Mae and Mort Cravath	and Dagmar Michler	Martha and Arie Verhagen
Glen and Gerry Dahl	Helen and Kenneth Muir	George and Sally Wells
Meredith Kay Ellsworth	Joyce and Harold Nicholls	Edgar and Valerie Muir White
Evelyn Buckner Floyd	Catherine and Roy Nienhauser	Wendy White
Terry Freyholtz	Mary Jacqueline O'Keefe	William and Evelyn Widmann
Alfred M. and Lua B. Fulton	Ernest Watson Orr	Mona May Williams
Donald B. and Sara A. Fulton	Marilyn Palmer	Mary Snyder Wilson
Martha J. Fulton	Justin Pearson	Christine Campbell Yaegar
Walter and Alma Gobel	Leonard and Louise Pearson	Anne Yuska
Francis and Beth Gruber	Lisa Pearson	<b>In Honor:</b>
Mr. and Mrs. HB Hall, Sr.	Molly Ann Pearson	Kevin and Katheryn Anderson



## The Snow Lay on the Ground

VENITE ADOREMUS 10.10.10 with refrain

English melody

Adapt. C. Winfred Douglas (1867-1944)

Harm. Leo Sowerby, 1941

Anglo-Irish carol; alt.

G C G D C

1. The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright, When Christ our Lord was  
 2. 'Twas gen - tle Ma - ry maid, so young and strong, Who wel - comed here the  
 3. Saint Jo - seph too was by to tend the Child, To guard Him, and pro -  
 4. And thus that man - ger poor be - came a throne; For He whom Ma - ry

G Am G D G G C G D

born on Christ - mas night. Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
 Christ - child with a song. She laid Him in a stall at Beth - le - hem;  
 tect His moth - er mild. The an - gels hov - ered round and sang this song;  
 bore was God the Son. O come, then, let us join the heav - en - ly host;

C Am G Am G Dsus2 D G Refrain G

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
 The ass and ox - en shared the roof with them. Ve - ni - te a - do -  
 Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
 To praise the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

re - mus Do - mi - num. Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.

# O Little Town of Bethlehem

44

ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6

Phillips Brooks, 1868

Lewis Henry Redner, 1868

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry; And gath - ered all a - bove,  
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, The won - drous gift is given!  
4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by.  
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - dering love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heaven.  
Cast out our sin and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light;  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth!  
No ear may hear His com - ing, But in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
And prais - es sing to God the King, And peace to all on earth.  
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el!

# Good Christian Friends, Rejoice 122



1. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice      with heart and soul and voice!  
 2. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice      with heart and soul and voice!  
 3. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice      with heart and soul and voice!



Give ye heed to what we say:      Je - sus Christ is born to - day.  
 Now ye hear of end - less bliss:      Je - sus Christ was born for this.  
 Now ye need not fear the grave:      Je - sus Christ was born to save;



Ox and ass be - fore Him bow, and He is in the man - ger now:  
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 calls you one and calls you all, to gain His ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day,      Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this,      Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save,      Christ was born to save!



## In Memoriam

**Ervin C. Lentz** joined The House of Hope Presbyterian Church on October 14, 1973. He entered the Church Triumphant on December 12, 2020. Details about a memorial service will be announced at a later date.

*"If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's." - Romans 14:8*

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

4:00 p.m. Children and Family Worship on Zoom  
Contact Kiera Stegall for more information.

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

7:30 and 10 p.m. Streamed Service of Lessons and Carols  
Rev. Lynn Barger Elliott, preaching  
Anthems from singers of The Motet Choir

**There is no service on Christmas Day.  
Christmas Eve Services may be streamed at any time.**

### 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  
[LynnBE@hohchurch.org](mailto:LynnBE@hohchurch.org)

Rev. Dr. Mark Barger Elliott, Co-Pastor Head of Staff  
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Rev. Julia A. Carlson, Associate Pastor  
[JuliaC@hohchurch.org](mailto:JuliaC@hohchurch.org)



The House of Hope  
Presbyterian Church is a  
Stephen Ministry Church.



#### Program Staff

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