

THE HOUSE OF HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"When the linguistic term seme (derived from the Greek sema, 'sign') is preceded by the privative a-, the normal meaning of what follows is neutralized (compare symmetric and asymmetric)."

Peter Schwenger
Asemic: The Art of Writing

First Sunday of Advent | November 28, 2021 10 a.m.

Welcome

We are delighted you have joined House of Hope for worship.

Our caring and active community welcomes you.

We extend the hospitality of Christ to all.

Regarding Masks for In-Person Worship.

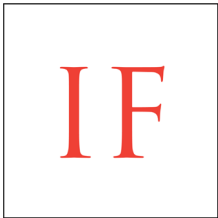
Please know in light of the evolving situation regarding the Delta variant guidelines, we now strongly encourage all those who attend worship to wear a mask. In this fluid situation with changing national, state and local protocols, we will continue to monitor developments and discern how best to respond while keeping in mind the safety of church staff and those attending worship.

Please continue to maintain physical distance from other worshippers not in your household, as children under the age of 5 are not yet able to be vaccinated.

Deacons will provide offering plates at the sanctuary doors.

Our worship service is also livestreamed and can be accessed on the home page of our website (hohchurch.org) and on our Facebook page (The House of Hope Presbyterian Church.)

After the service, please join us for a time of fellowship in the Kirk Parlour.



We invite you to join the over 80 House of Hope members and freinds who have already pledged with an average pledge increase of 12%.

Pledge cards can be found in the narthex information racks and in the front office.

"If" is one of the most significant words in the Bible. Jesus uses it repeatedly to deepen our understanding of what it looks like to follow him in our lives. Jesus said, for example, "if you listen..." "If you forgive..." "If you believe..."

Our 2022 Stewardship Campaign that seeks to fund our Annual Budget focuses on how the word "if" has shaped the past, present, and future of The House of Hope.

If generations before us had not generously provided the means to build The House of Hope, we would not be able to enjoy our lovely sanctuary and building.

If members and friends had not given to The Houses of Hope Fund, we would not be able to make substantial grants to provide affordable housing in our community.

If members and friends had not contributed generously to our 2021 Stewardship Campaign, we could not have funded Mission Outreach giving from our annual operating budget for the first time in seventeen years.

THE APPROACH TO GOD

Prelude

Andante

Aaron David Miller, Organist

Louis Vierne

Welcome and Announcements

Mark Barger Elliott

Choral Antiphon

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Janice Dickinson and Elly Verhagen

Introit

I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes

The Motet Choir; Matthew Culloton, Choirmaster

Eric Thiman

+ Processional Hymn 2

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

Invitation to Prayer

Lynn Barger Elliott

“Advent begins where human potential ends,” observes Rev. Fleming Rutledge.

In Advent we are reminded as human beings we cannot save ourselves and what our soul requires is, in fact, a Messiah. Let us pray:

Prayer of Reflection – adapted from Ann Weems

**O God, you are the one who comes to us in the burning bush,
in an angel’s song, in a newborn child.**

**Where and how you will appear is never predictable,
but it is always what we need.**

So help us, we pray, this Advent,

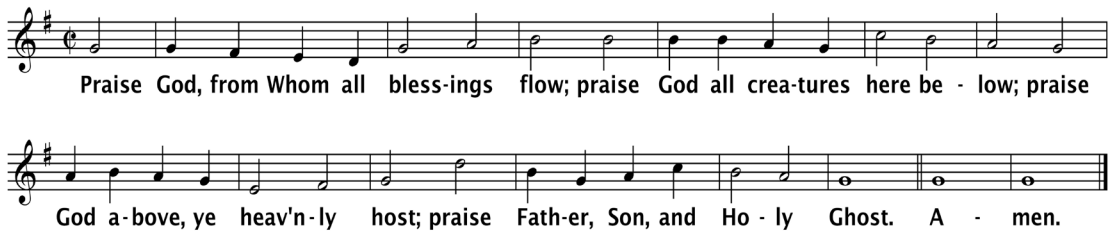
**To follow signs of your coming,
so we might stand once again in awe and joy,
under a Bethlehem star. Amen**

Assurance of Forgiveness – Isaiah 53:1-5

Leader: The prophet declares, “He grew up... like a root out of dry ground.... He was despised and rejected... and familiar with suffering... But he was pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. Friends begin the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

+ Doxology



Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here be - low; praise
God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; praise Fath - er, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Anthem

Light Everlasting

Olaf C. Christiansen

O Light Everlasting, O Love never failing.
Illumine our darkness and draw us to thee.
May we from thy spirit receive inspiration
As children together thy wisdom may see.
Make known to all nation thy peace and salvation,
And help us O Father, thy temple to be.

THE WORD OF GOD

First Lesson

Cindy Covington

Isaiah (OT, p.p. 640-641 in pew Bible)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Beriete dich, Zion (from Christmas Oratorio)

JS Bach

St Nicholas Choir; Sofia Ardalán, director; Timothy Short, organ

Bereite dich, Zion, *Prepare thyself, Zion,*
mit zärtlichen Trieben, *with tender affection,*
den Schönsten, den Liebsten *The purest, the fairest*
bald bei dir zu sehn! *soon you shall receive!*

Time for Children

Dan Miglets-Nelson

All children and youth, Grades 5 and younger, are invited to walk down the center aisle to meet Kiera Stegall in the Narthex to be led to the Education Wing.

Second Lesson

Romans 15:4-13 (NT, pp. 183-184 in pew Bible)

Julia A. Carlson

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

An Asemic Advent: New Signposts in a Strange Land

Mark Barger Elliott

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

+ Hymn 48

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS'

+ Affirmation of Faith – Heidelberg Catechism 4.066

Sacraments are visible, holy signs and seals. They were instituted by God so that by our use of them God might make us understand more clearly the promise of the gospel, and seal that promise. And this is God's gospel promise: to grant us forgiveness of sins and eternal life by grace because of Christ's one sacrifice accomplished on the cross. Amen.

Offering - There are four ways to give an offering:

- **In-Person.** Offering plates will be provided by deacons at the sanctuary doors.
- **Website.** On the homepage, click "Support House of Hope", then click on "Make a Gift"
Members can also sign into MyHOH to give.
- **Mail.** Mail a check to 797 Summit Ave. Saint Paul, MN 55105
- **QR Code.** Please see page 8.

Anthem

Christ in the Stranger's Guise

David Ashley White

I saw a stranger yestre'en, I put food in the eating place,
drink in the drinking place, music in the listening place,
and in the sacred name of the Triune,
He blessed me and my house,
my cattle and my dear ones.
And the lark said in her song: "Often, Often,
Often, goes the Christ in the stranger's guise."

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord is with you.

People: **And with thy spir - it.**

The musical notation is on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half).

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up un-to the Lord.**

The musical notation is on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half).

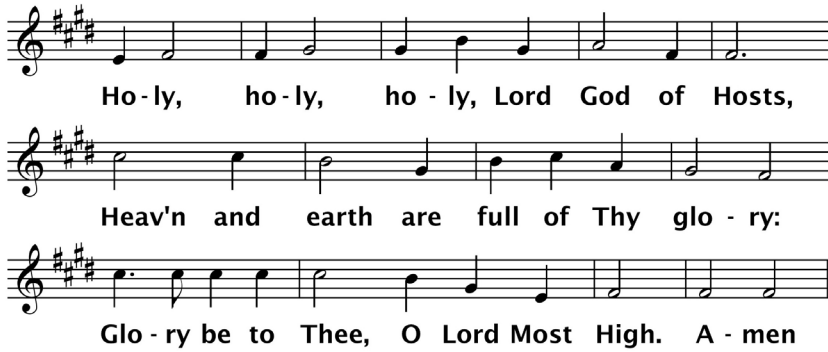
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is meet and right so to do.**

The musical notation is on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half).

Leader: On this first Sunday of Advent, O Lord, we are mindful how you created our universe and world as a manifestation of your glory and human beings in your image, and yet, O Lord, as we gather around this table.... Hear us now as we pray together in one voice:

People:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts,
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry:
Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord Most High. A - men

Leader: Blessed is Jesus, the Christ... And hear us now as we say the prayer Jesus taught us:

**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.**

Words of Institution

All who desire to partake will be dismissed from the back to the front by an usher. Please come down the center aisle to receive an individual cup and piece of bread and return to your seats by the side aisles. Those unable to come forward will be served in the pew. If you prefer a gluten-free wafer, please inform the server.

Prayer after Communion

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul;

People: **and all that is within me, bless God's holy name!**

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul;

People: **and forget not all God's benefits.**

Leader and People:

**Through this meal we have shared as a family of faith,
help us O Lord, we pray, to become pilgrims this Advent,
opening our heart, soul and mind to following signs
that will lead us to a manger and that holy place on the horizon
where our love for you and one another will overflow in abundance. Amen.**

+ Recessional Hymn 3

PSALM 42

Comfort, Comfort You My People

+ Benediction

Postlude

Finale from Symphony 1

Louis Vierne

Carillon Postlude

David W. Johnson, Carillonneur



Children and Family Ministry — Contact Kiera Stegall at KieraS@hohchurch.org

Infants – Toddlers | 9:45 a.m. | Room 8 Our youngest children will take little steps toward big faith through stories and play.

Preschool – Grade 5 | 10:15 a.m. | Room 5 Our preschool and elementary Sunday school classes will Build-a-World for Christmas, as we prepare for the Christmas pageant.

Build-a-World Christmas Pageant | Sundays from November 21 – December 12 | 10:15 a.m. | Room 5
Using craft materials and costume supplies, children will create vignettes populated with their creations to retell the stories of Jesus' birth. The House of Hope community is invited to bear witness to the unfolding narratives as they tour the Education Wing on December 12 at 11:15 a.m.

Tween Christmas Party | Friday, December 10 | 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. | Sky Zone

Fourth and fifth graders, join us for a free Christmas celebration at Sky Zone in Oakdale! Friends are welcome! Families are responsible for their own transportation. Completed waivers are required. Adult chaperones are needed. R.S.V.P. to Kiera Stegall at kieras@hohchurch.org by Friday, December 3 at 5:00 p.m.

Youth and Family Ministry — Contact Dan Miglets-Nelson at DanMN@hohchurch.org

Middle School Sunday School | 10:15 a.m. | Room 1

Sunday School for grades 6-8 will not occur on Communion Sundays. Students are invited to remain in worship to experience the Sacrament." in the section about Middle School Sunday School.

Sponsor-A-Family Donation Drop-Off | Sunday, December 5 & 12 | 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Once again, the House of Hope Youth Group is helping to make Christmas happen for dozens of families across the Twin Cities. On Sundays, December 5 & 12, the Youth will meet at 2pm to collect donations for the Sponsor-A-Family event. This collection will include fellowship and service, and will replace the SUMMIT for those weeks. For more information, please contact DanMN@hohchurch.org.

Sponsor-A-Family Truck Loading | Saturday, December 18 | 9:00 a.m.

This year, the Youth will be meeting on Saturday December 18 to load all of the collected donations into a moving truck to be delivered throughout the city. We will meet at 9:00a.m., and donuts will be provided. Please bring layers, as you might be working both inside and outside for the event. Please let Dan know if you have any questions, or would like to sign up.

The SUMMIT: Youth Group Christmas Party | Sunday, December 19 | 7:00 p.m.

Following a busy month of service and fellowship, students are invited to meet on Sunday evening, December 19 for our annual Christmas Party. There will be snacks, games, and lots of silliness. Stay tuned for more information.

House of Hope Choir School — Contact Sofia Ardalan at SofiaA@hohchurch.org

Every child can sing! The Choir School offers outstanding music education for all children ages 4-18. Limited registration is open for Spring Session I beginning January 5.

This Week at House of Hope

Sunday, November 28, 2021

- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School Infants - Toddlers,
Room 8
- 10 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 10:15 a.m. Sunday School Preschool - Grade 5,
Room 5
- 11:15 a.m. Social Hour, Kirk Parlour
- 4 p.m. First Light Advent Celebration,
Assembly Room / Summit Lawn;
see Page 11 for more information.

Monday, November 29, 2021

- 11 a.m. Centering Prayer, Kirk Parlour
- 6 p.m. AA, Great Hall

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

- 7 a.m. Men's Breakfast, Zoom

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

- 9:30 a.m. Wednesday Morning Bible Study, Library
- 3:30 p.m. Choir School Plant Fundraiser Pick up
- 4 p.m. Choir School Rehearsals
- 6:45 p.m. Bells of Hope Rehearsal, Youth Room
- 7 p.m. Motet Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
- 7 p.m. Confirmation, Assembly Room

Thursday, December 2, 2021

- 7 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group, Louisiana Cafe
- 5:30 p.m. Capital City Grief Group Coalition

Friday, December 3, 2021

- 8 a.m. Women's Breakfast Book Group, Zoom
- Friday Centering Prayer, Zoom

Sunday, December 5, 2021

- 10 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. Social Hour, Kirk Parlour

Christmas Memorials. You may purchase a poinsettia (\$15) or make a donation in any amount to the Mission Outreach Fund in memory or in honor of loved ones for publication in the December 19 bulletin. Visit or call the church office or pay online. To pay online click the "Support House of Hope" at the top of our website's homepage, and then follow the prompts. The deadline for reserving Christmas Memorials is December 12.



To support House of Hope
please use this QR code

The Communion Table flowers are given
in loving memory of
Dr. Raymond and Lillian Marble
Claude and Betty Frank



Festival of HOPE

“Hope is the last thing ever lost.” The words of this Italian proverb inspire us to scan our horizons to detect places of emerging hope, especially in challenging times. Festival of Hope, our online conference, invites us to find hope in the landscapes of the refugee crisis, faith and science, the writings of William James, racial injustice, the sacred within us, and the American identity.

These conversations will be available on our website, hohchurch.org November 13.



Becca Stevens, a “CNN Hero,” is a social entrepreneur, author, priest, and founder of Thistle Farms. Her new book *Practically Divine* is about experiencing the sacred in our lives.



Jess McHugh is a writer and researcher whose work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, and *TIME*. Her book, *Americanon*, was published this year.



Dr. John Kaag is an award-winning author and Chair of Philosophy at UMass Lowell. He will speak on his new book, *Sick Souls, Healthy Minds: How William James Can Save Your Life*.



Jessica Goudeau is author of *After the Last Border: Two Families and the Story of Refuge in America*, named a *New York Times* Editors’ Choice book. She has written for *The New York Times* and *The Atlantic*.



Greg Cootsona is a professor, author and noted speaker on the intersection between science and faith. He has written for *The Wall Street Journal* and has been interviewed by CNN and the BBC.

Sponsor-A-Family

Out of 71 families, only 3 are left to sponsor! We are partnering this year with the YWCA, Neighborhood House, Liberty Plaza, and the Wilder Foundation to spread some Christmas joy!

Visit hohchurch.org/christmas-sponsor-a-family to find the SignUpGenius link where information on families will be provided. A family wish list will be emailed to you. For assistance with SignUpGenius, 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. Mail or drop off donations in the church office. Memo: Family Sponsor.

Curbside Drop-Off Dates: December 5 and 12, 2-4 p.m. All gifts should be delivered to HOH by December 12.

First Light — Advent Celebration | Sunday, November 28 | 4 p.m.

Join us in the Assembly Room at 4 p.m. for creating Advent crafts and wreaths. On the Summit Lawn, we will celebrate the beginning of Advent as we light the trees on Summit Avenue to proclaim the "light" is coming into the world.

We'll enjoy a Carillon concert by Dave Johnson at 4:30 p.m. with cookies and hot cocoa. At 5 p.m. we will light our Summit Avenue trees in joy and expectation for the coming of the Christ child.



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

Rev. Dr. Mark Barger Elliott, Co-Pastor Head of Staff
MarkBE@hohchurch.org

Rev. Dr. Julia A. Carlson, Associate Pastor
JuliaC@hohchurch.org



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

Program Staff

Sofia Ardan, Choir School Director SofiaA@hohchurch.org
Matthew Culloton, Choirmaster MatthewC@hohchurch.org
Dan Miglets-Nelson, Director of Youth and Family Ministry..... DanMN@hohchurch.org
Aaron David Miller, Director of Music/Organist AaronM@hohchurch.org
Kiera Stegall, Director of Children and Family Ministry KieraS@hohchurch.org