

# THE HOUSE OF HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"The practice of loving is the healing force that brings sustained peace."

– bell hooks

Fourth Sunday of Advent | December 21, 2025 10 a.m.

# Welcome!

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

Our open and affirming, caring active community welcomes people of all ages & backgrounds.

## House of Hope Mission Statement:

*Building a loving community for all, House of Hope shares God's grace and presence through music, the arts, reflection, and action. Come join us as we walk through life together.*

Our regular Sunday Worship time is 10 a.m., followed by refreshments, social hour, and educational opportunities. If you have any questions, our ushers will be glad to help you.

**We invite you to join us for refreshments**, served in the **Kirk Parlour** following the service.

## Sunday Morning Family Resources:

- **Sunday School:** Following the Time for Children, children are invited to stay in the service with their guardians, or walk out with their guardians to be led to the East Wing for Sunday School. Caregivers should come to the East Wing immediately after the service to pick up their children.
- **Worship:** Children may also engage their faith by remaining in the service.
- **Worship bags** are available in the Narthex with age-appropriate materials to help kids focus as they worship alongside their families. You can ask an usher to help you find the best bag for you!
- A **Wiggle Space** for children needing a little more scope to move is available in the sanctuary entrance way during the service. There are books and toys there for your use. Feel free to come in and out of the Sanctuary as needed.
- A variety of **children's Bibles** are located in the church pews.
- Our **Nursery** is open for infants – toddlers. A parent/guardian must sign children in and out of the nursery. Bring a photo ID with you.
- **Nursing:** At House of Hope, parents are welcome to nurse their children wherever they feel comfortable. Feel free to ask an usher if you would feel more comfortable in a more private area.
- **Need help?** Ask an usher or Children and Family Ministry staff any time!



## Christmas Carol Sing-Along - TODAY

Kirk Parlour | 11:15 a.m.

Led by Phil and Lynda Jorgenson, with Linda Smith on the piano.



## THE APPROACH TO GOD

### Prelude

*Gesu Bambino*  
Aaron David Miller, Organist

Pietro Yon

### Introit

*Savior of the Nations, Come*  
The Motet Choir; Matthew Culloton, Choirmaster

arr. Matthew Culloton

### + Processional Hymn 56 (Verses 1-4)

*The First Nowell*

THE FIRST NOWELL

### + Advent Antiphon

House of Hope Choir School

### Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Rev. Phillip J. Romine

Leader: Watch for the light of Christ this Advent.

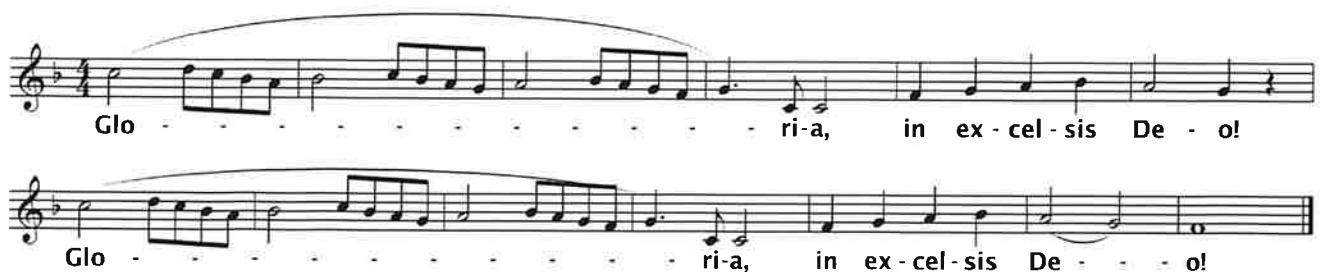
**All: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

Leader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

**All: The light of Christ is always coming to us, entering our broken world and troubled hearts. So we light the fourth candle, the candle of love, knowing that nothing can separate us from the love of God. There is no power greater than love, and we can dare to love because God first loved us. Amen.**

### + The Peace *(The Peace of the Lord is shared with those around you.)*

### + Sung Response



## Welcome and Announcements

### THE WORD OF GOD

#### Sung Acclamation



#### First Lesson

Marnie Fleming

Matthew 1:18-25 (NT, p. 1 in pew Bible)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

#### Anthem

*Et in terra pax* (from *Gloria*)

Antonio Vivaldi

Et in terra pax hominibus  
bonae voluntatis.

*On earth, peace to all  
people of goodwill.*

#### Time for Children

Elsa Kendig

*Following the Time for Children, children are invited to stay in the service with their guardians, or walk out with their guardians to be led to the East Wing for Sunday School. Caregivers should come to the East Wing immediately after the service to pick up their children.*

#### Second Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-16 (OT, p. 636 in pew Bible)

For the Word of God in scripture,  
For the Word of God within us,  
For the Word of God among us,  
**Thanks be to God.**

#### Sermon

Rev. Dr. E. Scott Jones

*It's Coming*

## THE RESPONSE TO GOD

### + Hymn (see insert)

*O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?*

MUNICH

### + Affirmation of Faith — Adapted from the *Confession of 1967*

**Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus.**

**His faith and obedience were the response  
of the perfect child of God.**

**He was the fulfillment  
of God's promise to Israel,  
the beginning of the new creation,  
and the pioneer of the new humanity.**

**He gave history its meaning and direction  
and called the church to be his servant  
for the reconciliation of the world.**

### Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

*(The prayers will begin with a moment for silent reflection.)*

**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.**

### Offering — There are four ways to give an offering:

- **In-Person.** Offering plates will be passed throughout the congregation at this time.
- **Website.** On the homepage, click "Support House of Hope", then click on "Make a Gift"
- **Mail.** Mail a check to 797 Summit Ave. Saint Paul, MN 55105
- **QR Code.** Please see insert.

## Offertory Anthem

*In the Bleak Mid-Winter*

Gustav Holst, arr. Aaron David Miller

In the bleak mid-winter  
Frosty wind made moan  
Earth stood hard as iron,  
Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
Snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid-winter  
Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him  
Nor earth sustain,  
Heaven and earth shall flee away  
When He comes to reign:  
In the bleak mid-winter  
A stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty —  
Jesus Christ.

Angels and Archangels  
May have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Thronged the air;  
But only His Mother  
In her maiden bliss  
Worshipped the Beloved  
With a kiss.

What can I give Him,  
Poor as I am? —  
If I were a Shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man  
I would do my part, —  
Yet what I can I give Him, —  
Give my heart.

## + Offertory Response



O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to - day and sing the love a-maz-ing that  
songs can - not re - pay; for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send, at  
bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with - out end: we lift our hearts be-fore you and  
wait u - pon your word, we hon - or and a-dore you, our great and might - y Lord.

## + Prayer of Dedication

## + Recessional Hymn 23

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

## **+ Benediction**

## **Postlude**

### **Carillon Postlude**

Timothy Short, Carillonneur

**Peace Candle.** The single candle near the pulpit is our Peace Candle, lighted as a reminder of the ongoing need for our prayer for peace in the world.

**The Communion Table flowers** are given in loving memory of Delmar E. Bowers.

**Cover Art:** This depiction is from the lower right predella of the John the Baptist window on the west side of the sanctuary. The scene is depicting Mary, expecting the birth of Jesus, visiting her cousin Elizabeth who was expecting the birth of John. Photo credit: Dick Crone.

### **Sunday School Volunteers Needed:**

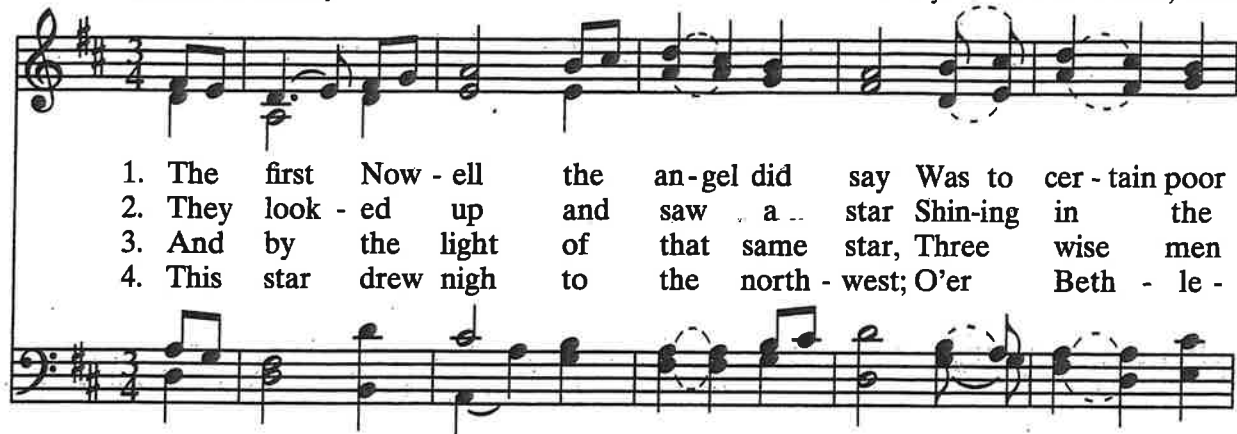
Our Sunday School program needs a few more volunteer teachers starting in January. Teachers are equipped with an easy, step-by-step lesson plan and all the supplies they need, and the commitment is no more than once a month. This is a great opportunity to help our children grow into their faith and for adults to explore some favorite Bible stories with them. For more information, email Dr. Jimmy Hoke: [JimmyH@hohchurch.org](mailto:JimmyH@hohchurch.org).



## The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL Irregular with refrain

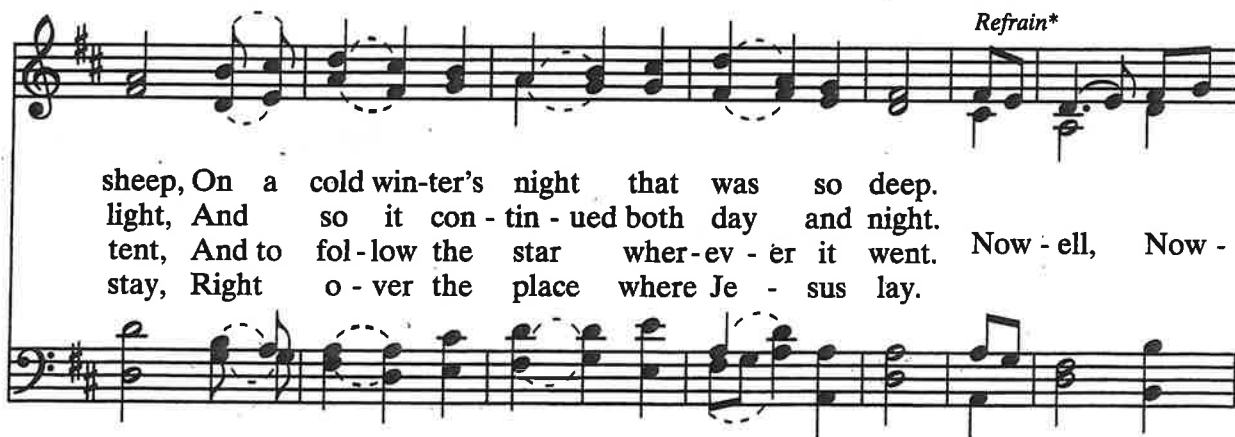
English carol, 17th century

English carol  
Sandys' *Christmas Carols*, 1833


1. The first Now - ell the an - gel did say Was to cer - tain poor  
 2. They look - ed up and saw a .. star Shin - ing in the  
 3. And by the light of that same star, Three wise men  
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west; O'er Beth - le -



shep - herds in fields as they lay; In fields where they lay a - keep - ing their  
 east be - yond them far, And to the earth it gave great  
 came from coun - try far; To seek for a king was their in -  
 hem it took its rest; And there it did both stop and



Refrain\*  
 sheep, On a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
 light, And so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
 tent, And to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went. Now - ell, Now -  
 stay, Right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.



ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

\*Refrain may be omitted except after final stanza.



# Angels We Have Heard on High

23

French carol

GLORIA 7.7.7.7 with refrain

French carol

Trans. James Chadwick (1813-1882); alt.

Arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937

1. An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,  
 2. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy-ous strains pro-long?  
 3. Come to Beth-lè - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun-tains in re-ply Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad-some tid - ings be Which in-spire your heaven - ly song?  
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

*Refrain*

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

December 21 – 28, 2025

## CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Jimmy Hoke: [JimmyH@hohchurch.org](mailto:JimmyH@hohchurch.org)

Nursery available at 8:45 a.m. in Room 8

Sunday School at 10:10 a.m. | Rooms 2&4

*Note: No Nursery or Sunday School next week, December 28*

## YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Elsa Kendig: [ElsaK@hohchurch.org](mailto:ElsaK@hohchurch.org)

Confirmation | 8:30 a.m. | Youth Room



### {Trés} in Concert: *Chamber Music Across the Americas*

Sunday, January 18 | 2 p.m.

House of Hope and Hope Arts Center are pleased to announce our next Sunday Series, a transcendent program that blends chamber music traditions with the syncopated rhythms of Puerto Rican and Caribbean soundscapes. The program also includes a performance and screening of the documentary musical experience *Pedacito de Tierra* (Little Piece of Land), a newly commissioned chamber work by acclaimed Puerto Rican composer Angélica Negrón that gives voice to the history and presence of the Puerto Rican diaspora in the Twin Cities. The work was commissioned and produced by Puerto Rican saxophonist and cultural organizer José Antonio Zayas Cabán, who also performs in this premiere alongside the Grammy-nominated {Trés} Chamber Music Trio and special guest, Grammy-winning artist Miguel Zenón. "Negrón and Zayas Cabán invite listeners not just to enjoy the music—but to be changed by it." A panel discussion will follow the performance, moderated by Tom Crann of MPR.

**Tickets are available at:**

<https://our.show/tres/sundayseries>



## Stewardship — Year-End Gifts

We welcome your gifts in many ways, including check, credit card, appreciated stock or mutual funds, and qualified charitable distributions from your IRA, among others.

For payments toward your 2026 pledge in calendar year 2025, please note "prepaid 2026 pledge" in the memo line of your check. We are deeply grateful for your support of our Connect Stewardship Campaign!

### Ways to Give to House of Hope:

Make a one-time gift or become a sustainer with recurring gifts:

• <https://bit.ly/HOHGiving> • Text HOH to 73256

### Deadlines for 2025 Year-End Gifts:

Mail postmarked mail by December 31; Text and credit card gifts completed by December 31; the transfer of gifts of appreciated stock **must be completed by December 31**; IRA checks meant to qualify for the charitable IRA "rollover," or qualified charitable distribution must be received by December 31; Checks via carriers such as UPS, FedEx, or DHL must be physically received on or before December 31. We encourage you to consult your CPA or financial advisor for advice on year-end gifts.

**Contact Director of Development Christopher Freeze with any questions at: (651) 223-7544 or [ChristopherF@hohchurch.org](mailto:ChristopherF@hohchurch.org)**

## Christmas and New Year Office Schedule:

The church office and building will be closed on Thursday and Friday, December 25 and 26 as well as Thursday, January 1.

If you don't have an appointment or meeting previously scheduled, please note that there will be limited staffing between Christmas and New Years, so please call the office first before arriving in person to make sure someone is able to assist you. Thank you!

### Week Beginning December 14, 2025

#### Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21, 2025

- 8:30 a.m. Confirmation Meeting, Youth Room
- 8:45 a.m. Nursery, Room 8
- 10 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 10:10 a.m. Sunday School, Rooms 2&4
- 11 a.m. Social Hour, Kirk Parlour
- 11 a.m. Alleluia Choir, Choir School Room
- 11:15 a.m. Carol Sing Along, Kirk Parlour

#### Monday, December 22, 2025

- 11 a.m. Centering Prayer, Chancel/Zoom
- 3 p.m. Choir School Lessons, Choir School Room
- 5:30 p.m. Faith and Fibers, Kirk Parlour
- 6 p.m. AA, Assembly Room
- 6 p.m. Al-Anon, Room 1

#### Tuesday, December 23, 2025

- 7 a.m. Men's Breakfast, Day by Day Cafe/Zoom
- 2 p.m. Choir School Lessons, Choir School Room
- 7 p.m. Motet/Orchestra Rehearsal, Sanctuary

#### Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24, 2025

- 5 p.m. Childcare, Room 8
- 5 p.m. Candlelight Service, Sanctuary
- 7:30 p.m. Candlelight Service, Sanctuary

#### Thursday, December 25, 2025

*Office and Building are closed in Observance of Christmas*

4 p.m. Annual Holiday Carillon Recital

#### Friday, December 26, 2025

*Office and Building are closed in Observance of Christmas*

#### Sunday, December 28, 2025

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

To support  
House of Hope,  
please use this  
QR code.



For a full listing of events and activities, see our calendar on the homepage of our website [www.hohchurch.org](http://www.hohchurch.org).



## THE HOUSE OF HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

797 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105 | (651) 227-6311 | [hohchurch.org](http://hohchurch.org)

### Clergy

**Rev. Dr. E. Scott Jones**, Senior Pastor and Head of Staff

**Rev. Phillip J. Romine**, Transitional Associate Pastor  
for Faith Formation and Lifelong Learning

### Parish Associates:

Rev. Dix W. Brachlow ..... [brachlow@gmail.com](mailto:brachlow@gmail.com)

Rev. Dr. J. Michael Anderson ..... [MikeA@pobox.com](mailto:MikeA@pobox.com)



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

### Program, Administrative, and Facility Staff

Jessica Bandelin, Acting Choir School Director .....	<a href="mailto:JessicaB@hohchurch.org">JessicaB@hohchurch.org</a>
Shelley Baumgart, Facility Staff .....	<a href="mailto:ShelleyB@hohchurch.org">ShelleyB@hohchurch.org</a>
Madeline Cieslak, Hope Arts Center Executive Director .....	<a href="mailto:MadelineC@hohchurch.org">MadelineC@hohchurch.org</a>
Preston Conley, Facility Staff .....	<a href="mailto:PrestonC@hohchurch.org">PrestonC@hohchurch.org</a>
Matthew Culloton, Choirmaster .....	<a href="mailto:MatthewC@hohchurch.org">MatthewC@hohchurch.org</a>
Janice Dickinson, Wedding Coordinator .....	<a href="mailto:hoh@hohchurch.org">hoh@hohchurch.org</a>
Christopher Freeze, Director of Development .....	<a href="mailto:ChristopherF@hohchurch.org">ChristopherF@hohchurch.org</a>
Michelle Freyholtz, Director of Administration .....	<a href="mailto:MichelleF@hohchurch.org">MichelleF@hohchurch.org</a>
Mike Gibson, Finance Manager .....	<a href="mailto:MikeG@hohchurch.org">MikeG@hohchurch.org</a>
David Goudzwaard-Vaught, Executive Assistant .....	<a href="mailto:DavidGV@hohchurch.org">DavidGV@hohchurch.org</a>
Jimmy Hoke, Director of Children and Family Ministry .....	<a href="mailto:JimmyH@hohchurch.org">JimmyH@hohchurch.org</a>
Malinda Johnson, Communications Coordinator .....	<a href="mailto:MalindaJ@hohchurch.org">MalindaJ@hohchurch.org</a>
Elsa Kendig, Director of Youth and Family Ministry .....	<a href="mailto:ElsaK@hohchurch.org">ElsaK@hohchurch.org</a>
Aaron David Miller, Director of Music/Organist .....	<a href="mailto:AaronM@hohchurch.org">AaronM@hohchurch.org</a>
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Timothy Short, Music Associate, Carillonneur .....	<a href="mailto:TimS@hohchurch.org">TimS@hohchurch.org</a>
Julie Stanley, Facility Staff .....	<a href="mailto:JulieS@hohchurch.org">JulieS@hohchurch.org</a>
Michelle Theisen, Facility and Event Manager .....	<a href="mailto:MichelleT@hohchurch.org">MichelleT@hohchurch.org</a>
Ellie VanderHaar, Nursery Coordinator .....	<a href="mailto:JimmyH@hohchurch.org">JimmyH@hohchurch.org</a>