



Seeking to bring the
life-giving Hope of Jesus Christ
to our community in Hot Springs, AR

Celebration of Worship
First Sunday of Advent
Sunday, November 28, 2021

Gathering Song

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #194

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny.
From depths of Hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-Spring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Welcome to Visitors / Announcements *(back of bulletin)*

Call to Worship

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

**He was manifested in the flesh,
vindicated by the Spirit,
seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed on in the world,
taken up in glory.**

1 Timothy 3:16

The Prayer of Invocation

Be Thou My Vision #642

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling and I with thee one.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for my fight;
Be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower,
Raise thou me heavenward,
O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Lighting of Advent Candle

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; the one who follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life."

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

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.

All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Lord of hope, as night workers long for the sunrise, we long for the coming of Christ. In our worship today we yearn for your Spirit to give us a glimpse of your glory, that one day we will see in full, when all will be made new, through Christ, our Lord, our light. Amen.

Corporate Confession of Sin

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is nothing good in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent; according to Your promises declared unto men in Christ Jesus our Lord. Grant that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life; to the glory of His name. Amen

Private Confession of Sin

The Assurance of Pardon

Based on 1 Timothy 1:15, 1 Peter 2:24

Hear the good news:

This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

The Peace

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness #32

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
As thou hast been, thou forever will be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
All I have needed thy hand hath provided,
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness," Words: Thomas O. Chisholm, Music: William M Runyan, Public Domain

Scripture Reading

Genesis 45:15-46:27

The Sermon from God's Word

Rev. Scott Davis

Tithes and Offerings

Our offering is an act of worship where we respond to the goodness and mercy of God with our gratitude and reliance on Him for all things. If you are our guest today, please feel under no obligation to give. If you would like to give a tithe or offering today there will be someone with an offering plate standing by the sanctuary doors as you leave.

Hymn of Response

How Great Thou Art #44

O Lord, my God! When I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:

***Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!***

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin:

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

"How Great Thou Art," Words & Music: Stuart Hine, © 1953 Stuart K. Hine

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

*We invite all Christians who profess faith in Jesus Christ for their salvation
and are members of congregations that proclaim the Gospel
to join us in taking the Lord's Supper. We offer both grape juice and wine.
When you come forward the grape juice will be in the outer ring of the tray
and the wine in the inner rings. Please hold both elements;
we will take them together after everyone is served.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you! **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts! **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Most righteous God, we remember in this supper the perfect sacrifice offered once on the cross by our Lord Jesus Christ for the sin of the whole world. In the joy of his resurrection and in the expectation of his coming again, we offer ourselves to you as holy and living sacrifices. Together we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Words of Institution 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ESV

The Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat the bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Doxology #731

(Tune: “Old Hundredth” from the Genevan Psalter)

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Benediction

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.
1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

A Note to Visitors

If you are spiritually weary and in search of rest,
if you are mourning and you long for comfort,
if you are struggling and you desire victory,
if you recognize that you are a sinner and need a savior,
God welcomes you here in the name of Christ.
To the stranger in need of fellowship,
to those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
and to whoever will come,
Hope Church Hot Springs opens wide its doors
and welcomes all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hope Church Session

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Children at Hope Church

To parents of young children may we suggest:

God gave children the vibrant energy that sometimes causes them to wiggle and make noise. They belong right here with God's people where you have so faithfully brought them. Stick with it!

Feel free to sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on. They tire of seeing the backs of others' heads.

Quietly explain the parts of the service and the actions of the pastor and elders.

Sing the songs and participate in the prayers and the responses. Children learn how to worship by watching you.

If you have to leave the service with your child, please feel free to do so. But, please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me."

To the members of our church:

Children are a gift, not a distraction. The sound of children in the church is the sound of Jesus keeping his promises; it is the sound of his church that lives on and never dies. Please welcome children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

Announcements

Theology on Tap, our weekly bible study will be this Tuesday evening at 6:30. We'll be meeting at the Courtyard by Marriott lobby. The hotel is located on Central Avenue behind Bone's Steakhouse (across the street from the bowling alley.)

The Salvation Army is recruiting bell ringers during the Christmas season. If you'd be willing to sign up to ring a bell in front of a store for a two hour shift please see Carole Stone or Barbara Gaunt.

Our Hope Church Christmas Dinner/Banquet will be Thursday, December 9th at 6pm. Mark your calendar!

Samaritan Ministries has put together a helpful flyer that outlines ways that you can help the homeless in our community as you encounter them. Pick one up on your way out the door today.

We're cleaning out our lost and found. Please check the table in the lobby near the classrooms. Anything not picked up by December 5th will be donated to Goodwill.

If you're interested in joining Hope Church please let us know. We've got a small book called: New to Hope that we'd love to give to you today. Fill out a visitor card and drop it in the offering plate indicating your desire to investigate membership.

In an effort to make giving easier, we've partnered with Tithely to allow you to give to Hope Church through our website or through the Tithely app. Download Tithely from the App Store to get started. Or, visit: www.HopeChurchPCA.org/give . In the app we're listed as: "Hope Church PCA"