



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, December 3, 2023

Gathering Song
Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky.
And stay by my side till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
And take us to Heaven to live with Thee there.

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

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.

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.**

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen #211

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay;
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy: O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heavenly Father, a blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy: O tidings of comfort and joy.

“Fear not,” then said the angel, “let nothing you affright;
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in Him from Satan’s power and might.”
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy: O tidings of comfort and joy.

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.

Hymn of Response

Joy to the World #195

Joy to the World, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

"Joy to the World!" Words: Isaac Watts, Music: George Frederick Handel, Public Domain

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

We invite all baptized 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 meet at the Courtyard by Marriott lobby. The hotel is located on Central Avenue behind J.B.'s Steakhouse.

Make plans to join us on Christmas Eve at 5pm for our "Lessons and Carols" service. This one-hour service is a traditional liturgy that features Scripture readings from the Old and New Testaments as well as many well-known Advent hymns. Bring a friend!

Our Hope Presbyterian Church Christmas Dinner will be on December 8th at 6 pm. Make plans to join us! We'll have entertainment provided by the Fun City Chorus.

Our next men's breakfast meeting will be on Saturday, December 16th at 7:00 a.m. Make plans to join us and bring a friend! We'll be discussing chapter 6.

Please consider participating in our Christmas ministry to needy Veterans. We will provide those in need with a pair of socks that have been stuffed with toiletry items. The list is on the table by the nursery and they will be collected by Dec. 10. If we have enough, we will also distribute to the homeless men at Samaritan's Ministry when we feed them on Dec. 17th. Please take the excess supplies at the table and donate your extras also!

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" Also, you can use this QR Code to go directly there:

