

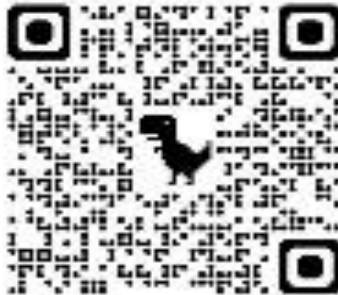
Welcome to Worship!

We're glad you're here!

New Hope's mission is to discover, experience, and share God's
love
with our hearts, hands and voices

As followers of Christ, we will:

- encourage a spiritual journey
- celebrate the diversity and gifts that each person brings
- learn from each other
- engage with the world around us



Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

Lighting the Advent Wreath ~ Today as we light the third candle of “joy” we hear the scripture from Isaiah 40: 3-10

A voice cries out “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low. The uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, [a] “What shall I cry?” All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news, lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news, lift it up, do not fear, say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him, his reward is with him and his recompense before him.

As we pray, we pray the prayer of a young adult named Joelle, a Lutheran Christian in Palestine has shared with us. Dear Lord, we come to you today with our worries, fears, and struggles to you, seeking the comfort and peace only you can give. We pray for your Church, Lord. Protect it, guide its people, and lead us to reflect Your light. Bless the young with wisdom, courage, and hearts full of compassion so they may follow you-the way, the truth, and the life-and share your love with others, Lord Jesus, be our guide, our strength, and our hope. May we grow in faith, serve with joy, and reflect Your grace in all we do. Amen.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Long-expected God,
we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. † You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.
Amen.

Please join in singing: ELW 257 (Red) O Come, O Come Emmanuel

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Come Holy Spirit and speak to us through the scripture readings,

The First Reading is from the 35th Chapter of Isaiah

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³ Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading is from the 5th Chapter of James

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading is from the 11th Chapter of Matthew

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." ⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ¹¹ 'Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you Oh Christ.

Message:

Vicar Thania Drake

Please join in singing: ELW 242 (Red) Awake, Awake And Greet The New Morn

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new
morn, for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is
born, behold! the Child of our
longing. Come as a baby weak and
poor, to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav'nly door
and lives now inside us forever. | as morning light so quiet and free,
so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in
song, the lame shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the
strong, and weapons be broken
asunder. |
| 2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a-singing,
his humble song is quiet and near,
yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul
and hymns of lovingkindness,
the thunder of his anthems roll
to shatter all hatred and blindness. | 4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the
night, though dark the winter and
cheerless, the rising sun shall crown
you with light, be strong and loving
and fearless. Love be our song and
love our prayer and love our endless
story; may God fill ev'ry day we
share and bring us at last into glory. |
| 3 In darkest night his coming shall be,
when all the world is despairing, | |

The Prayers

The assisting minister and pastor will lead us in prayer, please respond after each petition with:

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy
through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

Sharing God's Peace:

The God of love and peace be with you always.

And also with you.

Our Offerings to God *in gratitude to God we return a part of what he has given us as an offering realizing that all we have is God's. The offering that is gathered is for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need locally and worldwide. Offerings can be placed in the plate, dropped off into our mail slot, arranged by bill pay at your financial institution or we have online giving available below.*

Giving QR Code



Enjoy the special music as the gifts are gathered.

After the gifts are gathered, please stand as you are able and join in singing.

Sing Of Mary, Pure And Lowly

WOV 634 (Blue)

- 1 Sing of Mary, pure and lowly,
virgin mother, wise and mild.
Sing of God's own Son most holy,
who became her little child.
Fairest child of fairest mother,
God the Lord who came to earth,
Word made flesh, our very brother,
takes our nature by his birth.

2 Sing of Jesus, son of Mary,
in the home at Nazareth.
Toil and labor cannot weary
love enduring unto death.
Constant was the love he gave her,
though he went forth from her side,
forth to preach, and heal, and suffer,
till on Calvary he died.

3 Glory be to God the Father;
glory be to God the Son;
glory be to God the Spirit;
glory to the Three in One.
From the heart of blessed Mary,
from all saints the song ascends,
and the church the strain reechoes
unto earth's remotest ends.

Let us Pray, Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world
signs of your kingdom come.

Amen.

The Meal

Communion

*Jesus, who gladly ate with tax collectors and sinners, now invites you exactly as you are to this holy meal.
Come share in the bread and wine that is Jesus' very self. All is made ready for you.*

Christ is here among us.

Christ is truly with us

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. To you, O God, Father, Son, and
Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us join together praying as Jesus taught us:

**C Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us; and lead us not into
temptation, But deliver us from
evil. For thine is the kingdom
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

Invitation To Communion

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy.
All are invited to come to the banquet.

Communion Distribution

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say; The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you. Each person may respond, Amen. The wine is red and grape juice is the lighter color. Gluten free bread is available upon request. Place your empty cups in the baskets on the side. During the distribution, please join in singing:

Come To The Child (Green 75)

Come to the Child of Bethlehem
See Him the Son of God and man
Think of the life
That now has filled our flesh and bone
Come to the Child in wonder now

Think of our God imagine how
Heaven could fill this simple Child of Bethlehem
Come and worship
Come and honor Him
Come and bow Now lay your pride and plans aside
Come and praise Him
Lift your heart to Him
He is your God He is your hope and He is love

Come to the table of the Lord
See Him the bread and wine out-poured
Think of the holy life He brings to every heart
Come to the feast in wonder now
Think of His love imagine how
You are invited to this table of the Lord
Alleluia Alleluia
Holy Lamb of God the Savior of the world
Alleluia Lord we lift our hearts
You are the Way You are the Truth and You are love

Come to the Child of Bethlehem
See Him the Son of God and man
Think of the life
That now has filled our flesh and bone
Come to the Child in wonder now
Think of our God imagine how
Heaven could fill this simple Child of Bethlehem
Come and worship
Come and honor Him
Come and bow Now lay your pride and plans aside
Come and praise Him
Lift your heart to Him
He is your God He is your hope and He is love
Worship your Lord the simple Child of Bethlehem
Worship your Lord the simple Child of Bethlehem

Prayer of Blessing and Thanks

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

Announcements



Sign up sheets –

Deliver Door Hangers, December 20 at 10am



Please continue to check on members, friends and neighbors.



The Food Pantry. We are open on Saturdays from 9-until food runs out. Always looking for volunteers, grocery bags. can goods, cereal, etc.

My Soul Magnifies The Lord (Purple 104)

My soul magnifies the Lord
And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
My soul magnifies the Lord
And my spirit rejoices in God
For the Mighty One has done great deeds
I will follow Him as the Spirit leads
He has filled the hungry with good things
Blessed be the Lord blessed be the Lord

Blessing

May God who comes among us, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able

Please join in singing the **Sending Song**

***Brothers, sisters, all are we part of God's great family.
As we go from this place, may God keep us in His grace.
May God keep us in His grace.***

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We are so glad you worshipped here today and invite you again. If you are looking for a faith family, we invite you to consider New Hope

Serving Today:

Ministers	Every Member and Friend
Presiding	Vicar Thania Drake
Music Director	Gail Manago
Worship Assistant	Vicki Gannon
Reader	Ruth Huckaby
Ushers	Angie Gifford & Karen Miller
Tech Team	Kathy Brosch, Debbie Strom, Jeff Strom
Sound	Howard Swan, Kitt Swan
Video	Craig Sharp, Steve Marshall
Song Leaders	Susan Hernandez, Martina Jackson, Christine Swan
Flautist	Carol Riley

New Hope's licenses for all service music today:
Augsburg Fortress SAS004290, CCLI 3181482, One License A-400855.

Serving December 21 – Pastor Mike Hamilton

Readings for December 21: Isaiah 7:10-16 *The sign of Immanuel*, **Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19** Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7), **Romans 1:1-7** *Paul's greeting to the church at Rome*, **Matthew 1:18-25** *A God near at hand*

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We Are Sent Into The World To Share What Has Been Given To Us



Living In the Now and the Not Yet

In this season of Advent we stand in the discomfoting quiet of waiting for the salvation of the Lord while simultaneously seeing that very salvation breaking into the world around us. Like John the Baptist we ask Jesus “are you here, or should we still wait?” The answer to this question is “yes.” Yes, Jesus is here among us in his body and blood at the eucharist. But we wait for the day when he returns. Yes, Jesus is here among us bringing peace and reconciliation. But we wait for the day when he will make *all* things new. The new life promised by the coming of a savior is both realized and still to come. We who live in the Christian faith do so as people searching the world around us for signs of God’s kingdom. Gathering as Christ’s body on earth, we have a sort of dual-citizenship in the now and the not-yet as we both proclaim that Christ is among us and also fervently pray “even so, come Lord Jesus.” As believers, our hope does not rest in the efforts of our piety or in the comfort of the hereafter. Rather, our hope is in the promises of a gracious, faithful God; promises fulfilled before our eyes and those not yet seen. We long for the day in which, like Isaiah’s vision of what will be, the blind see and the lame leap like deer. Yet we tell what we see and hear around us: that the dead are raised and the poor receive good news. The day is here and yet still we wait. Even so, come, Lord Jesus



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

Interim Pastor
Vicar
Katie's Pantry Director
Rocky Mountain Synod
ELCA Churchwide

Jeff Swanson
Thania Drake
Mary Anez & The Rev Jeff St. Clair
The Rev Dr. Meghan Aelabouni, Bishop
The Rev Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop