

Invite all to worship God, grow in faith, follow Jesus by serving others

Time of Preparation — By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us—giving light to those who sit in darkness, comforting those who dwell in the shadow of death, and guiding our feet in the way of peace.

Disciples Gather to Worship God

☪ **Welcome** (hopeaustin.org/connect) Rev. Josh Robinson

♫ **Prelude** Hal Hopson
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Dr. Kathy Rabago, organ

♫ **Introit** PICARDY
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
Adult Choir

*King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.*

☪ **Lighting the Candle of Hope** The Schauer Family

May Peace light the world this Christmas.

Today we give thanks for the shepherds among us, back-breaking laborers on whom our economy stands, those we overlook or rarely see, yet rely on for our very survival, the ones who have much to teach us about watching for God in the darkness.

↑ ♫ **Hymn of Praise 104** (GTG) VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN
O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

☪ **Response: Praise the Lord! The Lord's name be praised!**

↑ Indicates when we are to rise, as we are able.
☪ Indicates when someone is praying.
📖 Indicates when Scripture is read.
♫ Indicates when music is sung or heard.
☪ Indicates when someone is speaking.

Bold text is read or sung by the congregation.
A personal sound system for the hearing impaired is available.
Please ask an usher for a receiver.
GTG—*Glory to God* purple hymnal
STF—*Sing the Faith* blue hymnal

†Prayer of Confession

Brittany Bussell

Cleansing God, we hear the call to repentance, but we struggle to respond. A voice tells us to turn around, but we prefer our own ways. You seek to purify us in love, but we constantly elude your searching hand. Our sin leads us in other directions, away from you, away from life. Forgive us, merciful God.

Silent Prayers of Personal Confession

Forgive us, merciful God. Look with mercy upon us. Clear a place within us so that something new might be born, something that might return us to the way you have shown us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

☪Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel! **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

↑♫Response 113 (GTG)

Angels We Have Heard on High (vs. 2)

GLORIA

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Glo—ria in excelsis Deo! Glo—ria in excelsis Deo!

↑☪Sharing the Peace

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Disciples Listen to the Word of God

☪Children's Sermon

↑♫Hymn 163 (GTG)

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

ABERYSTWYTH

📖First Reading

Luke 3:1-6 (NRSV)

Bible p.834

📖Scripture Reading

Philippians 1:3-11 (NRSV)

Bible p.953

☪Sermon

Boundless: Joy

Rev. Josh Robinson

Disciples Respond to the Call of God

†Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer (hopeaustin.org/prayer)

Penny Cram, Stephen Minister

The prayer leader concludes the prayer, saying:

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.

**For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!**

♫ Presentation of Tithes and Offerings (hopeaustin.org/donate)

♫ Offertory Anthem

When Love Came Down

Stuart Townend arr. Larry Shackley

Adult Choir

*When Love came down to earth and made his home with men,
The hopeless found a hope, the sinner found a friend.
Not to the powerful, but to the poor he came,
And humble hungry hearts were satisfied again.
What joy, what peace has come to us;
What hope, what help, what love.
When every unclean thought and every sinful deed
Was scourged upon his back and hammered through his feet;
The innocent is cursed, the guilty are released,
The punishment of God on God has bought me peace.
Come lay your heavy load down at the Master's feet.
Your shame will be removed, your joy will be complete.
Come crucify your pride, and enter as a child;
For those who bow down low he'll lift up to his side.*

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♫ Doxology 134 (GTG)

Joy to the World (vs. 2)

ANTIOCH

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

Disciples Celebrate at the Table of God

Invitation to the Table

The Lord's Table at Hope Presbyterian Church is open to all who seek to know and love Jesus Christ. Friends from other denominations are welcome to share in the Lord's Supper because Christ is our host. Children who are being nurtured in Christian faith are also welcome. We invite all to share in the holy meal in order to be renewed and assured of God's love and grace.

♫ The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Communion

The Ushers will direct you to the Lord's Table. We invite you to receive a cup, drink, and then receive a piece of bread you may eat as you return to your pew. Please join in singing the following hymns during the communion.

♪ Communion Hymns

Hymn 525 (GTG)

Let Us Break Bread Together

SPIRITUAL

Hymn 533 (GTG)

*In the Singing
Alleluia*

BREAD OF PEACE

Jerry Sinclair

1. Alleluia, alleluia...

2. He's my Savior, alleluia...

3. I will praise Him, alleluia...

4. Alleluia, alleluia... CCLI # 16811 © 1972 Manna Music, Inc.

✝ Prayer After Communion

God, we rejoice that you satisfy our needs. By your presence in this meal you have fed us and strengthened us, as a mother nourishes her baby. In this waiting season fill us with hopeful expectation that we may see the signs of your kingdom all around us and rejoice in your coming salvation and glory. Amen.

♪ Hymn 106 (GTG)

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

⬆️ Charge & Benediction

The world is about to turn. This is our Advent hope. Let us put our trust in the great power beyond this world who is at the same time ever so close — God with us. O come, O come, Emmanuel; may it be so.

♪ Response 92 (GTG)

While We Are Waiting, Come (vs. 2)

WAITING

With power and glory, come. With power and glory, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

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♪ Postlude

From Heaven Above

Ernest Pepping

Dr. Kathy Rabago, organ

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Sunday, December 12, 2021

Following the worship service.

Members are the Ministers of Hope Church

Rev. Josh Robinson, Pastor
Julie Boltz, Assistant Director of Music
Brittany Bussell, Interim Youth Director
Paula Croix, Financial Administrator
Joyce Marshall, Director of HCC

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MATTHEW 25

Nick Boltz, Director of Music
Dr. Kathy Rabago, Organist
Nancy Bruno, Office Manager
Clark Pengra, Facilities Supervisor
Tim Gaffney, Facilities Support

Church Office: 512-258-9117
Website: hopeaustin.org
Website: hopeaustin.org/hcc

NEWS FOR THE PEWS

Welcome to worship at Hope Presbyterian Church! We invite you to enter into the spirit of worship with us. Enjoy the fellowship of this community of faith. Lift your voice in song. Lift your heart and burdens in prayer. Listen to and for the Word of God to you. Heed God's message as it comes through the Holy Spirit's presence. Leave this place in joy to love and serve God and neighbor, seeking to follow Christ our Lord. We're glad you're here!



TONIGHT @ 5:00 p.m.

Family Advent Celebration — Hope's Music Ministry presents "AWAY FROM the MANGER", a humorous, fun-filled musical about those who DID NOT go to see the Christ Child. Performed by members of Joy & Jubilation Choir and Unity Singers. PLUS a surprise guest appearance! Start your Advent season off with a bit of joy, provided by our children and youth! Afterward, enjoy a churchwide Taco Bar dinner in Fellowship Hall!



What is a women's circle at Hope? Come to **Ruth Circle** this Thursday, December 8, at 2:00 p.m. in the MPR and learn what we are about.



Prior to December 12, 2021

Last Days to contribute to the Anderson Mill Elementary School Giving Tree. Donations to this fund may be made by check, online, or bring it to the office. Please indicate on the check or online form that your donation is for the *AMES Giving Tree*. (Online, please indicate **Restricted Fund**, then type in AMES Giving Tree) Gifts average \$25 each, and all donations are appreciated. Questions? Contact Carol Wada at ccwada@gmail.com.



Gifts for the Staff

Prior to December 15, 2021

The many ministries of Hope are made possible by the combined talents and dedication of our staff. If you are current in your planned giving and pledges for 2021, the Session invites you to express your appreciation during the Christmas season by contributing to the **Staff Christmas Fund** which is our chosen way of saying "Thanks and Merry Christmas!" to our valued staff. As in previous years, the Hope Staff will be sharing your Christmas gift equally. Please note "Staff Christmas Fund" on the memo line of your check. Thank you and God's blessings during this Christmas Season!



December 19, 2021 @ 10:00

After taking last year off, we are excited to be able to present the 22nd annual **Festival of Carols!** The choir and orchestra will be there, and we hope you will join us as we read the scriptures and sing the carols once again. For those who are unable to attend in person, the service will be livestreamed on Hope's YouTube channel, and you will be able to view it any time afterward. Come share in the joyful music of Christmas at *A Festival of Carols!*



December 21, 2021 @ 6:00

Blue Christmas Service — The holidays can be a difficult time for anyone who has suffered loss or hurt. Blue Christmas (also called the Longest Night) in the Western Christian tradition, is a day in the Advent season marking the longest night of the year. On this day, we hold a worship service for people who have lost loved ones and are experiencing grief. By doing so, we can all celebrate more fully, knowing we have acknowledged those who are no longer with us or what we might have left behind.



Prior to December 26, 2021

Ready for Supper Club? Sign up in the narthex if you're interested in joining Supper Club during the months of January-May. Each month you will meet in a different home to enjoy fellowship with seven or eight others and a delicious meal! Questions about Supper Club? Text Judy Fulmer at 512-638-6528. Sign up TODAY!