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# HOPE

Presbyterian Church

Invite all to Worship God  
Grow in faith  
Follow Jesus by Serving Others

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

December 24, 2024, 8:00 p.m.

*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!***

Centering Words: INHALE: *Time after time,* EXHALE: *You call me by name.*

## Disciples Gather to Worship God

♫ **Prelude** *Noel Nouvelet (Sing We Now of Christmas)* French Carol arr. Terry Price  
Glory Bells

🗣️ **Welcome** Rev. Dr. Josh Robinson

♫ **Introit** *O Holy Night* Adolphe Adam  
Monica Johnson, soprano

*O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,  
it is the night of the dear Savior's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
'til he appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope! The weary world rejoices,  
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born.  
Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,  
with glowing hearts by his cradle we stand;  
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
here came the wise men from the Orient land.*

*The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,  
in all our trials born to be our friend.  
He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger.  
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!  
Truly he taught us to love one another,  
his law is love and his Gospel is peace.  
Chains shall he break from the hands of our brother,  
and in his name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
let all within us praise his holy name.  
Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim!*

⬆️🗣️ **Lighting the Christ Candle** Bob & Karen Gordon

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

**Let us begin with hope. Let us begin with peace. Let us begin with joy. Let us begin with love.**

Yes, let us begin with love, for surely love knows your name. Today, in addition to the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, we light the Christ Candle.

Surely God is in this place. Surely the Spirit is near. Surely love knows our name.

**May we rest in that good news. Unto us a child is born. A light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it. Glory to God in the highest heaven!**

Siblings in the family of Christ, let us worship God!

- ↑ 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.
- Large print bulletins, hymnals, and Bibles are available from the ushers.
- GTG—Glory to God, purple hymnal; STF—Sing the Faith, blue song book

↑ 🎵 Hymn of Praise 133 (GTG)

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

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

✝️ Bidding Prayer

Julie Boltz

## Disciples Listen to the Word of God

🔊 Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1-20

Bible p. 832

🔊 Response: This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

🔊 Sermon

*Words for the Beginning: Love Knows Your Name*

Rev. Dr. Josh Robinson

### Worship+2: GROW

*Shepherds were low-wage workers who were undervalued and sometimes considered dangerous, yet they were essential to Bethlehem's economy. They kept to the peripheries of town, guiding their flocks to water and pasture, protecting them from predators and thieves. Of all people, why are the shepherds singled out to receive this good news? Why are they invited to witness the newborn Christ up close? What does this tell us about God?*

## Disciples Respond to the Call of God

🔊 Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

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🎵 Offertory Anthem

*Still, Still, Still*

Swedish Carol arr. Norman Luboff

Adult Choir

*Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow,*

*For all is hushed, the world is sleeping,*

*Holy star its vigil keeping.*

*Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow.*

*Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.*

*The night is peaceful all around you,*

*Close your eyes, let sleep surround you.*

*Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.*

*Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.*

*While guardian angels without number*

*Watch you as you sweetly slumber.*

*Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.*

↑ 🎵 Doxology 134 (GTG)

*Joy to the World (vs. 1 & 4)*

ANTIOCH

**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.**

**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.**

✝️ Prayer of Dedication

## Disciples Celebrate at the Table of God

*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 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.**

*...As we tell your story of good news, let us once again speak the prayer your son taught us to pray, 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.**

### Communion

*The servers will direct you to the Lord's Table. We invite you to receive a piece of bread to dip in the cup and eat as you return to your pew. Chalices with the ribbon contain wine. If you have a gluten-free preference or prefer an individual serving, please visit Pastor Josh's station. Return to your pew and join in praying and singing.*

### ♪ Communion Hymns

**Hymn 145** (GTG)

*What Child Is This*

GREENSLEEVES

**Hymn 140** (GTG)

*Once in Royal David's City*

IRBY

**Hymn 115** (GTG)

*Away in a Manger*

MUELLER

### ✠☪ Prayer after Communion

**God of shepherds and sheep, we give you thanks that you have gathered us here, revealed to us your glory, and fed us with your mercy. Now send us out with good news for all—for us a child is born: Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen**

*The Service continues on the next page.*

# Disciples Depart to Serve God

## The Candle lighting

*The pastors and ushers will distribute candlelight to the congregation. Tilt your unlit candle towards the flame. Please pass the Light of Christ to the person next to you. On the fourth verse, lift your candle as affirmation that Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.*

↑ 🎵 Hymn 122 (GTG)

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

STILLE NACHT

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin mother and Child, Holy Infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar; Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia,  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ the Savior, is born!"

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light;  
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace;  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

↑ Benediction

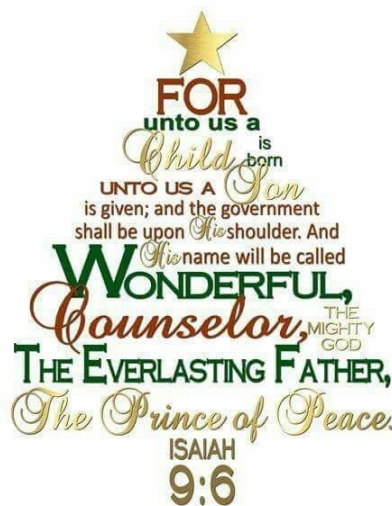
*Please extinguish your candle.*

↑ 🎵 Postlude

*The First Noel*

Robert J. Hughes

Dr. Kathy Winston, organ



## Members are the Ministers of Hope Church

Rev. Dr. Josh Robinson, Pastor

Rev. Dr. John Leedy, Associate Pastor for Youth & Young Adults  
Julie Boltz, Assistant Director of Music  
Rev. Dr. Krystal Leedy, Chaplain for Children & Families  
Paula Croix, Financial Administrator  
Marci Reves, Director of HCC

Nick Boltz, Director of Music  
Dr. Kathy Winston, Organist  
Nancy Bruno, Office Manager  
Clark Pengra, Facilities Supervisor  
Arren Chandler, Property Support

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