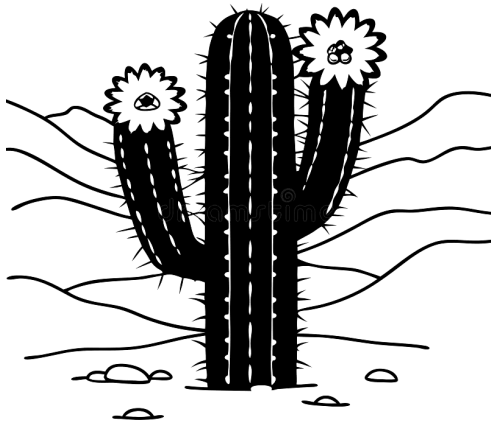


new hope
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)



December 14, 2025

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT NEW HOPE

Our worship stems from the Presbyterian/Reformed branch of the Christian faith, and you'll find much of what you need to participate in this bulletin. If you're unfamiliar with these traditions, you can also simply let the prayers of the community carry you forward. There is no wrong way to come to God in prayer. We're glad you're here.

During Today's Worship

Children are especially welcome in our worship services, because faith is formed by the practices that shape it. Worship clipboards for children may be found on the table outside the office. An usher will help you locate one. Parents who prefer child care will find the nursery (infant—Pre-K) in Room 204 (main level).

Worship Feast, an alternative Christian formation experience for elementary-age children is available during the service. Children who wish to participate may be dismissed after the Gospel Reading. They will exit by the side (north) door and be escorted across the hallway.

Preparing for worship...Please silence cell phones upon entering the sanctuary. The need may arise for you to exit the service early. If so, please refrain from exiting during prayers, reading of scripture and choral anthems. Natural and appropriate exit points are during congregational hymns or sung responses. Your courtesy is appreciated. Also, as a kindness to fellow worshippers, please do not take flash photos during the worship service.

Large-print bulletins are available for ease of worship. An usher will be happy to assist you.

The offering...Your financial contributions to the mission and ministry of New Hope may be placed in one of the two offering stands located at the entry to the main sanctuary doors.

The Eucharist (the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion) is open to all the baptized. The Lord's Supper and Baptism are inseparable. If you feel called by the Holy Spirit to meet Christ in Communion, we believe that you are also being called to Baptism. We will not turn anyone away from the Lord's Table, but we do invite you to speak to the pastor or a member of the Session about Baptism as soon as possible.

Restrooms are located on the south side of the building, across the hall from the kitchen. When you exit the worship space, turn left and they are down the hall on the right.

Liturgist: Sylvia Bane Malta

Tech team: Bill Lamey & Julie Nowakowski

Wifi network: NHPCGuest

Wifi password: Reformed

New Hope Cares

For pastoral care and to notify the church of illness, hospitalization, or death, please contact the church office at 636/936.2200 (tjohnson@nhpres.org). To arrange for home-bound Communion, contact Pastor James at cqjames@nhpres.org or 936.2200 x.11.

New Hope broadcasts our worship livestream to our website. The video and audio of the service are recorded and may be replayed. Your participation in our worship constitutes your consent for you and/or your child(ren) to have your image and/or voice potentially recorded and replayed.

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

10:15 a.m.

THE GATHERING

*As the people gather, worshipers greet one another, welcoming newcomers.
Please silence electronic devices.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

+ GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HANDBELL PRELUDE

Mary, Did You Know
Terry Martinez, director

arr. Anna Laura Page

✠ This prayer is offered to help worshipers center the heart and mind for worship.

God of joy,
each week we come ever closer to you.
We feel our hearts quicken with excitement
at the approach of Jesus' birth.
May our souls magnify you, as Mary's did.
May our lives point to yours, as John's did.
May we remain patient,
listening for your Word and your Spirit,
even as we prepare for the Christmas celebration.
With hope, peace, joy and love we pray. Amen.

*CHORAL INTROIT

Come, Come, Emmanuel

James J. Chepponis

*LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Adam & Brittany Benkendorf
Logan, Mackenzie, & Noah

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.
As the Lord has promised, in days to come . . .

The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;

Isa. 2:4

**nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall the learn war any more.**

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

Isa. 11:6

**the calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down together,
and a little child shall lead them.**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

Isa. 35:1

**like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.** ...cont.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.
Amen.

*HYMN 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

*THE CONFESSION

Magnificent God,
it is easy to rejoice at
the wilderness bursting into bloom
and the hungry being filled with good things.
We may not want
the powerful to be brought down
or the rich to be sent away empty.
We know that sometimes, we are the powerful.
Sometimes, we are the rich.
Sometimes we are the ones with privilege,
ignoring and harming those you would lift up.
Forgive us, humble us, and refocus us,
that we may follow your way of life and truth.

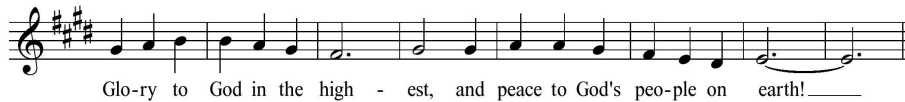
✠ Worshipers may reflect on this prayer and offer personal confession in silence.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

THE PEACE

✠ Greet those around you with: "The peace of Christ be with you," responding, "And also with you."

Gloria



THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

EPISTLE READING

James 5:7-10

*THE GOSPEL

THE ACCLAMATION

PICARDY



GOSPEL READING

Matthew 11:2-11

SERMON

A moment for silence and reflection.

Prepare the Way of the Lord
Nick Anderson, soloist

Lloyd Larson

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

...God of our salvation,
hear our prayer.

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING OF OURSELVES & OUR GIFTS

A moment for silence and reflection.
Financial contributions to the mission and ministry of New Hope may be placed through the slot of the offering stand located at the entry to the sanctuary, or securely online via the QR code on page 10.

A Morning Star Will Rise

Joseph M. Martin

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 to give our thanks and praise.

...And so with saints, with angels, and with the whole creation,
we join the ancient and eternal hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, ...cont.

Isa. 6:3; Ps. 118:25-26

God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

...According to Christ's commandment:

We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory.

...all glory to you, O God, now and forever.
Amen.

As Jesus teaches us, let us pray to the God who gives us birth:

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

☞ Ushers will invite worshipers to the Lord's Table by rows. Please approach the Table at the center and return by the outside aisles.

☞ Please cup your hands to receive the bread. Gluten-free bread is available at the plate in the center.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

arr. Mark Hayes

PRAYER AFTER THE MEAL

THE SENDING

*HYMN

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

SUO-GAN

Now the heav-ens start to whis-per, as the veil is grow-ing thin.

5 Earth from slum-ber wakes to lis-ten to the stir-ring, faint with-in:

9 seed of prom-ise, deep-ly plant-ed, child to spring from Jes-se's stem!

13 Like the soil be-neath the frost-line, hearts grow soft to wel-come him.

v.2:

*Heavy clouds that block the moonlight now begin to drift away.
Diamond brilliance through the darkness shines the hope of coming day.
Christ, the morning star of splendor, gleams within a world grown dim.
Heaven's ember fans to fullness; hearts grow warm to welcome him.*

v.3:

*Christ, eternal Sun of justice, Christ, the rose of wisdom's seed,
Come to bless with fire and fragrance hours of yearning, hurt, and need.
In the lonely, in the stranger, in the outcast, hid from view:
Child who comes to grace the manger, teach our hearts to welcome you.*

*BLESSING & CHARGE

*POSTLUDE

*All who are able may stand.

+ Those arriving may be seated.



THE SEASON OF ADVENT

“Advent” means coming or arrival. This word has a double significance, as in Advent we celebrate Christ’s coming into the world and look with longing for his coming again. The season of Advent begins with an emphasis on final things (eschatology). We watch and pray with expectant hope for the establishment of God’s justice and the return of the Prince of Peace. As the weeks of Advent progress, the focus shifts to thanks and praise for the birth of the one who has already come—Jesus Christ our Savior.

O ANTIPHONS

The season of Advent is characterized by waiting in expectant hope for the coming of the Savior at Christmas. That waiting and expectancy is revealed in the O Antiphons, a litany for the season of Advent with a recurring cry of “Come, Lord Jesus.” The O Antiphons are so named because each of them begins with the interjection “O.” Of uncertain origin, they were in use by the eighth century, and were highly regarded during the Middle Ages. Making use of Old Testament images as descriptors of Christ, the O Antiphons were sung before and after the chanting of the *Magnificat* (Mary’s song, Luke 1:46-55) in evening prayer during the last week of Advent, from December 17th through 23rd. The first letters of the key Latin words—Sapientia (Wisdom, Proverbs 8:22), Adonai (Lord, Exodus 20:2), Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse, Isaiah 11:1, 10), Clavis David (Key of David, Isaiah 22:22), Oriens (Sunrise, Zechariah 6:12), Rex Gentium (King of Nations, Haggai 2:8), and Emmanuel (God with us, Isaiah 7:14)—when read backward, spell “Ero cras,” “I shall be there tomorrow,” that is, on December 24th.

Meaning “God is with us,” the name I/Emmanuel appears once in the Old Testament in Isaiah 7:14 (Hebrew spelling, Immanuel) and once in the New Testament in Matthew 1:23 (Greek spelling, Emmanuel).

The paintings depicting each of the O Antiphons were created by New Hope member, Bob Dencker.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter’s season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that great day, we watch and wait in the Holy Spirit for Christ’s coming into the

darkness of our world, lighting candles to symbolize hope, peace, joy, and love, and remembering the promises of God with prayer.

The Advent candle stand was made by Bob Stiegemeier, the late husband of New Hope member, Sue Stiegemeier. The Advent candles themselves were given by Allen and Carolyn Rudolph in memory of their daughter, Lisa Kacevicius.

ADVENT PARAMENTS

Paramentum is the Latin word for “adornment,” and paraments in worship are cloth coverings that adorn the Lord’s Table and pulpit in the color of the liturgical season. New Hope’s Advent paraments were custom-made by Jeff Wunrow Designs, a local liturgical artist in the Souldard area of St. Louis.

WORSHIP RESOURCES

"Mary, Did You Know." Music: Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene, arr. Anna Laura Page.

Prayer of Preparation. *Connections: Worship Companion* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2022), 27.

"Come, Come Emmanuel." Text and music: James J. Chepponis. ©1995 GIA Publications, Inc.

"Prepare the Way, O Zion." Text: Frans Mikael Franzen. Translation: Augustus Nelson. Adaptation: Charles P. Price. ©1982 Hope Publishing Co.

Prayer of Confession, *Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching, & the Arts*, 56.1, 24.

"Gloria." Text: trad. liturgical. Music: David Haas. ©1987 GIA Publications, Inc."

"Prepare the Way of the Lord." Text: Based on Isaiah 40:1, 3-5; 7:14. Music: Lloyd Larson. ©1993 and this arr. ©2011 Hope Publishing Co.

"A Morning Star Will Rise." Text and music: Joseph M. Martin. ©2018 Hal Leonard-Milwin Music Corp.

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming." Music: trad. melody, harmonized Michael Praetorius. This arr. Mark Hayes. ©2010 The Lorenz Corp.

"Now the Heavens Start to Whisper." Text: Mary Louise Bringle. 2006 GIA Publications Inc. Music: Welsh melody, arr. Alfred V. Fedak. ©2011 MennoMedia Inc.

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*Striving to welcome and include all,
worship God,
grow in Christian faith,
serve others,
and be God's love in the world.*

The Rev. Dr. Christopher Q. James, *Pastor*
Dr. Gay Holmes Spears, *Director of Music Ministries*
Trudi Johnson, *Office Manager*

Session

2025
Lindsay Gonterman
Tracy Grundy
Tara Larrew
Greg Marshall

2026
Jeff Connor
Lynn Harmon
Holly Martinez
Stan Whiteley

2027
Rick Getz
Bill Lamey
Deb Mackin, Clerk of Session
Colleen Shear

Diaconate

2025
John Cusumano
Bob Dencker
Jerry Dyer
Martha Lamey

2026
Bryan Eikmann
Shari Mahon
Joe Seidler, Moderator
Amie Tilk

2027
Ruth Connor
Bob Davenport
Jane Johnston
Robin Murphy

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