

River Source - Your Guide to Worship

4th Sunday of Advent—December 23, 2018



Welcome. We are so glad you are here.

*Everything you need to participate in worship is projected on the screen.
If you read music, it is available on the usher stand in the hallway. Ask an usher or help yourself.*

As the scripture is read to you, circle or underline the words or phrases that you notice most.

What are your #dreams? What are God's dreams for you and the world?

Matthew 1:18-25

(from The Message version of the Bible)

The birth of Jesus took place like this. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. Before they enjoyed their wedding night, Joseph discovered she was pregnant. (It was by the Holy Spirit, but he didn't know that.) Joseph, chagrined but noble, determined to take care of things quietly so Mary would not be disgraced.

While he was trying to figure a way out, he had a dream. God's angel spoke in the dream: "Joseph, son of David, don't hesitate to get married. Mary's pregnancy is Spirit-conceived. God's Holy Spirit has made her pregnant. She will bring a son to birth, and when she does, you, Joseph, will name him Jesus—'God saves'—because he will save his people from their sins." This would bring the prophet's embryonic revelation to full term:

Watch for this—a virgin will get pregnant and bear a son;
They will name him Immanuel (Hebrew for "God is with us").

Then Joseph woke up. He did exactly what God's angel commanded in the dream: He married Mary. But he did not consummate the marriage until she had the baby. He named the baby Jesus.

Stay tuned for the continuing story that is our story and God's story.

Here's what to expect at River of Hope:

GIFT - Generations In Faith Together. Worship is intentionally intergenerational. "Sunday School" happens within worship. You'll speak ancient words in new ways and sing old hymns that never get old. We practice the story together. We are actively engaged in questions, prayers, and singing together. We learn so much from each other when we worship together. It's a gift, isn't it? Remember, this isn't about excellence or perfection, it's about participation.

Come as you are. Well, you're already here. It doesn't matter what you wear or what kind of shape your spiritual life is in. God meets you and loves you where you are.

Where everybody knows your name? Name tags are awkward, right? We all wear them - not just the visitors. It's an effort to be open and to show this is a safe place to be called by name.

We like kids. No kidding. We think kids are leaders in worship, always teaching us how to live. Parents, please breathe easy. We are with you.

Pray Ground. Stay in worship with your kids. Join them on the pray ground. If it all falls apart, take to the halls. We'll pray for you. ☺

Communion. You are welcome, without exception. If you are hungry and thirsty for unbounded grace, mercy, and forgiveness through Jesus Christ, you are welcome at Christ's table.

Connection Cards. For regulars and visitors to use to communicate and pray. We won't use your info to bother you.

Financial Offering. Giving generously is part of an active faith life. It looks different for each person. River of Hope depends on your giving and is grateful for how and what you share.

- There is a card reader located at the back of the worship space. There are instructions with it. Go ahead and use it.
- Go online to riverofhopehutchinson.org. Click on "give."
- You can support Laundry Love by putting money in the watering can.

On the way out...You'll be handed the River News that includes prayers to pray and scripture to read for the week, along with a calendar and other goings-on in our life together.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHER

Music to Prepare Us
Gathering Songs
Welcome 101
No Longer Strangers Prayer
Practice Saying Hello
Confession
Promise of Forgiveness
Greeting
Prayer of the Day

WORD

Hymn of Praise
Matthew 1:18-25 - The
Message Version
Wade in the Word
Sermon
Prayers of the People (*Put
your prayer in the "in box" in the
waiting room.*)
Offering + Singing

FEAST

*Setting the Table
Thanksgiving at the Table
The Lord's Prayer
Communion + Singing
Prayer after Communion

SEND

What is Our Purpose?
Blessing
*Sending Song
*Sending Charge
Music to Send You Out to
Serve

**Kids are invited to
participate throughout
worship, but especially in
these spots.*



*Walk the labyrinth
anytime during worship.
Please accompany children.*