

First Sunday of Christmas
December 27, 2020



www.riverofhopehutchinson.org
Facebook Premiere Worship at 10:30am

GATHERING

Music to Prepare Us for Worship – O Come, All Ye Faithful (Katie W. Violin)

Gathering Songs - The First Noel (Sara Shorter) & O Come, All Ye Faithful (Katie Weisenberger)

Welcome

The Word with the Kids

No Longer Strangers Prayer

Let us pray together. God of the Stranger, **we wait for you to come among us and yet, you tell us you are already here. You are here in the hunger of a stranger, the handshake of a friend, the hug of a loved one. Give us eyes to see you in the face of everyone we meet. May we greet all people, friend and stranger, as we would greet you. Amen.**

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the community of the Holy Spirit is with you all. **And also with you.**

Confession and Forgiveness

Let us confess that God is God and we are not.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

we confess that we are not perfect.

We have said and done things we regret.

We have tried to earn your redeeming grace, while denying it to others.

We have resisted your call to be your voice in the world.

Forgive us, loving God.

Give us your righteousness, the strength to put aside our failures, and the courage to try again. Amen.

Dear people of God, hear the good news:
Christ the Savior is born!
You are loved and forgiven
in the name of ✝ Jesus, who has come among us.
You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved,
because God's love is given to you
as the most precious gift of all.
Rejoice in this love and share it with the world.
Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray: Holy God, **as we journey in this season of Christmas, help us to see your presence among us as you reveal your grace and salvation through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, Amen.**

Song – Stille Nacht (Kurt Schulz)

THE STORY

Narrator: Our story and God's story continues with a reading from Luke

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, Lord: a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the

presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel. And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Song – Lo, How a Rose E'r Blooming (Sara Shorter)

Prayers of the People

Together we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Each petition will close with the words: God of Hope

And we invite you to please respond: **Hear our prayer.**

Offering

We are grateful for your financial gifts; it's the only way churches are churches. Set up automatic giving by going to our website, riverofhopehutchinson.org and follow the directions to "give online".

Offering Song – Hark, The Herald Angels Sing (Pollmann family et al 2019 Xmas Eve)

THE FEAST

Setting the Table

*As we gather our gifts of bread and wine/juice, the youth will lead us in the table prayer written by Martin Luther: Let us pray: **Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. And let these gifts to us be blest. Blest be God who is our bread, may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.***

Thanksgiving at the Table

The Lord is 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 God thanks and praise

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught:

**Our Father, in heaven, holy is your name.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and 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 and the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen.**

Invitation to the Meal

This is not my table or River of Hope's table, but rather this is Christ's table and all are welcome. If you hunger and thirst for grace and mercy that comes through Jesus Christ, then Christ has set this table just for you. Bring all that you are and all that you have to the table. You will be fed. You are forgiven. There is enough.

"This is the body of Christ given for you and the blood of Christ shed for you."

Communion Songs – O Holy Night (Sara Shorter)

Blessing and Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

Loving God, thank you for the gift of grace received at this table. Send your Spirit of truth to direct our steps, to guide our hearts, and to live a life of following Jesus for the sake of the world. Draw us near to you through your body and blood, through your presence in this world here and now. Amen.

THE SENDING

Why does our church exist? What is our purpose? **We go out to transform lives through Jesus Christ.**

*MILESTONES

It's time for milestones - a time where we join together as a community to share the big, small, good, and hard milestones in our life. Splash in the water this morning and remember that God joins us in hearing these milestones today.

If you gather on Facebook Premiere today, write your milestones in the comment section. Then after each person shares their milestone, the congregation is invited to respond by saying "MILESTONE!"

Benediction

May Emmanuel, God with us, bless you and keep you and fill you with peace and wonder. Amen.

Sending Song – Go Tell is on the Mountain (Sara Shorter)

Go in peace – serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Music to Send You Out



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