Third Sunday of Advent December 11, 2022





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

Gathering

Music to Prepare Us For Worship

Opening Song - "Build Up"



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Welcome

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, we believe God meets you right where you are, and you are welcome here.

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

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings, we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on + Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord. **Amen.** Prayer of the Day (Nate P. Orrin, Chris)

God is soaked in our world. God's Spirit lives and breathes in and Through all that is.

We are lost only when we do not understand that God is already with and in each one of us.

Our task is recognition of God's initiative to be at home in us acceptance of God-With-Us. Then we cannot but be glad.

~ written by Edwina Gateley in There Was No Path So I Trod One (1996, 2013). Posted on **Journey** with Jesus. <u>http://www.journeywithjesus.net/poemsandprayers/</u>

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Hymn – "Emmanuel"



Greet Someone New Music to bring us back together: (refrain of Emmanuel)

Children's Time

THE STORY

(Reader): Our story and God's story continues today with a reading from The Gospel of Matthew chapter 11 verses 2-11.

(Reader): Now when John heard in prison about the things the Christ was doing, he sent word by his disciples to Jesus, asking,

(John) "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

(Reader): Jesus responded,

(Jesus): "Go, report to John what you hear and see. Those who were blind are able to see. Those who were crippled are walking. People with skin diseases are cleansed. Those who were deaf now hear. Those who were dead are raised up. The poor have good news proclaimed to them. Happy are those who don't stumble and fall because of me."

(Reader): When John's disciples had gone, Jesus spoke to the crowds about John:

(Jesus): "What did you go out to the wilderness to see? A stalk blowing in the wind? What did you go out to see? A man dressed up in refined clothes? Look, those who wear refined clothes are in royal palaces. What did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. He is the one of whom it is written: *Look, I'm sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you.* "I assure you that no one who has ever been born is greater than John the Baptist. Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

(Reader): Stay tuned for the continuing saga that is our story and God's story.

(ALL): Thanks be to God

Youth Skit - "Cliff Hanger"

Sermon – Pastor Hans Peterson

Song of the Day - "For All"







Prayers for the World

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

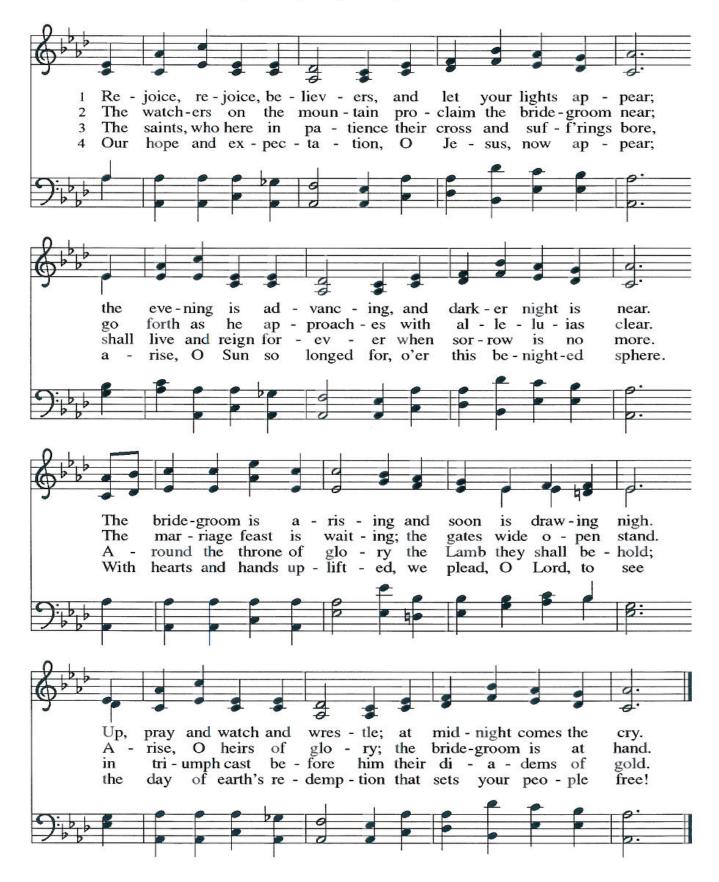
Each petition will close with the words: God of Life And you are invited to respond: **Hear our prayer**

Offering

Worship Leader: Thank you for your continued generosity and for all the ways you support God's ministry here at River of Hope. You can contact the church office and sign up for simply giving or give online or drop a check off at the church office.

Offering Song - "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

The Feast

Setting the Table the children lead us as we sing together:

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies. For the love which from our birth, over and around us lies, over and around us lies. Lord of all to thee we raise; This, our hymn of grateful praise.

Thanksgiving at the Table

As we gather in this place, we remember, that in the night when Jesus was betrayed by his best friends, he took bread. He blessed it and broke it and gave it to these same friends saying, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup, blessed it and gave it for all to drink saying, "This is the new covenant, the new promise, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me." Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

We pray our common prayer that Christ taught us.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

This is Christ's table. It's a table of love and welcome. It's a table of fellowship with the poor and communion with the earth. So, come, those of you with great faith and those of you who wish you had more. Come, those of you who have tried to follow Jesus and those of you who have failed. Come, those of you who depend on this meal for your lives, and those of you for whom it is a strange thing. These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

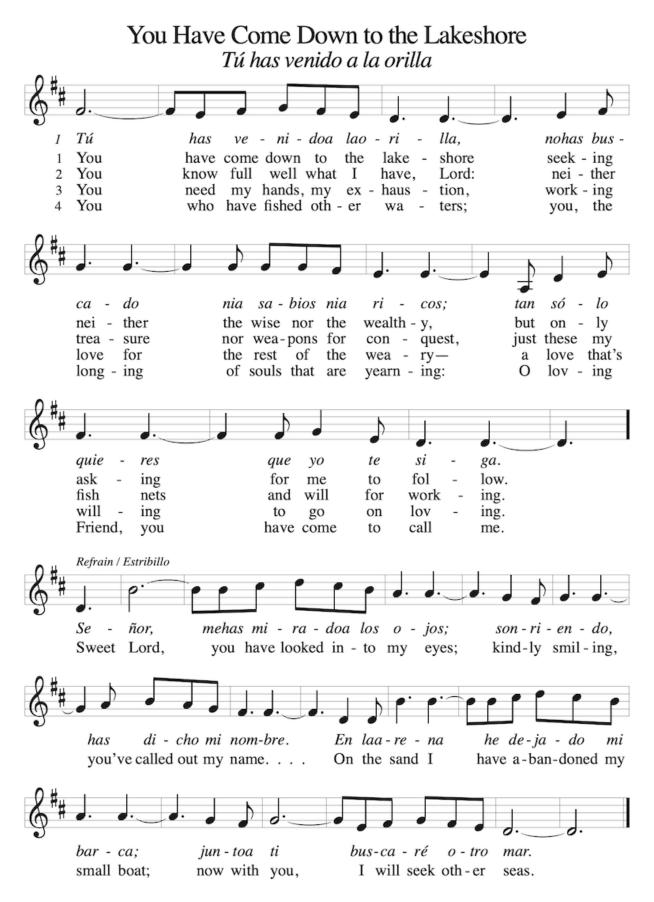
Communion Song: "Shout to the Lord", "You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore"

Shout to the Lord



Text: Darlene Zschech, b. 1965 Music: SHOUT TO THE LORD, Darlene Zschech Text and music © 1993 Darlene Zschech/Hillsong Publishing, admin. in U.S. and Canada by Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

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Blessing after Communion (Hans) Now may the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his peace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion (Robert / Danny)

God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

The Sending

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

Purpose Sightings:

MILESTONES! – "My Lord, What a Morning" refrain It's time for sharing milestones - a time where we join together as a community to share the big, small, good, and hard milestones in our life.

My Lord, What a Morning



A Franciscan Benediction Jillian

May God bless us with discomfort

At easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships

So that we may live from deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger

At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of God's creations So that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace. May God bless us with tears

To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger, and war, So that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and To turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless us with just enough foolishness

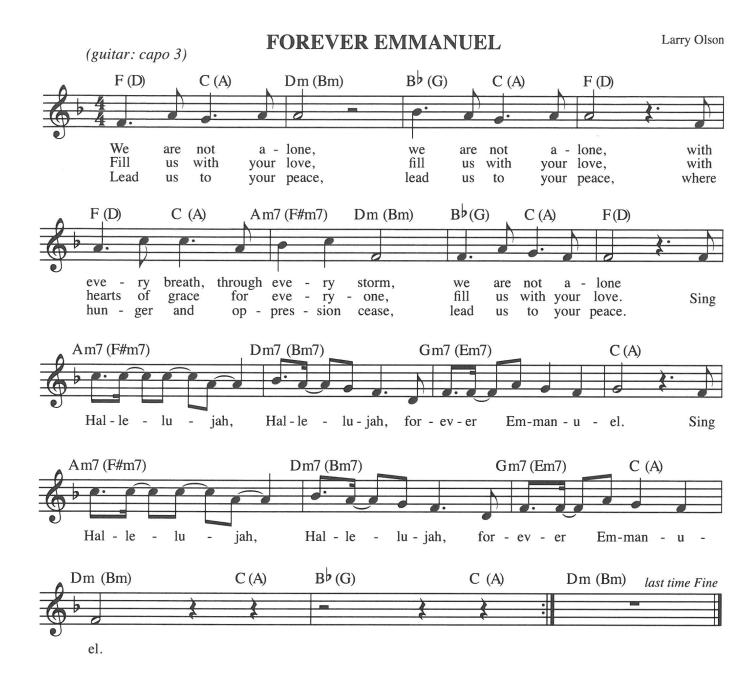
To believe that we can make a difference in the world,

So that we can do what others claim cannot be done:

To bring justice and kindness to all our children and all our neighbors who are poor.

Amen.

Sending Song: "Forever Emmanuel"



(Eleanore / Emma) Go in peace – serve the Lord! Thanks be to God

Music to Send You Out

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