

3rd Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023



www.riverofhopehutchinson.org

Worship on Facebook Premiere, Sundays at 10:30am

Gathering

Prelude

Opening Song – “Forever Emmanuel”

FOREVER EMMANUEL

Larry Olson

(guitar: capo 3)

F (D) C (A) Dm (Bm) B \flat (G) C (A) F (D)

We are not a - lone, we are not a - lone, with
Fill us with your love, fill us with your love, with
Lead us to your peace, lead us to your peace, where

F (D) C (A) Am7 (F \sharp m7) Dm (Bm) B \flat (G) C (A) F (D)

eve - ry breath, through eve - ry storm, we are not a - lone
hearts of grace for eve - ry - one, fill us with your love. Sing
hun - ger and op - pres - sion cease, lead us to your peace.

Am7 (F \sharp m7) Dm7 (Bm7) Gm7 (Em7) C (A)

Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, for - ev - er Em-man - u - el. Sing

Am7 (F \sharp m7) Dm7 (Bm7) Gm7 (Em7) C (A)

Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, for - ev - er Em-man - u -

Dm (Bm) C (A) B \flat (G) C (A) Dm (Bm) *last time Fine*

el.

Welcome * Welcome Pads * Post it Notes *

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.**

Prayer of the Day

(Betsy): Let us pray. Lord, you bring glad tidings to the poor.

(ALL): Let us hear.

(Anessa): You heal the brokenhearted.

(ALL): Heal us too.

(Betsy): You free the prisoners from their jails.

(ALL): Free us from ourselves. Loving God, please come to us, and send us out, forgiven, to the poor, the brokenhearted, the imprisoned.

— A. Osdieck. Copyright © 2011, [The Center for Liturgy at Saint Louis University](http://www.centerforliturgy.org/). Visit that site for other lectionary-based prayers.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

God Emmanuel, God-with-us, yet we still pray for you to come.
Stir up your power and come.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Lead us out of the fire and into life in you.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Lead us into new life in you.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Show us the way back to the beginning we have in you.

Come, Lord Jesus.

In this season of waiting, come, creep into our hearts and prepare them for you.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Amen.

Song: *He Came Down* (Vs. 1, 2, 4)

As the congregation sings, the first, second and third candle on the Advent Wreath is lit.

He Came Down

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;
 he came down that we may have light;
 he came down that we may have peace; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.
 he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

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Greet Someone New

Music to Bring Us Back Together: Vs 1 of "He Came Down"

Children's Time

THE STORY

(Sam): Our story and God's story continues today with two readings.
First, a reading from Isaiah chapter 61 verses 1-4.

(Sam): The Spirit of GOD, the Master, is on me
because GOD anointed me.
He sent me to preach good news to the poor,
heal the heartbroken,
Announce freedom to all captives,
pardon all prisoners.
GOD sent me to announce the year of his grace—
a celebration of God's destruction of our enemies—
and to comfort all who mourn,
To care for the needs of all who mourn in Zion,
give them bouquets of roses instead of ashes,
Messages of joy instead of news of doom,
a praising heart instead of a languid spirit.
Rename them "Oaks of Righteousness"
planted by GOD to display his glory.
They'll rebuild the old ruins,
raise a new city out of the wreckage.

(Danny): Our second reading comes from the Gospel of John
chapter 1 verses 6-8 and 19-28.

Isaiah 40:8

PREPARE THE WAY

Hans Peterson

(guitar: capo 2)

The musical score is written for guitar with a capo at the 2nd fret. It consists of seven staves of music in E major (four sharps). The lyrics are: "Pre - pare the way, pre - pare the way, of the Lord. The grass it with - ers and the flow - ers fall but the word of our Lord stands for - ev - er. Pre - pare the way, pre - pare the way of the Lord." The guitar chords are indicated above the staff: E(D), E/G#(D/F#), Bsus(Asus), Bsus4(Asus), E(D), E/G#(D/F#), Bsus(Asus), Asus2(G), A(G), C#m(Bm), Bsus(Asus), B(A), E(D), E/G#(D/F#), A(G), Bsus(Asus), B(A), E(D), E/G#(D/F#), Bsus(Asus), E, E/G#, Bsus4, E, E/G#, Bsus4, Asus2(G), E/B(D), B(A), and E(D).

Pre - pare the way, pre -

pare the way, pre - pare the way of the Lord.

The grass it with - ers and the

flow - ers fall but the word of our Lord stands for -

ev - er. Pre - pare the way, pre -

pare the way, pre - pare the way of the Lord.

Asus2(G) E/B(D) B(A) E(D)

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(Danny): There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but he confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said,

(Kurt / John the Baptist): "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' "

(Danny): as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him,

(Kurt / John the Baptist): "Why, then, are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?"

(Danny): John answered them,

(Kurt / John the Baptist): "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandal."

(Danny): This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing. Stay tuned for the continuing saga that is our story and God's story

(ALL): Thanks be to God.

Ringers of Hope Chime Choir – “Gentle Mary”
(Good King Wenceslas)

Sermon – Pastor Hans Peterson

Song of the Day – “Build Up”

Isaiah 57, 58

BUILD UPLarry Olson
Hans Peterson

Build up, pre - pare the way. Re - move the ob -

struc - tions from my peo - ple's way. Build up, pre -

pare the way. God is near, God is here

to - day. *3rd time to Coda*

Break the chains of in - jus - tice. Let the op -

God sees all our de - struc - tion; how we get

pressed go in love's free. way. Share our homes with the home -

in love's free. way. Still God comes and meets

less us and our bread with the hun - gry.

Coda with a stead - y, healing embrace.

Then your light will break forth like the dawn

and your heal - ing

will break in - to song.

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Prayers for the World (Hunter and Easton)

Together we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. Each petition will close with the words: God, who is mercy:

*Congregational response: **"Hear our prayer."***

Offering

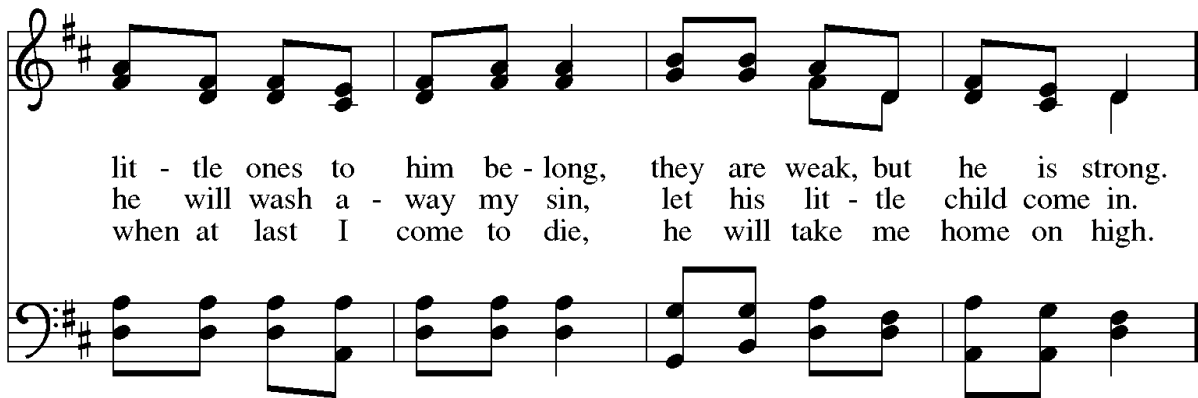
Worship Leader: *Thank you for your continued generosity and for all the ways you support God's ministry here at River of Hope. You can contact the church office and sign up for simply giving or give online or drop a check off at the church office. The watering can this month is for Operation Hope.*

Offering Song – "Jesus Loves Me"

Jesus Loves Me!



1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
 2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
 3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
 he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
 when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

The Feast

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

O Come Lord Jesus be our Guest and let these gifts to us be blest. All praise to God who is our bread, may all the world be clothed and fed.

Thanksgiving at the Table

We gather as a community, around this table of plenty, trusting in the Spirit to nourish us as we share God's love with our neighbors.

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.

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."

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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. Forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us.
 Lead us not into temptation
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power,
 and the glory
 forever and forever. 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.

(Leader): The gifts of God are...

(ALL): Free

(Leader): Free indeed. And all are welcome to receive the sacrament.

Communion Songs "Christ, Be Our Light" and "Prepare the Royal Highway"

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957


Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.





Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.





Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!



Blessing after Communion

Now may the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

(Nate): Blessed be your name, O God,
for we have feasted on your Word,
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.
Strengthened by this food,
send us to gather the world to your banquet,
where none are left out and all are satisfied.
In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen

The Sending

(Lila): Why does our church exist? What is our purpose?

We go out to transform lives through Jesus Christ.

Purpose Sightings:

MILESTONES! Sing "Light of the World" verse 1

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.

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Cathy Pino

Eb Ab Eb Ab Eb
 You are the light _____ of the world. _____
 You are a cit - y on a hill. _____
 You are a can - dle in the dark. _____

You are the light
 You are a cit -
 You are a can -

6 Ab Bbsus4 Bb Eb Ab
 _____ of the world _____ so shine, shine, shine,
 - y on a hill _____ so shine, shine, shine,
 - dle in the dark _____ so shine, shine, shine,

6
 11 Eb Bb/D Cm Eb Ab Eb Ab
 shine where you are. _____ You are the light _____ of the world. _____
 shine where you are. _____ You are a cit - y on a hill. _____
 shine where you are. _____ You are a can - dle in the dark. _____

11

Benediction

(Orrin): May God give you grace never to sell yourself short, grace to risk something big for something good, and grace to remember that the world is too dangerous for anything but truth and too small for anything but love.

William Sloane Coffin

Sending Song: "Go Now With God"

(guitar: capo 5)

GO NOW WITH GOD

Hans Peterson
Larry Olson

vs. 1 Filled with the Ho - ly Spir - it
 vs. 1 *Lleno del Es - pi - ri - tu San - to*
 vs. 2 Of - fer - ing a hand to a stran - ger
 vs. 3 Wa - ters of mer - cy have found us
 vs. 4 Cross-ing ev' - ry bound'-ry, ev' - ry na - tion

go now with God,
va - mos con Dios,



go now with God. In - to the world as a serv - ant
va - mos con Dios. En-tran - do al mun - do pa - ra ser - vir
 Trust-ing in the ris - en sav - ior
 Grace on the jour - ney sur - rounds us
 Danc-ing in the gift of lib - er - a - tion



go now with God, go now with God. Go now,
va - mos con Dios, va - mos con Dios. Va - mos,



go now, go now with God.
va - mos, va - mos con Dios.



Go now, go now, go now with God.
Va - mos, va - mos, va - mos con Dios.

Go in peace – serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God**

Music to Send You Out

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