

4th Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2023



www.riverofhopehutchinson.org

Worship on Facebook Premiere, Sundays at 10:30am

Gathering

Prelude

Opening Song – “Messiah”

MESSIAH

Larry Olson

$\text{♩} = 110$

Someone's shouting from the des-ert. Someone's shouting from the sea.
 Someone's shouting from the cit-y. I am young,— I am cold.
 Someone's shouting I am brok-en. Someone's shouting make me whole.

Someone's shouting from the mountain. Someone's shouting from the val-ley. Mes-
 Someone's shouting from the country. I am lone-ly, I am old.
 Someone's shouting come and change me. Someone's shouting save my soul.

si - ah, come and be our King.

Mes - si - ah, come and be our

King.

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.**

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

Let us Pray,

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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 (All four verses)*

As the congregation sings, All of the candles on the Advent Wreath are 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

(Reader): Our story and God's story continues today with a reading from the Gospel of Luke chapter 1, verses 26-38.

Isaiah 40:8

PREPARE THE WAY

Hans Peterson

(guitar: capo 2)

E (D) E/G# (D/F#) Bsus (Asus)
Pre - pare the way, pre -

E (D) E/G# (D/F#) Bsus4 (Asus) E (D) E/G# (D/F#) Bsus (Asus)
pare the way, pre - pare the way of the Lord.

Asus2 (G) E (D) A (G)
The grass it with - ers and the

C#m (Bm) Bsus (Asus) B (A) E (D) E/G# (D/F#) A (G)
flow - ers fall but the word of our Lord stands for -

Bsus (Asus) B (A) E (D) E/G# (D/F#) Bsus (Asus)
ev - er. Pre - pare the way, pre -

E E/G# Bsus4 E E/G# Bsus4
pare the way, pre - pare the way of the Lord.

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

(Reader): In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said,

(Side 1): "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

(Reader): But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel,

(Side 2): "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

(Reader): The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said,

(ALL): "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

(Reader): Then the angel departed from her. Stay tuned for the continuing saga that is our story and God's story.

(ALL): Thanks be to God.

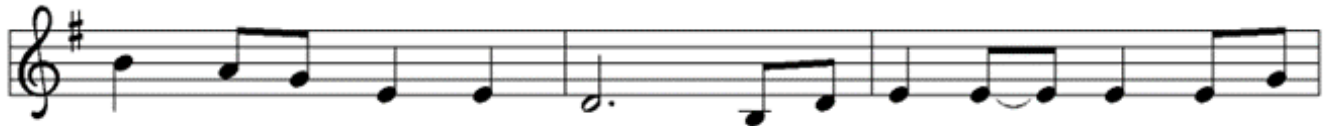
Sermon – Pastor Andy Evenson

Song of the Day – “Canticle of the Turning”

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



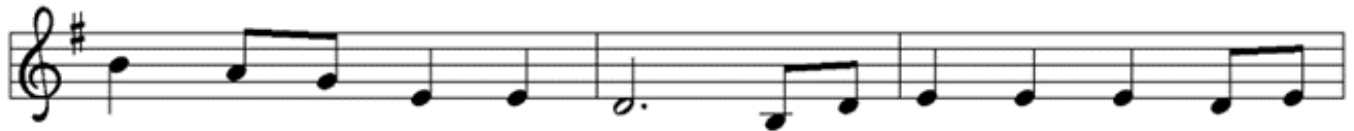
God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a-bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat

Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional

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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, who is mercy:

Congregational response: “Hear our prayer.”

Offering

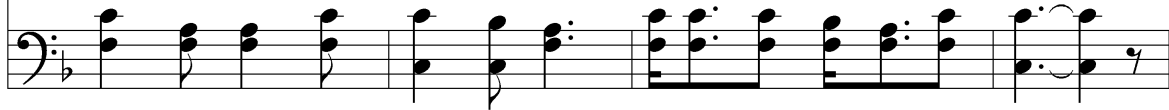
Worship Leader: *Thank you for your continued generosity and for all the ways you support God's ministry here at River of Hope. You can contact the church office and sign up for simply giving or give online or drop a check off at the church office. The watering can this month is for Operation Hope.*

Offering Song – “Jesus, the Light of the World”

Jesus, the Light of the World



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
 2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
 3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
 4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Je-sus, the Light of the world;



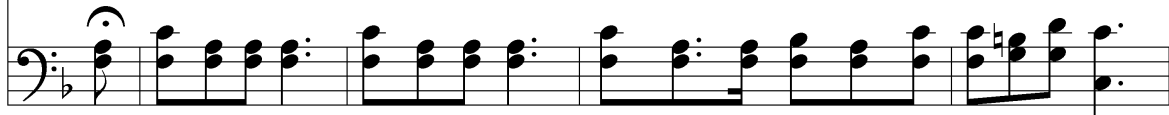
"Glo - ry to the new - born King," Je-sus, the Light of the world.
 join the tri - umph of the skies; Je-sus, the Light of the world.
 Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je-sus, the Light of the world.
 hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness! Je-sus, the Light of the world.



Refrain



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.



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 "The Magnificat" and "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

The Magnificat
Luke 1: 46-55

All:

1.3. My ——— soul pro - claims your
2. You have cast the might - y

great-ness, O God, and my spir - it re-joic - es in
down from their thrones, and up lift - ed the hum - ble of

you,
heart,
You have looked with love on your
You have filled the hun - gry with

ser-vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
won-drous things, and left the wealth-y no part.

fine last time



Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,
Great and might - y are you, O Faith-ful One,



strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.
strong is your jus - tice strong your love,



How you fa - vor the weak — and low - ly one,
As you prom-ised to Sar-ah — and A - bra - ham,



hum - bling the proud of heart.
kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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

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

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

E^b A^b E^b A^b E^b

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 A^b B^b_{sus4} B^b E^b A^b

_____ of the world _____
 - - y on a hill _____
 - dle in the dark _____

so shine, shine, shine,
 so shine, shine, shine,
 so shine, shine, shine,

11 E^b B^b/D C^m E^b A^b E^b A^b

shine where you are. _____
 shine where you are. _____
 shine where you are. _____

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

Sung Benediction

Sending Song: "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"

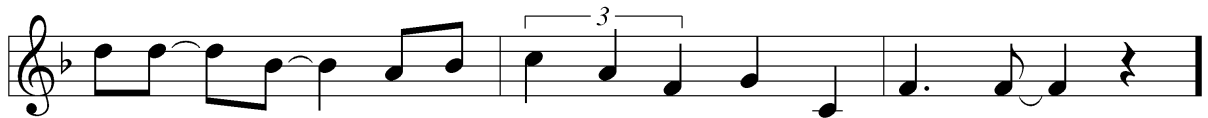
The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy



1 The vir - gin Mar - y had a ba - by boy, the
 2 The an - gels sang . . . when the ba - by was born, the
 3 The shep - herds came. . . where the ba - by was born, the
 4 The wise men saw . . . where the ba - by was born, the



vir - gin Mar - y had a ba-by boy, the vir - gin Mar - y had a
 an - gels sang . . . when the ba-by was born, the an - gels sang . . . when the
 shep - herds came. . . where the ba-by was born, the shep - herds came. . . where the
 wise men saw . . . where the ba-by was born, the wise men saw . . . where the



ba-by boy, and they say that his name is Je - sus.
 ba-by was born, and they sang that his name is Je - sus.
 ba-by was born, and they say that his name is Je - sus.
 ba-by was born, and they say that his name is Je - sus.

Refrain



He come from the glo - ry, he come from the glo-rious king-dom.



He come from the glo - ry, he come from the glo-rious king-dom.



Oh, yes, be - liev - er! Oh, yes, be-liev-er! He come from the



glo - ry, he come from the glo - rious king-dom.

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

Music to Send You Out

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