

Third Sunday of Advent  
December 15, 2024



"He measured six measures of barley." — *Luke* iii. 15.



[www.riverofhopehutchinson.org](http://www.riverofhopehutchinson.org)  
Worship on Facebook Premiere, Sundays at 10:30am

Gathering

Music to Prepare Us For Worship

Gathering Song "Joy to the World" vs. 1-3

# Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748  
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

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.*

Explanation of Christmas Trees – Jim and Lisa

Greeting

*L: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the community of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.*

**C: And also with you.**

# CRY MERCY

Larry Olson  
Hans Peterson

Em Am D Em

Eyes of want and depths of need. Creeds of hate and piles of greed.  
Worlds of hun - ger, miles of waste. Hearts of stone and lives of haste.  
From the hurt we can't es - cape. We're con - nect - ed, bound by grace.

Em Am D B7<sub>1</sub>.

Loss of truth and groans of pain. Voices cry for change.  
Crimes of war and tears of grief. Voices of be -  
Ev - 'ry col - or, young and old. Voices on the

B7 2. 3. Em Cmaj7 F#m7

lief. Cry mer - cy, your touch I need. Cry  
road.

Em Cmaj7 F#m7 Em

mer - cy, oh, hear my plea. Cry mer - cy,

Cmaj7 F#m7 Am7 B9 Em 1. 3. Fine

oh, oh, oh, oh. Cry mer - cy.

2. D G D/F# Em7 D

We need your love, now is the time. We

Cmaj7 F#m7 B9 D.S. al Fine

need your bread, your liv - ing wine. Cry

## Contemporary Gathering Words

*(inspired by Ruth 1 and Mark 12)*

*Pastor: Here in this place, there are no foreigners,*

**All: for all are welcome in God's house.**

*Pastor: Here in this worship, there is only acceptance,*

**All: for love is the language of faith.**

*Pastor: Here in our lives, there are no divisions,*

**All: for God dwells in each of us.**

*Come, let us worship in unity and love.*

*~ Adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2012, © 2011 Abingdon Press. Posted on the **Ministry Matters** website. <http://www.ministrymatters.com/>*

## Greet Someone New

*Music to Bring Us Back Together: "Joy to the World" Vs. 4*

## Children's Time / Lighting of the Advent Candle

Song Leaders: Change words of the next song to:

1. "He came down that we may have **Hope**"
2. "He came down that we may have **Love**"
3. "He came down that we may have **Joy**"
4. "He came down that we may have **Peace**"

# 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; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.  
 he came down that we may have peace;  
 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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# THE STORY

**Narrator One:** *You are invited to follow along in your Bibles as we hear our story and God's story continue today with a reading from the book of Ruth chapter 3.*

(Narrator): Naomi her mother-in-law said to her,

(Naomi): "My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing floor, but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then go and uncover his feet and lie down, and he will tell you what to do."

(Narrator): She said to her,

(Ruth): "All that you say I will do."

(Narrator): So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had instructed her. When Boaz had eaten and drunk and was in a contented mood, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came stealthily and uncovered his feet and lay down. At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and there, lying at his feet, was a woman! He said,

(Boaz): "Who are you?"

(Narrator): And she answered,

(Ruth): "I am Ruth, your servant; spread your cloak over your servant, for you are next-of-kin."

(Narrator): He said,

(Boaz): "May you be blessed by the Lord, my daughter; this last instance of your loyalty is better than the first; you have not gone after

young men, whether poor or rich. And now, my daughter, do not be afraid, I will do for you all that you ask, for all the assembly of my people know that you are a worthy woman. But now, though it is true that I am a near kinsman, there is another kinsman more closely related than I. Remain this night, and in the morning, if he will act as next-of-kin for you, good; let him do it. But if he is not willing to act as next-of-kin for you, then, as the Lord lives, I will act as next-of-kin for you. Lie down until the morning.”

(Narrator): So she lay at his feet until morning but got up before one person could recognize another, for he said,

(Boaz): “It must not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor.”

(Narrator): Then he said,

(Boaz): “Bring the cloak you are wearing and hold it out.”

(Narrator): So she held it, and he measured out six measures of barley and put it on her back; then he went into the town. She came to her mother-in-law, who said,

(Naomi): “How did things go with you, my daughter?”

(Narrator): Then she told her all that the man had done for her, saying,

(Ruth): “He gave me these six measures of barley, for he said, ‘Do not go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.’ ”

(Narrator): She replied,

(Naomi): “Wait, my daughter, until you learn how the matter turns out, for the man will not rest but will settle the matter today.”

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

**(ALL): Thanks be to God.**



Special Music – Ringers of Hope Chime Choir  
*“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”*

SERMON - Pastor Hans Peterson

Song of the Day – “We Have Seen the Messiah”

# WE HAVE SEEN THE MESSIAH

Larry Olson  
Hans Peterson

$\text{♩} = 76$  D A G D A G

We have seen the Mes-si - ah, here for all the world.

D A G D A D *Fine*

We have seen the Mes-si - ah, here for all the world.

Bm F#m Gsus2 D Gsus2 D G A

Shep-herds came to see the sight, a ba-by born to be the light.  
Ma-ry came with tears of grief, but she found life be-yond be-lief.  
Have you seen the ach-ing hearts, the hu-man hurts, lives torn a-part?

Bm F#m Gsus2 D Gsus2 D A

Then they went and spread the word, 'cause they had to tell all they had heard.  
She found joy where she had hurt, when the ris-en Lord ap-peared to her.  
When we see the least of these, do we real-ly know who we have seen?

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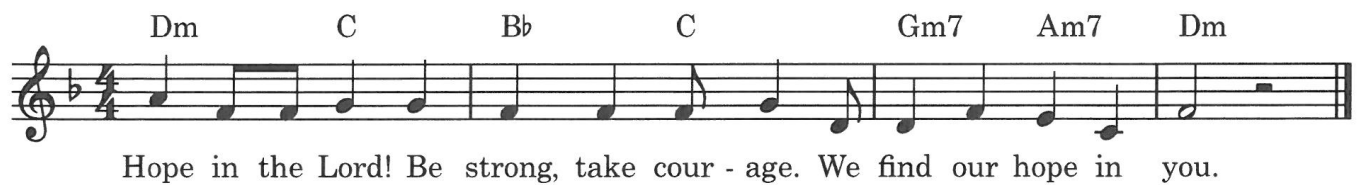
## Prayers for the World

*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: Sing...*

## Hope in the Lord Prayer Response

Hans Peterson & Larry Olson  
with members of  
Faith Lutheran, Glen Ellyn, IL



The image shows a musical staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Above the staff, the following chords are indicated: Dm, C, Bb, C, Gm7, Am7, and Dm. Below the staff, the lyrics are written: "Hope in the Lord! Be strong, take cour - age. We find our hope in you."

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## THE OFFERING

*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 during December is "Operation Hope". Any children willing to help are Invited to meet Pastor Hans in the back to bring forth the Communion elements.*

Offering special Music: Piano students

Offering Song "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

# Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Words by  
Charles Wesley

Music by  
Rowland Hugh Prichard

**VERSE**

$\text{♩} = 90$  F C F B $\flat$ /F F C Dm C F/A C7/G F F/A B $\flat$  C

1. Come, Thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy peo - ple  
2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a

8 F F C F B $\flat$ /F F C Dm C F/A C7/G F F/A

free; From our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our  
King; Born to reign in us for - ev - er, now Thy gra - cious

15 B $\flat$  C F Am Dm Gm C

rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion,  
king - dom bring. By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it

21 F Dm Gm Csus C F/A F B $\flat$ /F C/E F G7/D

hope of all the earth Thou art; Dear de - sire of ev' - ry  
rule in all our hearts a - lone; By Thine all - suf - fi - cient

28 C/E F F/A B $\flat$  F/C C7 F

na - tion, joy of ev' - ry long - ing heart.  
mer - it, raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

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# The Feast

(Pastor Hans): Setting the Table

*the children lead us as we say together:*

**Gracious God, we thank you for the food before us;  
the family beside us; the love between us;  
and your presence among us.  
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.**

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

(Leader): *Our Creator, our Mother,*

**(ALL): 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 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.

The gifts of God are...

**(ALL): Free**

Free indeed. And all are welcome to receive the sacrament.

Communion Songs: "For all the Faithful Women" vs. 1,2,5 and "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

# For All the Faithful Women

## *Saints and Servants*



1 For all the faith - ful wom - en who served in days of old,  
2 O God, for saints and ser - vants, those named and those un-known,  
3 All praise to God the Fa - ther! All praise to Christ the Son!



to you shall thanks be giv - en; to all, their stor - y told.  
in whom through all the a - ges your light of glo - ry shone,  
All praise to God the Spir - it, who binds the church as one!



They served with strength and glad - ness in tasks your wis - dom gave.  
we of - fer glad thanks - giv - ing and fer - vent prayer we raise  
With saints who went be - fore us, with saints who wit - ness still,



To you their lives bore wit - ness, pro-claimed your pow'r to save.  
that, faith - ful in your ser - vice, our lives may sing your praise.  
we sing glad al - le - lu - ias and strive to do your will.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

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Verse 5:

*For Ruth, who left her homeland and ventured forth in faith,  
Who pledged to serve and worship Naomi's God till death,  
We praise you, God of Israel, and pray for hearts set free  
To bind ourselves to others in love and loyalty.*

## Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath  
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as  
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the  
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the  
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -  
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she  
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from  
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.  
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.  
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth,  
 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4  
 Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621



## 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

Let us pray: Gracious God,  
in this meal you have drawn us  
to your heart, and nourished us at your table.

**By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be your body in the world, that we may show Christ's love to all people. 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" vs. 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.*

E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>

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<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> sus4 B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_ of the world \_\_\_\_\_  
 - y on a hill \_\_\_\_\_  
 - dle in the dark \_\_\_\_\_

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

11 E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>/D C m E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>

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. \_\_\_\_\_

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# BLESSING

## “Prayer of Good Courage”

Text adapted from the Lutheran Book of Worship © 1978 Augsburg Fortress Press

Music by Kent Gustavson © 2002 Kent Gustavson [www.kentgustavson.com](http://www.kentgustavson.com)

Taken from "Mountain Vespers", an evening prayer service dedicated to Holden Village [www.holdenvillage.org](http://www.holdenvillage.org)

first time through **L:**  
cond time through **C:**

O God, You have called us to ventures where we can not see the  
end, By paths ne-ver yet tak en, Through per ils un known.  
Give us good cour-age Not know ing where we go, To  
know that your hand is lead-ing us Wher ever we might go.  
A - - - men.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). It consists of five staves of music. Above the first staff are three guitar chord diagrams for A, D, and A. Above the second staff are five diagrams for D, A, D, Bm, and E. Above the third staff are four diagrams for F#m, D, A, and E. Above the fourth staff are four diagrams for F#m, D, A, and E. Above the fifth staff are three diagrams for G, D, and A. The lyrics are placed below the notes of the melody. A double bar line with repeat dots is at the end of the fifth staff.

Sending Song: “Go Tell it on the Mountain”

(Invite children of all ages to come forward and play percussion during the Sending Song)

# Go Tell It on the Mountain

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.



Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.  
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God**

## Music to Send You Out

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