1st Sunday after Christmas December 29, 2024





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

Gathering

Prelude

Opening Song "Angels from the Realms of Glory" (Vs. 1-3,)

Angels, from the Realms of Glory



Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

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 holy Trinity, + one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,

you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In + Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

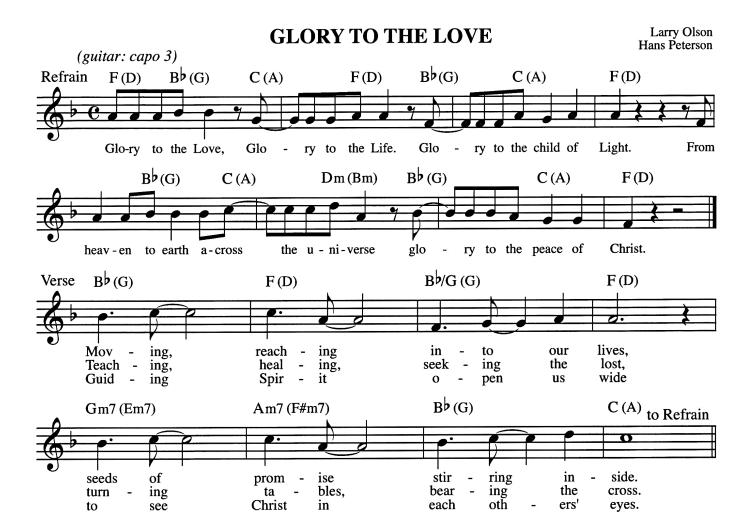
Let us pray:

Joy to the world! Our Lord Jesus has come! We welcome you, little king. Dispel the darkness, reign in our hearts – and reign in our world. Amen.

Greet Someone New

Music to Bring Us Back Together: "Angels from the Realms of Glory" (Vs. 4)

Children's Time



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THE STORY

(Reader): Our story and God's story continues today with a reading from the Gospel of Luke chapter 2, verses 22-40.

(Reader): When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] 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, "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,

- (Side 1): "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;
- (Side 2): for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
- (ALL): a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

(Reader): 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.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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

(ALL): Thanks be to God.

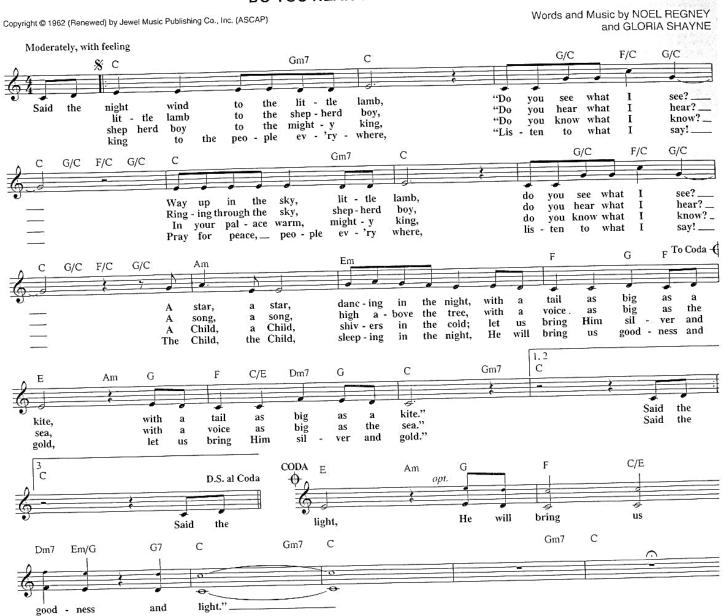
Sermon time = Christmas Carol Sing-a-long (Audience chooses songs from Beer & Carols song-book)

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 – "Do You Hear What I Hear"

DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR



The Feast

Setting the Table

the children lead us as we sing together: Gloria, in Excelsis Deo! (2X)



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

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.

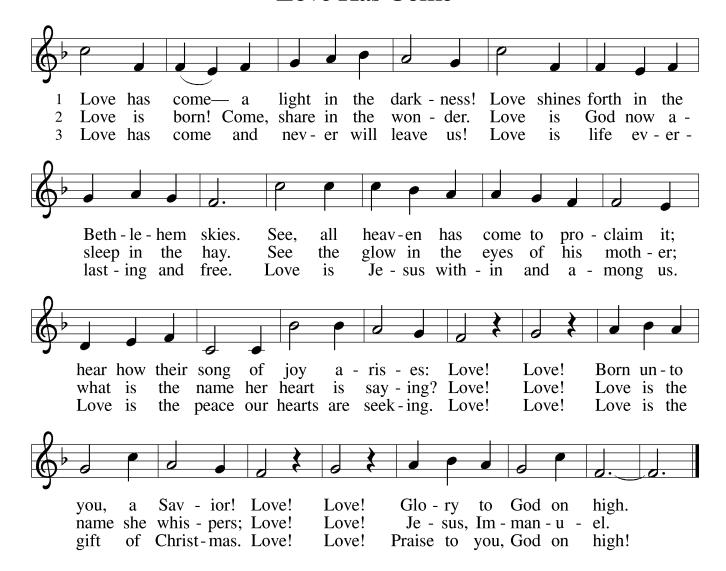
(Leader): The gifts of God are...

(ALL): Free

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

Communion Songs – "Love Has Come" and "Ding Dong Merrily On High"

Love Has Come



Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856 Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

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Ding Dong Merrily On High



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 "Auld Lang Syne"

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.



Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

Sending Song: "Feliz Navidad"

Feliz Navidad

By Jose Feliciano

Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad, Prospero Ano y Felicidad

Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad, Prospero Ano y Felicidad

I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas, I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas

I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas, From the bottom of my heart;

I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas, I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas

I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas, From the bottom of my heart.

Go in peace – serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God

Music to Send You Out

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FELIZ NAVIDAD

Words and Music by JOSÉ FELICIANO



