

## Bulletin for November 29, 2020 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year B

### Useful links:

[Prayer request form](#)

[Ministry Connections](#)

[Live stream](#)

[New Hope's YouTube channel](#)

[Giving information](#)

### Prelude: "The King of Glory"

*(see screen)*

### Welcome

*IN GOD'S NAME we welcome atheists, cynics, doubters, seekers, and believers of all stripes; gays and straights; conservatives, progressives, and independents; wealthy and poor; individuals and every sort of family; scoundrels, rascals, jerks, self-righteous, and sinners of all types; those who are broken, lost, and hopeless. ALL are welcome, as we are, in order that ALL may be transformed by God in Christ.*

## Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
whose forgiveness is sure  
and whose steadfast love endures forever.

**Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess  
that we have not lived as God desires

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Loving and forgiving God,  
**we confess that we are held captive by sin.**  
**In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.**  
**We have not welcomed the stranger;**  
**we have not loved our neighbor;**  
**we have not been Christ to one another.**

**Restore us, O God.**  
**Wake us up and turn us from our sin.**  
**Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news:  
by God's endless grace  
your sins are forgiven, and you are free—  
free from all that holds you back  
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.  
May you be strengthened in God's love,  
† comforted by Christ's peace,  
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## Gathering Song: "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

*(see screen)*

## **Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection  
awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless  
until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and  
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 64:1-9

A reading from Isaiah:

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Advent wreath prayer**

Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown  
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.  
As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep,  
that we may be ready to greet our Lord  
when he comes with all the saints and angels.  
Enlighten us with your grace,  
and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord,  
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.  
**Amen.**

## **Video of family lighting candle(s) as intro to song is played**

### **Candle-lighting song: "Come Darkness, Come Light" – verse 1**

*(see screen)*

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

A reading from the first letter to the Corinthians:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Acclamation: "Come Now, O Prince of Peace" – verse 1**

*(see screen)*

### **Gospel: Mark 13:24-37**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

## **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “In those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

## **Hymn of the Day – “My Lord, What a Morning”**

*(see screen)*

### **Ministry Connections**

### **Creed**

We confess our faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. (*Local feeding or housing ministries may be named*). Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses (*especially*). Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Offering and musical offering: “Each Winter as the Year Grows Older”**

*(see screen)*

**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray together.

**Generous God, you have created all that is,  
and you provide for us in every season.**

**Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts  
the world will receive your blessing.**

**In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.**

**Great Thanksgiving – dialogue**

The Lord be 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 our thanks and praise.**

**Words of Institution**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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’s Prayer**

Let us pray.

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here.  
Come, eat and drink.

### **Communion song: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” – verses 1 and 2**

*(see screen)*

### **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

Gracious and abundant God,  
you have done great things for us, and we rejoice.  
In this bread and cup you give us life forever.  
In your boundless mercy, strengthen us  
and open our hearts to the world’s needs,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **Blessing**

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,  
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,

the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,  
✝ now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**Sending Song: “Soon and Very Soon”**

*(see screen)*

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude: “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” by Mark Sedio**