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Advent 1, November 29, 2020

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## MUSICAL PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Advent Candle Lighting: Advent 1: Hope \***

One: In the midst of great change, hope is always a welcome thing. Advent can remind us that God makes us ready for whatever unknown may come our way and calls us to be messengers of Hope in an ever-changing world. We light a candle reminding us of the way of hope.  
*(The First Advent candle is lit.)*

### **♪ 'Hope Is a Star' (VU7) vs 1**

Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
leading us on till the morning is bright.  
When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.

**\*\*One:** Let us join as a community of faith in prayer:

**All:** We come to worship with the image of flickering light in our minds. It dances within our hearts, gracious God, drumming the rhythm of hope that enlivens us all. As you bless us with the way of Jesus, may we invite others to Christ's dance of transformation. Amen.

**Call To Worship \* (Please stand, as you are able)**

One: Fear not the angel tells us, I come to bring good news.

**All: We long to hear good news.**

One: Hear the angel's good news.

**All: We come to listen with open hearts.**

One: With hope let us hear the good news.

**Prayer Of Approach And The Lord's Prayer \*\*\* (unison)**

God of love and mercy, we thank You for Your loving presence in our lives. You have formed us in Your image, and You continue to transform us as we grow in faith. Break through the barriers in our lives and let the light of Your love flood in, that we may become more compassionate and kind. Amen.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray saying, 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, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Presentation Of Our Gifts To God**

**Invitation To The Offering\*\*\***

Lord, as You have shined the light of Your love into our lives; may the same brightness of Your love be revealed as we receive this morning's offering.

♫ **'In the Bleak Midwinter' (VU55)**

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

Yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

**Offertory Prayer \*\*\*\* (unison)**

Gracious God, with thanks and praise, we offer this advent offering. We ask that these gifts be used to bring hope to our community and to the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Time For All Ages

### ♪ 'Dream a Dream' (MV158) - vs 1 & 4

Dream a dream,  
a hopeful dream,  
as children do on Christmas Eve,  
imaginings, surprising things  
to hold and to believe.

Dream a gift,  
the Christmas gift  
that changes everything we see:  
the shimmering of angel wing,  
the Child, the Mystery.

### Scripture Reading

#### Luke 1:5-25 NRSV

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to

the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After those days, his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, "This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

## **SERMON**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **♪ 'O Come, All Ye Faithful' (VU60)**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful, and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,  
Glory to God in the highest,  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him,

Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord.

### **Benediction \*\*\*\***

Let us go now in hope and with confidence; may God bless you with a holy peace and gift you with open hearts to give and to receive blessings. Go peacefully from this place to love and serve the Lord.

### **Postlude**

*\*Worship Design Studio, Marcia Mcfee, 2019.*

*\*\*A/C/E/Gathering, year b, pg. 71., G. Dunbar*

*\*\*\*ministrymatters online., n. Townley, f.*

*\*\*\*\*A/C/E/Gathering, year b, pg. 33, f. Williamson*

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*In the Bleak Midwinter: Words: Christina Georgina Rossetti ca. 1872, Music: Gustav Theodor Holst 1906*

*Dream a Dream: Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1996, Words © copyright 1997 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

*O Come, All Ye Faithful: Words: English trans. Frederick Oakeley 1841, et al, French trans. Claude Rozier 1950, Music: attrib. John Francis Wade ca. 1743*