



Hope United Methodist Church

December 1, 2024

You Are A Blessing

Reverend Haeil Park



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024

10:00 A.M. WORSHIP

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel setting by Franklin Ashdown
People, Look East David Cherwien
Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying (Watchet Auf) Thomas Chesterton
Cheryl Saborsky, CAGO, organist

WELCOME AND INVITATION INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

Mahnken Family

L: God says,

P: "Do not be afraid."

L: God says,

P: "I have called you by name."

L: God says,

P: "I will be with you."

L: God says,

P: "You are precious and honored in my sight."

L: At the beginning of this season,

P: at the start of this week,

L: at the top of this hour,

**P: may we wrap ourselves in these words.
May we begin again.**

L: Let us worship our Holy God!

Adapted from A Sanctified Art resource

***OPENING HYMN**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

UMH 196

OPENING PRAYER

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ANTHEM

O Great Creator of the Stars

Joseph M. Martin
Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-38

Jerry Brewster

MESSAGE

You Are A Blessing

Rev. Haeil Park

RESPONSIVE HYMN

To a Maid Engaged to Joseph

UMH 215 vv. 1, 2, 6

OFFERTORY *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* setting by Robert Powell
Cheryl Saborsky, CAGO, organist

***DOXOLOGY** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH 94

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.

P: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

L: It is right to give you thanks and praise, Great God of the Coming Dawn, ... We come to live on the edge of your new and promised day. And we raise our voices with all the saints as we proclaim,

P: **Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

L: Blessed are you, and blessed in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, ... in union with Christ's offering for us. As we proclaim the mystery of faith:

P: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

L: So we await your new day. ... God of the Dawn, Christ of the new Day Coming, Spirit who is Ever Present, we wait for you this day, your day.

P: **Amen.**

Written by Alex Joyner. Published by the Discipleship Ministries.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN** *In Case No One Ever Told You* tune *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

*BENEDICTION

***MUSICAL BENEDICTION** *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* UMH 204

POSTLUDE *Gabriel's Trumpet* Franklin Ashdown
Cheryl Saborsky, CAGO, organist

Next Sunday
December 8
Children's Christmas Pageant

December 15
Chancel Choir Cantata
Morning Star by Joseph M. Martin

WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING



December 1 - 1st Sunday of Advent

YOU ARE A BLESSING

Communion



December 8 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

WE CAN'T GO ALONE

Children's Christmas Pageant



December 15 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

DO THE GOOD THAT IS YOURS TO DO

Chancel Choir Cantata - *Morning Star*



December 22 - 4th Sunday of Advent

HOPE IS WORTH THE RISK



December 24 - Christmas Eve

LOVE KNOWS YOUR NAME

Services with Carols & Candles

3 pm - Wiggle Friendly Service & Red Sea
live streamed - childcare provided

5 pm - Choral Quartet & String Quartet
childcare provided

7 pm - Chancel Choir, Bells, & String Quartet
live streamed
childcare not available, children of all ages are welcome
in the Sanctuary

11 pm - Meditative Service with Communion



December 29 - Sunday After Christmas

DON'T FORGET TO LAUGH



January 5 - Epiphany

THE ROAD ISN'T STRAIGHT

Communion

Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year rushes in. Christ's birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving—and yet, we feel the weight of many things coming to an end. The world as we know it spins madly on.

In many ways, pregnant Mary was surrounded by endings—large and small, personal and political. And yet, Mary proclaimed hope in a God who was and is making all things new. As we also move through new personal and political chapters, may these words for the beginning renew us and remind us of the ways we are called to live out our faith. No matter what you are facing, no matter what this new day brings, let love be your beginning.



Please consider signing up to assist with our services. Ushers, Liturgist, Sound, Live Stream, Slides, and Communion Stewards are needed.

AN ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Advent Devotional

Pick up a family copy at the Narthex Welcome Center to read, look, and sing your way through Advent. The art, reflections, poetry, and hymns to intended to give you strength, courage, and grace. May you find words for belovedness and hope and for beginning again.



Poinsettia Orders

In Honor or In Memory of loved ones will be collected at the Narthex Welcome Table today, Sunday, November 24 to Monday, December 16

Ways to Give This Christmas - Collections begin today

Ministry Design Advent Collection

to support families facing homelessness at Tamarac Family Shelter

Requested items:

- ◆ larger sized diapers (5 or 6)
- ◆ Pull-Ups (any size)
- ◆ wipes
- ◆ \$10 - King Soopers, Shell or Visa gift cards for gas



Items will be collected in the Memorial Garden Narthex and ends Christmas Eve

Hope United Women in Faith Mitten Tree

Items needed for migrant families in the area:

- ◆ winter hats
- ◆ blankets
- ◆ scarves
- ◆ mittens
- ◆ gloves
- ◆ diapers
- ◆ baby items



Items will be collected by the Hope Narthex entrance and ends December 30

Youth Gingerbread Build

\$1 donation per vote to support Habitat for Humanity

Plan to vote online or at the church December 1, 8, & 15. "Builders Choice Award" will be announced on the 19th. Prizes awarded for most votes in each category!



ADVENT PHOTO-A-DAY CHALLENGE

This Advent, we invite you to share the good news of this season through a photo-a-day challenge. For each day of Advent, we invite you to take a photo inspired by the word of the day. Share your daily photos on social media – Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest -- along with the words that inspired them. Please be sure to include two hashtags: #hopechangeslives and #sanctifiedart. Finally, if you feel bold, invite your friends and followers to join you in this activity, either in general or by tagging particular people in your posts.

DEC.1 BEGIN	DEC.2 BLESS	DEC.3 COURAGE	DEC.4 POSSIBILITY	DEC.5 REMEMBER
DEC.6 MARVEL	DEC.7 GO	DEC.8 TOGETHER	DEC.9 EMBRACE	DEC.10 JOURNEY
DEC.11 PEACEMAKER	DEC.12 CONNECTION	DEC.13 ENOUGH	DEC.14 GOODNESS	DEC.15 WORTHY
DEC.16 REPAIR	DEC.17 MAGNIFY	DEC.18 MERCY	DEC.19 DREAM	DEC.20 HOPE
DEC.21 RISK	DEC.22 GRACE	DEC.23 JOY	DEC.24 Love	DEC.25 AMAZEMENT

Hope United Women in Faith Bake & Craft Sale

Sundays - December 8 and 15 - Fellowship Hall

beginning at 9:00 a.m. to before Worship and after until 12:30 p.m.



We have been working since July and will have many baked and craft items for sale.

New this year, place an order for homemade Ice Cream Pies to pick up on sale dates. Made with Oreo cookie crusts in a variety of flavors. Please preorder at the Doughnut Table before the sale. We can't wait to see everyone there!



Santa Shop

Saturday, December 14 - 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Our Santa Shop allows children to shop for Christmas presents in a safe environment and have surprises under the tree for family.



Sign up to Shop - Children must be signed up in order to shop, so please check Hope Happenings for the sign up link that will be posted soon.

Sign up to Volunteer - We need adult and youth volunteers to help wrap presents and youth to be personal shoppers with the kids. A sign up link will be posted soon.

Collection for Santa Shop through December 3 - donations from the congregation are used as gifts and we really appreciate your help! If you have items that are new or gently used that would make great gifts for men, women, teens or children of all ages, please consider donating them to us. We also accept wrapping supplies -- especially gift bags and tissue paper and shopping bags with handles.

If you have any questions, please contact Kate at kate.stapleton@hope-umc.org.



Denver Interfaith Messiah Sing-Along

with orchestra and soloists

Friday, December 20, 2024 - Hope Sanctuary - 7:00 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate the Christmas season through the music of Handel's *Messiah*. Come listen, sing-along, or join the interfaith choir that will support the singers. Please stay afterward for some Christmas cookies and fellowship. Donations of \$10/person or \$30/family can be made online or at the event. Proceeds will benefit the Village Resource Center. For more information, visit denvermessiahsing.org.

YEAR-END IS A

Time for Giving

Cash Gifts

A cash gift in any amount is a convenient and popular way to show your faithful support for the church or other ministries. If you itemize, the full amount of your gift qualifies for a 2024 charitable income tax deduction. Make certain your check is dated 2024 and received or postmarked no later than December 31, 2024, to receive a deduction this year.

Giving Appreciated Property

If you own investments that have increased in value (stocks, bonds, real estate, or mutual funds), you can donate them to a church or charity and take a charitable income tax deduction for the full fair market value and avoid declaring the capital gain of the assets as income. Many people consider this the equivalent of a “double deduction.”

SALE & GIFT		DIRECT GIFT	
Stock with Fair Market Value (Cost Basis \$200)	\$1000	Stock with Fair Market Value (Cost Basis \$200)	\$1000
Taxable Gain on Sale	\$800	Taxable Gain on Sale	\$0
Capital Gain Tax at 15%	\$120	Capital Gain Tax at 15%	\$0
Net Sales after Tax	\$880	Net Gift to Charity	\$1000
Charitable Tax Deduction	\$880	Charitable Tax Deduction	\$1000
Tax Savings at 22%	\$193	Tax Savings at 22%	\$220

Notice how the Direct Gift option can result in the church or charity receiving \$120 more while costing you \$27 less! To receive this special tax treatment, you must have owned the property for at least one year.

Giving & Retaining Income for Life

Did you know you can give to a charity while retaining income from the gift for the rest of your life? A charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust enables you to receive flexible or guaranteed income. Plus, there are significant tax advantages. Let's assume you are 70 years old, single, and wish to make a \$10,000 gift to the church when you are gone but need to receive income until then. You can make the gift now and receive several attractive benefits. First, you could receive income that exceeds what you are currently earning on the \$10,000. At age 70 with an annuity rate of 4.7%* of the \$10,000 each year through a gift annuity (\$470)—greater than most bonds or C.D.s. Next, a portion of the \$470 annual annuity may be tax-free over your life

expectancy. Finally, you could receive a 2024 charitable income tax deduction for the remainder portion of your gift. This deduction can save you a sizable amount in federal income taxes. Making a life-income gift now offers all these advantages and provides the satisfaction of knowing you have helped your church or charitable organization in a significant way. **The United Methodist Foundation that serves your conference can help you with these types of gifts.** Visit www.naumf.org/locations to find contact information for your UM Foundation.

Giving Unneeded Life Insurance

Do you own an old life insurance policy that is no longer needed? Perhaps the purpose for the policy no longer exists (your children are grown, or your mortgage is paid off) or your financial situation has changed and mitigates the need for the insurance. Consider giving the policy to the church or a charity and receive a charitable income tax deduction for the lesser of your cost basis or the replacement value. This is a great way to benefit a cause you support without reducing your checking account. If the value is more than you wish to donate, consider cashing in the policy and giving a lesser portion. Your gift may sufficiently reduce or eliminate any potential taxes due from the sale.

Memorial Gifts

As you think of those special persons (a teacher, pastor, relative or other loved one) who have touched your life, you may want to do something “just right” to demonstrate that they are remembered. A memorial tribute can be a satisfying way to salute those whose memories continue to enrich our lives.

Wise Tax Planning

Making extra gifts or accelerating future gifts into the 2024 tax year can enable an itemized income tax deduction. The standard deduction threshold for 2024 is \$29,200 for joint filers, \$21,900 for heads of households and \$14,600 for singles (\$1,950/person 65+, \$3,900 if joint return, \$1,950 if unmarried). If your total deductions are less than those amounts, you won't be able to deduct any charitable gifts. An extra year-end gift may add just enough to allow you to take advantage of your full itemized deduction. Many tax-wise donors accelerate contributions for the coming year to enable itemization at least every other year.

Expressing Your Faith

Year-end is also the Christmas season. For many Christians this is an occasion to give in gratitude for God's greatest gift to us, Jesus Christ. In all our giving, let us never forget these familiar words, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only son...” Why not make a special effort to honor Him in your giving this Christmas season—perhaps the most important gift you give? May God bless you as you make this expression of your faith.

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Rev. Jeff Rainwater, Lead Pastor
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Larry Meerdink, Music Director
Cheryl Saborsky CAGO, Organist
Anne Rowland Red Sea Youth Band
Craig Laumann Chancel Bells
Pam Jewett Hope Treasurer
Julie Holt Assistant to the Treasurer
Anne Dingle Director of Technology
Jane Uylaki Membership Secretary
Kate Stapleton Dir. of Children's Ministries
Brittany Buse Childcare Coordinator
Wendy Wall Director of Communications
Allison Eckert Director of Operations
Ashley Hastedt PDO & Preschool Director
Sara Lowe PDO & Preschool Assistant Dir.
Melissa Trujillo PDO Assistant to the Dir.
Charlie Neuscheler
Maintenance & Custodial

We would like to express our extreme gratitude to those who help, before, after and during worship. We could not do this without you!

Liturgist

Jerry Brewster

Greeters

Norm & Linda Bledsoe

Coffee

Norm & Linda Bledsoe

Worship Technology

Ron Sauer
Anne Dingle
Randy Dingle

Ushers

Lead - Pat Lozier Janet Carter
Wayne Carter Christina Frank
John Tripp

Communion Stewards

Stacey Hilzer
Scott & Jodie Senter
Julie Durst Sandy Barton