

The background of the entire image is a composite of two scenes. The lower portion shows a vast desert landscape with rolling sand dunes, illuminated by the warm, golden light of a sunset or sunrise. The sky above is a deep, dark blue, filled with the stars of the Milky Way galaxy, which stretches across the upper half of the frame. The text is overlaid on the upper part of the image.

# Hope United Methodist Church

Morning Star  
Chancel Choir Cantata  
December 15, 2024



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024**  
**10:00 A.M. WORSHIP**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**PRELUDE**

*Silent Night, Holy Night*  
*Once In Royal David's City*

Robert Hobby  
Robert Hobby  
Cheryl Saborsky, CAGO, organist

**WELCOME AND INVITATION INTO GOD'S PRESENCE**

**\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**\*LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

Sieger Family

L: "Teacher," the crowd asked, "What should we do?"

**P: If you have two shirts, give one away.**

**Hold onto hope.**

L: Live like we belong to one another.  
Speak the truth.

**P: Look for God.**

**Do the good that is yours to do.**

L: It's all that easy, and it's all that hard.

**P: Let us worship our present and active God.**

*Adapted from A Sanctified Art resource*

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*The First Noel*

UMH 245 vv. 1, 2, 4

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 3:7-16

Rev. Haeil Park

**MESSAGE**

**Do The Good That Is Yours To Do**

Rev. Jeff Rainwater

**OFFERTORY**

*Improvisation On "Divinum Mysterium"*

David Laky  
Cheryl Saborsky, CAGO, organist

**\*DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

UMH 94

**PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

# Chancel Choir Cantata

## Morning Star

by Joseph M. Martin

Narration by Pamela Martin

*Joy to the World*

*There is a Star*

Quartet: Laurel Laumann, Mary Witt, Clyde Oakley, Craig Laumann

*O Great Creator of the Stars*

Solo: Mary Edet

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Ye People*

*Sing We Now of Christmas*

*Follow The Star*

Quartet

*Underscore*

*How Brightly Shines the Morning Stars*

Larry Meerdink, director

Cheryl Saborsky, pianist

Bob Oursler, narrator

### Chancel Choir

Ember Cooksey

Janet Denette

Julie Durst

Mary K. Edet

Lillian Glasgow

Bob Hartley

Lulu Hendrickson

Neill Kipp

Craig Laumann

Laurel Laumann

Hilton Martin

Liz Martin

Tina McCune

Susan Merrick

Clyde Oakley

Patti Jo Oakley

Caitlyn O'Neil

Bob Oursler

Louise Owens

Jan Petro

Nancy Roberts

Judy Sauerteig

Paul Ternlund

Jane Uylaki

Mary Witt

Hal Wright

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

UMH 251 vv. 1, 3

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*MUSICAL BENEDICTION**

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel*

UMH 204

**POSTLUDE**

*Lift Up Your Heads*

Thomas Bliss  
Cheryl Saborsky, CAGO, organist

Today's altar flowers are in celebration of Liz and Hilton Martin's Anniversary.  
Congratulations on 51 years!



# WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING



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  
with 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.

## Poinsettia Orders

In Honor or In Memory  
of loved ones  
will be collected at the  
Narthex Welcome Table  
until tomorrow, December 16

AN ADVENT DEVOTIONAL



**WORDS**  
FOR THE **BEGINNING**

## Advent Devotional

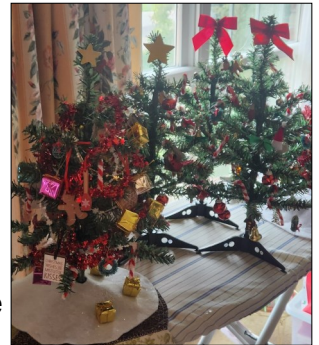
Pick up a family copy at the Narthex Welcome Center to read, look, and sing your way through Advent. The art, reflections, poetry, and hymns are intended to give you strength, courage, and grace. May you find words for belovedness and hope and for beginning again.



## Hope United Women in Faith Bake & Craft Sale Today in 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 have many baked and craft items for sale today.



Thank you for supporting our mission fundraiser. The money will be used to support various mission projects including several charities and causes in our community.

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

# Ways to Give This Christmas

## Youth Gingerbread Build - Habitat for Humanity

Voting ends today



\$1 donation per vote supports Habitat for Humanity

Plan to vote online by using the QR code or at church today. "Builders Choice Award" will be announced on the 19th. Prizes awarded for most votes in each category!



## 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 are being 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
- ◆ scarves
- ◆ gloves
- ◆ baby items
- ◆ blankets
- ◆ mittens
- ◆ diapers



Items are being collected by the Hope Narthex entrance and ends December 30

## 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](http://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](http://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. Haeil Park, Associate 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!

Coffee  
Jeanine Husa

Greeters  
Beth & Roy Jarrett

Ushers  
Lead - Mark Ellis Lisa Ellis  
Annette Mandock Patti Ord Tom Lotko

Worship Technology  
Anne Dingle  
Randy Dingle Ron Sauer