



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Thy Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We and Children's Carols of Northern Europe Gloria / Iris "Declamation"

Walter Ehret

Michael Bedford Cheryl Saborsky, CAGO, organist

WELCOME AND INVITATION INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Benedict-Bickford Family

L: In a world that is lonely,

P: we will save a seat for you.

L: In a world that is anxious,

P: we will light candles against the gloom.

L: In a world that is weary,

P: we will sing songs of joy and truth.

L: I am not alone.

P: We are not alone.

L: For here in this place, God is weaving us together.

P: Light the candles! Sing with joy!

We are a three-cord strand, not easily broken.

Adapted from A Sanctified Art resource

*OPENING HYMN O Come, All Ye Faithful UMH 234

SCRIPTURE READING Ruth I Rev. Haeil Park

MESSAGE We Can't Go Alone Rev. Jeff Rainwater

OFFERTORY You're Not Alone Meredith Andrews
Anne Rowland

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Adapted from Discipleship Ministries

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

UMH 211

An Angel Visits Mary	Ayla Edet
An Angel Visits Joseph	Charlie Rinner
Mary and Joseph Go to Bethlehem	Emily Chapman
Mary and Joseph Arrive in Bethlehem	Emily Chapman
Baby Jesus is Born	Emily Chapman
The Angels Visit the Shepherds	Rose Marshall
The Shepherds Go to Bethlehem	Eliza Logan
The Shepherds Return Home	Elise Motz
The Animals in the Manger	Nora Andersen
King Herod and the Kings	Elan Edet
The Kings visit Baby Jesus	Clara Meerdink

Mary	Joseph	Innkeeper	King Herod	
Clara Meerdink	Elan Edet	Rose Marshall	Charlie Rinner	
Gold Angels		Silver Angels		
Emily Chapman	Nora Andersen	Jenna Look	Iris Marshall	
Eliza Logan Caroline Motz		Elise Motz	Julia Motz	
•		Poppy Rinner	·	
	Ani	mals		
Lilly Collins	Alden Edet	Archie Fox	Dakota Fox	
Kaya Fox	Sage Fox	Harley Look	Sarah Look	
	Shep	herds		
Paul Edwards	Noah Shull	Wesley Shull	Ben Smith	
	Ki	ings		
Liam Andersen	Ayla Edet	Claire Edwards	Levi Hamilton	
Oliver Hamilton				

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CLOSING HYMN To Be Known tune I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

*BENEDICTION

*MUSICAL BENEDICTION Emmanuel, Emmanuel UMH 204

POSTLUDE Postlude on "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" Robert Hobby

Cheryl Saborsky, CAGO, organist





December 15 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

DO THE GOOD THAT IS YOURS TO DO

Chancel Choir Cantata Morning Star by Joseph M. Martin



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.

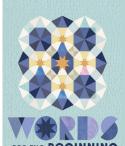
In many ways, pregnant Mary was surrounded by endingslarge and small, personal and political. And vet, Mary proclaimed hope in a God who was and is making all things new. As we also move through and personal political chapters, may these words for the beginning renew us and remind us of the ways we are called to live out our faith. No matter what you are facing, no matter what this new dav brings, let love vour 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 Monday, December 16



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.

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 hat
- ♦ blankets
- ♦ scarves
- ◆ mittens
- 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 Use the QR code or vote at

the church today and December 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	DEC.4 POSSIBILITY	DEC.5 REMEMBER
DEC.6 MARVEL	DEC.7	DEC.8 TOGETHER	DEC.9 EMBRACE	DEC.10 JOURNEY
DEC.11 PEACEMAKER	DEC.12	DEC.13 ENOUGH	DEC.14 GOODNESS	Dec.15 WORTHY
DEC.16 REPAIR	DEC.17 MAGNIFY	DEC.18 MERCY	DEC.19 DREAM	DEC.20 HOPE
Pec.21	DEC.22 GRACE	JOY	LOVE	DEC.25 AMAZEMENT

Hope United Women in Faith Bake & Craft Sale Sundays - today and December 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

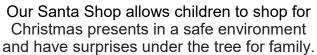


Oreo cookie crusts in a variety of flavors. Please preorder at the Doughnut Table before the sale. We can't wait to see everyone there!





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





Sign up to Shop - Children must be signed up in order to shop, so please check Hope Happenings for the sign up link or use this QR code.

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 is posted in Hope Happenings or use the QR code.



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.

we celebrate the Christmas season through the music of as 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 Village Resource Center. For visit will benefit the more information. denvermessiahsing.org.



If you have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) and are age seventy (or getting close), you should know about a way you can give to your local church that will strengthen the church's ministry and produce tax savings for you!

Here are some important facts you should know.

1. Individual Retirement Accounts Have Come of Age (Middle-Age).

IRAs have been around since 1974, though in the beginning, they were only for folks who didn't have any other pension coverage. A bill in 1981 made all workers and their spouses eligible for these accounts. That's a solid forty-plus years that people have been putting money away without having to pay federal taxes on it. (That part is important.)

2. You Can't Take It With You or Leave Your Money There Forever.

The understanding was that those folks could access that money without a penalty as early as when they turned fifty-nine and a half, but when they reached seventy and a half, they were required to start taking at least a minimum amount out each year—"required minimum distributions" or RMDs. In response to the coronavirus pandemic, the age for these RMDs was gradually raised: now it is seventy-three. Since participants didn't pay tax on the money when they put it in their IRAs, they are required to pay tax on it when money comes out. RMDs can push some people into a higher tax bracket. That can be avoided...

3. Give It to the Church; Avoid Paying the Taxes.

In 2006, pension protection legislation allowed for tax-free use of RMDs for charitable contributions, saving the tax that people would have had to pay when they took this money out of their IRA accounts. These are called "qualified charitable distributions" or QCDs. Here's an important distinction: these are NOT tax deductions. They do not provide a charitable deduction regardless of whether you itemize deductions. The tax benefit is the ability to exclude the donated distribution from taxable income! Here's an example: If you were planning to give \$1000 per month to your church, you don't qualify for more than the standard deduction amount, and you are at the 12% tax bracket—giving that amount from your IRA (as a QCD) will save you \$1,440 in taxes! If you are in the 22% tax bracket, the savings will be \$2,640!

4. From Ira to "My UMC"—Never In My Pocket!

With a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), a check goes directly from your IRA to your church or the charity you select. Many people who are facing RMDs that will have tax implications could pay all their annual tithe or offering at one time, hopefully early in the year, through their QCD and never have to show it as income.

5. You Don't Have to Wait For 73 to Do the QCD!

While Congress recently raised the age for RMDs to seventy-three, QCDs can happen for anyone who has reached the age of seventy and a half. Retirees who are over that age and want to continue to be generous to their local church should consider a qualified charitable distribution.

6. Most Taxpayers No Longer Get a Tax Break for Charitable Giving.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that went into effect in 2019 and 2020 included an increase in the standard deduction—it nearly doubled. That standard deduction is the threshold that your itemized deductions have to exceed to make itemizing worthwhile. It left many people better off, but with 90% of taxpayers taking the standard deduction (which does not require any evidence of charitable giving), it eliminated a tax-incentive regarding charitable donations for most of us (not to say that this is the main reason people give to the church). Inviting retirees in the seventy-plus group (who use the standard deduction) to consider using the qualifying charitable distribution may reduce or eliminate the tax that they might have to pay on RMDs. Yet many will not know of this option unless your church makes the invitation!

We encourage everyone to discuss this with a financial planner, tax consultant, or attorney—and be sure to let your family know! It could be a savings for you and a blessing to your local church!



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WiFi: Hope Guest Password: Genesis01:03!

Rev. Jeff Rainwater, Lead Pastor Pastor.Jeff@hope-umc.org

Rev. Haeil Park, Associate Pastor Pastor. Haeil@hope-umc.org

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
Pam & John Hermon

Ushers
Lead - Joe Martin Chris Morton
Herb Casner Dave Barber Jim Reitz

Greeters

Mary Witt & Mel Nelson

Worship Technology
Mary Jane Harmony
Dave Mahnken Chris Wiant