

DEC 24, 2019 HOPE UNITED CHURCH 8:00 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Tonight's bulletin was donated by the MacPherson family
in loving memory of Jean & Wallace MacPherson

Gathering in Expectation

(▲ Please rise in body or in spirit)

Prelude ~ Mya Cogwell & Aniqqa Janal

Welcome and Life & Work of the Church

▲ Song of Invocation: **O Come, All Ye Faithful**

VU 60

Christmas Eve – “Light of Hope”

Advent Candle Lighting – The Gift of the Savior

Choral Introit

Responsive Litany

Tonight we celebrate the one moment, the one birth,
and the one life that forever changed the world!

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Because you came to us, we have experienced
the ultimate hope to combat even the darkest moments.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Because you came to us, we have seen
the fullness of love to the highest degree.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Because you came to us,
we have seen the face of peace in its purest form.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Tonight, we celebrate your birth that unleashes hope, love, peace,
and joy into the world from now until the day of your return.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Candle Lighting (Cogswell Family)

Tonight is the night we have been waiting for, when waiting is transformed into awestruck wonder. We celebrate Jesus coming into this world and light all five candles. The **first candle** reminds of the ultimate hope that comes through our Savior's birth. The **second candle** beckons us to the peace of Christ that surpasses all understanding. The

third candle reminds us of the good news that tells us God's love is stronger than human sin. The **fourth** candle invites us to share the joy of the shepherds and angels announcing the Savior's birth. The Christ candle reminds us that from the moment he took his first breath until the day of his glorious return, Jesus says to each of us, "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Sung Response (*melody on back of bulletin*)

***Light of life, Maker of day,
Gather our shadows and cast them away.
Beacon of truth, gleaming and bright,
Shine in our hearts, shatter our night.***

Prayer

Gracious God, your Spirit has led us throughout the days and nights of our Advent journey. Thank you for opening our eyes to see more of your presence in our world and in our lives. We rejoice in your ultimate gift of sending a Savior who has taught us the fullness of what hope, love, peace, and joy are all about. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Amen.

Ministry of Music: ***Joy to the World***

We Hear the Word of God

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-5

Hymn: ***It Came Upon the Midnight Clear***

VU 44

Scripture Reading: John 1:6-9

Hymn: ***Go, Tell It on the Mountain***

VU 43

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Hymn: ***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

VU 48

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Hymn: ***Away in a Manger***

VU 69

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-6

Hymn: ***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

VU 64

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:7-12

Hymn: ***What Child Is This***

VU 74

