

Hope: Making Room  
First Sunday of Advent  
November 28, 2021



**MEDITATION**

*“Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.” – Desmond Tutu*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING WORDS**

**Leader:** And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. **C: And also with you.**

**PRELUDE**

“Love Came Down at Christmas”

Robert W. Thygerson

Tune: GARTAN Trad. Irish melody

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE**

*Hope Oliveira, Junior Deacon*

L: We have endured these past two years and know that there is more to face before us. We don't know if we have the strength to withstand what might be around the next corner. And we wonder who will stand with us, who will have our back, who will occupy our corner.

**All: Who is with us? That is what we begin to wonder these days. Who will light our way and chart our course? Who is on our side, who will welcome us home again?**

L: Home. The prophet Jeremiah speaks of a branch that will be raised. Jesus spoke of a Son of Man that will descend. Both point to a hope. A hope that calls us home. Our true home, where we're welcomed and loved and included. Where there is justice and equality and peace. This Advent season, it's time to go home where room is being made for each of us.

**All: We light this candle, as a sign of our hope, our strong hope that there is a way to go home. To the home in Christ, and it starts with us, and it starts here, and it starts now. It's time to go home.**

## ADVENT SONG OF HOPE

“Hope Waits for Us at Advent”

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Sarah Bach, Deacon*

L: We make our hearts a stable,

**All: A home where the Holy One can be found within us.**

L: We make our hearts a stable,

**All: A warm, sturdy shelter where hope can live and grow.**

L: We make our hearts a stable,

**All: A place of comfort where room is made to welcome Christ’s birth anew.**

L: We make our hearts a stable,

**All: A refuge from life’s storms to prepare for God’s everlasting love.**

### UNISON OPENING PRAYER

*Sarah Bach, Deacon*

**Holy God, the source of life and hope, as we come together this day, open our ears to hear, open our eyes to see, and open our hearts to make room for you so that we grow in all your ways and follow your paths. Help us spread your love to one another, and all creation, as we prepare for the coming of the One who calls us home to you, the true source of our salvation. Amen.**

### \*OPENING HYMN

“We Hail You God’s Anointed”

NCH #104

*You are invited to sing quietly to the music with a mask on.*

### OLD TESTAMENT READING – Jeremiah 33:14-16

*Sarah Bach, Deacon*

### PSALM – Psalm 25:1-5

*Rev. Christina Williams*

### SERMON

“Hope: Making Room”

*Rev. Christina Williams*

### ANTHEM

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

Michael Bedford

*Sung by members of the NFCC Choir*

### PASTORAL PRAYER AND JOY & CONCERNS

*After the Pastoral Prayer you are invited to share your joys and concerns. When names are spoken out loud, you are invited to respond, “O Lord, hear our prayers.”*

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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 of our daily bread, and forgive us of 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 and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

### **\*DOXOLOGY**

*You are invited to sing quietly to the music with a mask on.*

Praise God from whom all blessing flow;

Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love had done:

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One Amen.

### **\*UNISON OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Gracious God, this Advent season we wait in hope. And we give in hope: hope for your coming reign; hope because of your presence with us even now. Receive these generous offerings and use them for your work of healing and hope in our world. In the name of the One we wait and long for. Amen.**

### **\*CLOSING HYMN**

“O, Little Town of Bethlehem”

Pilgrim #134

*You are invited to sing quietly to the music with a mask on.*

### **\*BENEDICTION**

May God's door of welcome swing open in your heart and life.

May Christ's humble dwelling within you bring you the light of hope.

May the Spirit lead you into more possibility and hospitality than you can imagine.

May we make room at the inn for all who come knocking. Amen.

### **POSTLUDE**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Hugh H. Livingston, Jr.

Based on the English tune FOREST GREEN and ST. LOUIS by Louis H. Redner

*\*Stand in body or spirit as you are able.*

## **Ministering to Us Today**

Sarah Bach, Deacon and Rev. Christina Williams will be leading us in worship today. We are grateful to Babette Bach, Sarah Bach, and the NFCC Choir for providing the music, and to Hope Oliveira and Dennis Fox our technical staff for the day. Thank you for ministering to us in these ways.

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**The altar flowers are given in loving memory of V. (Nielsen) Baffoni.**

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