

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

HOPEWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



HOPEWELL PRESBYTERIAN  
EST. 1831

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 24th, 2023 | 10:30 am Worship Service

# -WE GATHER TO PRAISE -

§ Invites you to rise in body or spirit with the people of God.

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

### § CALL TO WORSHIP      ISAIAH 9:6

LITURGIST

For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

As fallen people, we must be called from our worship of the created and focus on the proper worship of the Creator.

### § HYMN      O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL      HYMN 90

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!

(Chorus) O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

2. O God of God, Light from Light eternal.  
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten, not created.

4. Child, for us sinners, poor and in the manger,  
we would embrace Thee with love and awe;  
who would not love Thee, loving us so dearly?

5. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

6. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

### § HYMN      THE FIRST NOEL      HYMN 90

1. The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel

4. Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood our life hath bought.

## § CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God who inhabits eternity  
but dwells with those who are of a humble and contrite spirit:  
before you and our Lord Jesus Christ  
we confess our sins.

We have ignored the presence of your Spirit.  
we have failed to look for the return  
of our Savior and Judge.

We have been blind to your coming  
in the suffering of the hungry, the exiled,  
the destitute, the sick, and the imprisoned.

In your great goodness  
put away our offenses  
and cleanse us from our sin, for Jesus' sake.

(time for silent, individual confession)

Amen.

## § ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### § RESPONSE TO PARDON

GLORIA PATRI

HYMN 614

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

## -WE SHARE OUR LIFE & GIFTS -

### PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE 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 our daily bread;

Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

Amen.

### OFFERTORY

### § RESPONSE TO GOD'S GOODNESS

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### § PRAYER OF DEDICATION

As members of Christ's body, we confess the reality of sin and brokenness in personal and common life and ask for God's saving grace.

We pray for the world because God loves it. God created the world and cares for it. To abide in God's love is to share God's concern for the world. Our prayers should therefore be as specific as God's tender compassion for the least ones among us.

– WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD –

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

PSALM 98

LITURGIST

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!*

ONE THIS IS THE WORD OF THE LORD.  
ALL THANKS BE TO GOD.

Through the sermon we encounter Jesus Christ in God’s word, are equipped to follow Him more faithfully, and are inspired to proclaim the Gospel to others through our words and deeds.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SERMON SCRIPTURE

LUKE 2:1-17

REV. BRANDON JOLLEY

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

SERMON

REV. BRANDON JOLLEY

§ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

HEIDELBURG Q./A. 1

Q. What is your only comfort in life and death?

**A. That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.**

**He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation.**

**Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

# - WE GO FORTH TO PROCLAIM -

## § CLOSING HYMN

JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME

HYMN 92

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare Him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:  
Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of His righteousness  
and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,  
and wonders, wonders of His love.

## § BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

## - ANNOUNCEMENTS -

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 5:00 pm**

**The Church Office will be closed the week of the 25th.**

**December 31st - 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School will meet. Preschool and Jr. Church will remain in worship. The nursery will be available.**

**December Birthdays:** Pat Mundorff - 24th; Mary Lue Walker - 25th; Vienna Sempstrott - 29th; Leslie Hash and Mike Wicker - 30th

**Poinsettias have been purchased in memory of loved ones by:**

Michele Burgess	Bill & Joyce Liverett
Doug & Carla Demaree	Amy Spencer
John & Sandy Ditmars	John & Tammy Spencer
George & Lilly Dow	Kathleen & Andy Spencer
David & Leslie Hash	Holly Steimel
Brent & Kathy Henderson	Moyne & Jerry Tackett
Tom & Cathy Johnson	Frank & Charlotte Weaver
Ron Kelsay	Jean Williams
Howard Krapf	Cindy Williams
Bill Leser Family	Steve and Polly Yount

A benediction is literally a "good word" or a blessing to carry with us as we leave our time of worship.

- WEEKLY AT HOME LITURGY -

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

*Psalm 100*

**PRAYER OF ADORATION**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above you heavenly hosts; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen. *-Doxology*

**READING OF THE LAW**

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

*1 John 4:7-11*

**CONFESSION OF SINS**

O Lord, who hast mercy upon all - take away from me my sins, and mercifully kindle in me the fire of thy Holy Spirit. Take away from me the heart of stone, and give me a heart of flesh, a heart to love and adore you, a heart to delight in you, to follow and enjoy you, for sake of Jesus my Lord. (prayerfully confess particular sins). Amen

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness.

*-Romans 4:4-5*

**PRAISE**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

*-Gloria Patri*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find wisdom, and in your will discover your peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Daily Bible reading plan (see Discipleship Reading Plan)

**PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

Assist us mercifully, O Lord, in these our supplications and prayers, and dispose the way of your servants toward the attainment of everlasting salvation - that among all the changes and chances of this mortal life, they may ever be defended by your most gracious and ready help; through Christ our Lord. Amen. *- Book of Common Prayer*

## LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by your name; your kingdom come; your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## -DISCIPLESHIP READING -

Encountering God in your daily life is the best way to grow your relationship with our Redeemer. This reading plan was customized using [TheBibleTeam.com](http://TheBibleTeam.com)

<input type="checkbox"/>	MONDAY	Romans 10	Psalm 76
<input type="checkbox"/>	TUESDAY	Romans 11-12	Psalm 77
<input type="checkbox"/>	WEDNESDAY	Romans 13	Psalm 78
<input type="checkbox"/>	THURSDAY	Romans 14-15	Psalm 79
<input type="checkbox"/>	FRIDAY	Romans 16	Psalm 80

## WEEKLY CATECHISM

As a church body, we affirm the Westminster Confession of Faith. The confession, written in 1648, serves as the confessional anchor of Presbyterian doctrine and includes a catechism to teach the faith in churches. Each week we work our way through 3-5 questions from the Westminster Shorter Catechism to both learn and remind ourselves of the faith that we profess. Pastor Brandon would love to talk to you when difficult sections come up.

### **Q. 53. What is the third commandment?**

A. The third commandment is, "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain."

### **Q. 54. What is required in the third commandment?**

A. The third commandment requires the holy and reverent use of God's names, titles, attributes, ordinances, Word and works.

### **Q. 55. What is forbidden in the third commandment?**

A. The third commandment forbids all profaning or abusing of anything by which God makes himself known.

### **Q. 56. What is the reason added to the third commandment?**

A. The reason added to the third commandment is that although breakers of this commandment may escape punishment from men, the Lord our God will not allow them to escape his righteous judgment

TO PONDER PRAYERFULLY

“You cannot judge God by your calendar. God may appear to be slow, but he never forgets his promises. He may seem to be working very slowly or even to be forgetting his promises, but when his promises come true (and they will come true), they always burst the banks of what you imagined. . . . God’s grace virtually never operates on our time frame, on a schedule we consider reasonable.”

- Tim Keller

*Hidden Christmas*

Sermon Notes

## Hopewell Presbyterian Church

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Hopewell Presbyterian Church is a member of the Presbytery of the Midwest  
and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC)

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Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

*hopewellpc.org*

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