



GRACE UNITED CHURCH
Communion Service
Advent 1 - HOPE
November 30, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.
Worship Leader: Rev. Doug McLeod
Music Director: Don Salfarlie
Lay Presider: Sylvia Genders

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: Of the Father's Love Begotten J. Carter

**Welcome, Announcements
& Traditional Land Acknowledgment** Sylvia Genders

Call to Worship: Sylvia Genders
They who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall
mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31)

Advent Reading & Candle Lighting 1: Reilly Family
**Reader 1: As the days grow shorter and colder, we hope
for warmth and light.**
Reader 2: We hope for warmth and light within our hearts.
**Reader 1: We hope that warmth and light may spread out all
around our land, and all around the world- especially
where hope is hard to find.**
**Reader 2: And so we light a candle, because we want hope to
shine bright here and everywhere.**

[light BLUE candle]

**All: God of all hope, we too hope for a better world. Even when
Our hearts are heavy, even when the troubles of the world
make us sad and worried, may hope still stay alive within
us. May hope shine through us, and light the way for others,
wherever we go. In the name of Jesus, Light of the World.
Amen.**

*Let Us Pray, Volume 4 by Jane Doull,
used with permission*

Advent Hymn: Led by the Choir (Organ accompaniment)
Hope is a Star VU #7 (Vs. 1 only)

Opening Prayer: Rev. Doug McLeod
Christ is at home in your heart
Place your hand over your heart
Close your eyes
and see the candle's light in your mind's eye.
Sit quietly and notice where hope is stirring.... (pause)
Rest in the light of Hope beckoning...
breathe... breathe... breathe... (pause)
Come, Hope, come
Stir in our souls
Find your birthing place
in our living.
Shine forth
like a star.
Come, Hope, come.
(Centering prayer by Lori Megley Best, used with permission).

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Praise and Worship 1: Led by the Choir
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel VU #1 (verses 1,2,3, 6 & 7)

Time for Youth & Young at Heart
Song: Jesus Came Bringing us Hope MV #33(vs. 1 only 2x)
Children leave for Sunday School Led by Kay Bingham

TO DISCOVER THE WORD OF GOD FOR TODAY

Scripture Reading: James 5:7-11: Mark 1:1-11 NIV Nancy Wilson
One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.
All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: What Are You Waiting For? Rev. Doug McLeod

TO RESPOND IN FAITH AND HOPE

Offering Invitation

Offertory /Special Music: Solo by Harry Pring (Piano accompaniment)
Be Magnified, O Lord Lynn DeShazo

Offering Response: Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow
Voices United #541

Offertory Prayer

Communion Hymn: Led by the Choir (Band accompaniment)
Give me a Clean Heart Margaret Pleasant Douroux
TLUS #110

Holy Communion: The Lord's Supper

Invitation

One: God's Banquet is coming. The time we await when all will gather from North, East, West and South. A banquet where the rich and powerful will sit with the weak and poverty-stricken. A table where young and old will learn from each other. A time when all will sit together in peace, "and the wolf will lie down with the lamb".

Here at this table, we get a foretaste of God's banquet. This is indeed God's table, not the church's, and so all who seek to follow The Way are welcome to eat and drink from it. Come and taste the grace eternal, come and see that God is good. God is with us. We are not alone. Jesus Christ is present here. The Holy Spirit is among us. Let us give thanks to the Lord. In memory and in hope.

All: We give you thanks, Lord of peace and promise.
Through the words of your prophets and the faith of your followers, you prepare the way of our redemption and bring hope to birth. And though we often grow weary of waiting, your signs call us to keep watch for that day when all things shall be made new. In the assurance of this hope and your promise, we join with all the company of heaven and earth to give you praise;

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Bless it is He. Who comes in the name of the Lord Hosanna in the highest.

One: Let us remember together that vision of God's reign shone to us in Jesus at his table.

All: He shared food with followers and friends,

One: With saints and sinners

All: With crowds of thousands on the hillside,

One: On the night before he died, he had supper with his closest followers. He took a loaf of bread and after giving thanks he broke it, and he gave it to them saying take and eat. This is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Then he took the cup and after giving thanks, he gave it to them saying. Drink this. Shed for you do this in remembrance of me.

Through this loaf and cup, Jesus lives within us. Strengthening us by His love. Remembering your boundless love for us in Jesus Christ, we offer you our praise, as we proclaim the great mystery of our faith.

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

One: Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this offering of your church,

All: that we who eat and drink at this table may share in the life of Christ.

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon the whole earth

All: And renew your creation

One: Gather your church together, from the ends of the earth, into your realm where peace and justice are revealed

All: That we, with all your people of every language, race and nation may share the banquet you have promised.

One: In this hope, and as your people, we praise you:

All: Praise be to God, the source of life!
Praise be to Jesus Christ, Love Incarnate!
Praise be to the Holy Spirit, God's love and power!
Praise be to God!

One: This is the body of Christ, given for you
This is the cup of God's love shed for you
These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God

All are welcome to come and receive communion:

Come for all things are now ready.

The Communion: Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer After Communion:

All: God, you poured your Spirit on Mary and she sang words of hope. Pour out your Spirit upon us gathered here.
As we eat and drink may we know your presence. As we eat and drink may we be opened to the possibilities of your hope and power and may we be strengthened in our time of waiting for peace and justice so that we will have the courage to make the Christmas promise a reality.
Amen.

Praise and Worship 2: Led by the Choir (Band accompaniment)

Lord Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary

MV #18 (3x)

THE CHURCH SCATTERS TO LIVE ITS FAITH IN THE WORLD

Commissioning and Benediction

Go Now in Peace

Don Besig & Nancy Price

Organ Postlude: My life is in You

Daniel Gardner



CHRISTMAS SERVICES



Sunday, November 30 – 10:30 a.m.

1st Sunday of Advent – HOPE

Communion Service

Guest Worship Leader: Rev. Doug McLeod

Sunday, December 7 – 10:30 a.m.

2nd Sunday of Advent – PEACE

Children's Pageant

Sunday, December 14 – 10:30 a.m.

3rd Sunday of Advent – JOY

Guest Worship Leader: Scott Martin

Sunday, December 21 – 10:30 a.m.

4th Sunday of Advent – LOVE

Christmas Music Service

Wednesday, December 24 – 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 28 – 10:30 a.m.

First after Christmas