



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:

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

Children leave for Sunday School

MV #33(vs. 1 only 2x)

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

Rev. Doug McLeod

**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 EVE service

CELEBRATING JESUS

Dec. 24  
7:00 p.m.  
Candlelight  
Service

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES



Sunday, November 30 – 10:30 a.m.

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – HOPE  
Communion Service

Guest Worship Leader: Rev. Doug McLeod

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Sunday, December 7 – 10:30 a.m.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent – PEACE  
Children's Pageant

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Sunday, December 14 – 10:30 a.m.

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent – JOY  
Guest Worship Leader: Scott Martin

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Sunday, December 21 – 10:30 a.m.

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent – LOVE  
Christmas Music Service

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Wednesday, December 24 – 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

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Sunday, December 28 – 10:30 a.m.

First after Christmas