



Fourth Sunday of Advent December 24, 2023

***How does a weary world rejoice?
We sing stories of hope***

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL...

Prelude

Gathering Christmas Singing

Oh, How Joyfully VT 254

Go Tell it on the Mountain VT 252 (verses 1 and 3)

Grounding Moment: *The Sound of Hope**

Call to Worship*

How does a weary world rejoice?

WE SING SONGS OF HOPE.

WE ALLOW HOPE TO CHANGE US, TO STRENGTHEN US.

WE TELL THE STORIES OF WHAT COULD BE.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD.

WE RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO GIVE UP OR GIVE IN.

WE REMEMBER MARY'S SONG.

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP.

WE HOPE.

WE HOPE.

AGAINST ALL ODDS, WE HOPE.

Friends, this is the day that the Lord is still making.

Let us worship holy God.

HYMN *To Us a Child of Hope is Born* VT 259

Fellowship Greeting

HYMN *Hope is a Candle (verses 1-4)* VT 211

Candle Lighting Liturgy*

WE TELL GOD’S STORY

Call to Confession*

Prayer of Confession*

Holy God,
More days than not, hope feels like the rain.
We try to hold onto it with cupped hands,
but eventually, it slips right on through.
Forgive us for holding hope so loosely.
Forgive us for allowing the realities of today to define tomorrow.
We know that this world needs people of hope, so today we pray:
turn us into those people.
Teach us how to sing Mary’s song of hope for the world.
With open hearts we pray, amen.

Words of Forgiveness*

Children’s Time

Prayer for Illumination*

Scripture Reading: *Luke 1:46-55* and *Luke 1:67-80*

Sermon

Music for Meditation

WE SHARE OUR STORIES

Prayers of the People & Lord’s Prayer

Announcements

WE GO REJOICING!

HYMN *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* VT 243

Benediction: *How does a weary world rejoice?**

Postlude ... *receive the postlude as a musical blessing for the week ahead*

**Prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org*

TODAY: *Fellowship time in Common Grounds* following worship.

- **7pm** Christmas Eve worship with a children's program, candle lighting, Kristal Bells, singing, dedication of baby bundles and more (*bring finger foods to share after the service*)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

- **Church Office closed** this week!
- **Dec 31 – Sunday morning worship + Journaling/Prayer after worship.** Join Pastor Tonya in the fellowship hall after worship for a guided journaling practice especially appropriate for the last day of the year! Childcare will be provided. RSVP's helpful.
- **Jan 7 – Epiphany & Star Words (*hearing reflections from 2023 and receiving 2024 Star Words*).** Send your 2023 Star Word reflections to Pastor Tonya by Jan 3 to be included in the worship service (shared anonymously).
- **Jan 9 – Craft Night 6:30-8:00pm**

Christmas Giving Opportunities:

- ***Salthawk Community Support*** – monetary contributions for Christmas sacks for students. Details in *This Week @ FMC* on our website.
- ***Hat, Mitten, & Just Simply Socks Tree*** in our church foyer (*to be donated to Salvation Army*)
- ***MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) Baby Bundles*** – a \$25 contribution per bundle.



First Mennonite Church - Hutchinson KS

Arms Wide Open: To Serve & Be Served

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