



**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*

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Sound: Jay Gehring  
Livestream: Jonathan Wenger  
Ushers: Don Wiens & Russell Goering  
Pianist: Peggy Stucky  
Song Leader: Pastor Tonya Ramer Wenger  
Grounding Moment Poem: Jean Gaeddert  
Worship Leader: Calvin Buller  
Candle Lighting: Dohn and Jeanette Fast  
Children's Time: Peggy and Gardell Stucky  
Scripture Reader: Joel Iwashige  
Sermon: Pastor Jim Unruh  
Nursery: Please feel free us use the nursery, and make sure your children  
are cared for as we do not have a nursery attendant today  
Artwork on front of bulletin: *Prophecy* / Hannah Garrity, A Sanctified Art

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**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***

Phone: 620-662-9385

Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 9-2pm; Wed 10-1pm

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