

Waiting...for hope

Prelude

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.** Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Loving and forgiving God, **we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, ✠ comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #257 (red hymnal), #34 (green), vs. 1 & 5

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

5. O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. Show us your gift of hope in new ways so that we might serve you more faithfully. We pray this in your holy name. Amen.

Kids' Sermon

Candle Lighting

Gospel Hymn – God Came Down #253

1. God came down that we may have love; God came down that we may have love; God came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.
2. God came down that we may have hope; God came down that we may have hope; God came down that we may have hope; hallelujah forevermore.

Scripture: Romans 5:1-5

¹Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Sermon**All Earth Is Hopeful #266 (red hymnal), vs. 1, 3 & 4**

1. All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last! Furrows lie open for God's creative task: this, the labor of people who struggle to see how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.
3. Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared; new highways opened, new protocols declared. Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace! All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!
4. We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib. This same Lord Jesus today has come to live in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

Prayers of the People**Holy Communion****Benediction****Joy to the World #267 (red hymnal), #39 (green), vs. 1 & 3**

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
3. No more let sin and sorrow 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.

Announcements**Drive-thru Offering Collection & Communion Distribution**