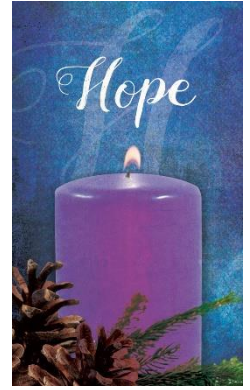


*Virtual Worship Service for the Lord's Day
The First Sunday in Advent, November 27, 2022
Crossnore Presbyterian Church
200 Chapel Drive, P.O. Box 386
Crossnore, NC 28616*



Welcome and Church Family News (PDF attachment)

Choral Call to Worship # 92 *While We Are Waiting Come*

<https://youtu.be/aizsMBcT2GI> - Geneva Presbyterian Church, Laguna Hills, CA

While we are waiting come

While we are waiting come

Jesus our Lord Emmanuel

While we are waiting come

With pow'r and glory come

With pow'r and glory come

Jesus our Lord Emmanuel

While we are waiting come

Come Savior quickly come

Come Savior quickly come

Jesus our Lord Emmanuel

While we are waiting come

Lighting of the Advent Candle

(you may want to create your own wreath with 5 candles—3 purple, 1 pink, and 1 white (in the center))

Light the Candle of Hope.

Hear God's promise of hope from Jeremiah 33:14-16:

"The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Let us pray:

Faithful God, out of death you bring life. Renew us in hope, that we may be alert to the burgeoning of Christ's advent among us. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come. Amen.

Call to Worship

I was glad when they said unto me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord!"

We are standing in God's presence, alert and ready to receive God's word.

The night is passing. The day of salvation is near.

We seek to live as people of the light. Come, Lord Jesus!

Hymn of Praise # 88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

<https://youtu.be/hAlZf9Fa4Lk> - Chris Brunelle (verses 1-3)

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

VENI EMMANUEL

Refrain:

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show;
and teach us in her ways to go. [Refrain]**

**O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. [Refrain]**

Call to Confession:

In Advent, we prepare for the coming of Christ, full of grace and truth. Trusting in God's unfailing grace, let us tell the truth about ourselves as we join in our prayer of confession.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

God of mercy and compassion, you invite us to join you on your holy mountain, to follow you on a new path, yet we prefer another way. We stay close to the ways we know rather than take up something new. We prefer to stake out our own path rather than watching for your way to emerge before us. We place our trust in other guides rather than having confidence that you will show us the way.

Forgive us, Lord. Open a new path for us. Show us the way to your holy mountain, that we might know your ways and walk in your paths. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear the new thing you are doing in our midst, and give us hearts of hope and joy that walk in your light each and every day until you come again (moment of silent confession). In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

With the coming of Christ, God has given us the gift of forgiveness. God reaches out to offer us new life, a new path, a chance to begin again. Believe the promise of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen!

Response to God's Grace and Mercy # 95 *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

PREPARE THE WAY

https://youtu.be/GpZ_FowUKUQ - Duluth First UMC Chamber Choral, Duluth, GA

**Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God.**

Lesson: Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together.

To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers."

For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you."

For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

Choir Anthem: *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Charles Wesley/Pamela Robertson/arr. Heather Sorenson

<https://youtu.be/aF-GgdR80B4> - Hal Leonard and Shawnee Press Church Choral

Second Lesson: Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Sermon: "A Glimmer of Hope"

Rev. Joe Bennett

Affirmation of Faith: (From the Confession of 1967)

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all.

Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people

and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows.

He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all.

The risen Christ is the Savior of all humanity.

Those joined to him by faith are set right with God

and commissioned to serve as his reconciling community.

Christ is head of this community, the church,

which begins with the apostles and continues through all generations.

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind.

Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness.

But God reveals his love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinners.

The power of God's love to transform the world

discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator

who made all things to serve the purpose of his love.

Hymn of Meditation # 863 *Lord of All Hopefulness*

COURTNEY

<https://youtu.be/cy65o3IVn> 8 - Lake Grove Presbyterian, Lake Oswego, OR

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,

Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares can destroy,

Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,

Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,

Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,

Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,

Your strength in our hearts, Lord at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,

Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,

Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,

Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

**Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.**

Prayers of the People:

We thank you, O God, that you have given us an enduring hope—one which cannot disappoint us or mislead us. We thank you, that through our faith in you and in your Son Jesus Christ, you enter into every believing heart and make new lives that have been torn asunder by the darkness of this world...

Lord, hear our prayer...

We pray today O God that those believers who are asleep may awake and know that salvation is nearer now than when they first believed. Help them, and us, to lay aside the works of darkness and to put on the armor of light that you bestow upon those who actively seek you day by day. Grant that their faith and ours may be fully alive....

Lord, hear our prayer...

We ask today, O God, for those who have lost hope and for those who have never had it. Grant to us and to those we lift before you in our hearts a new and abiding vision of what you have done, and what you are doing, and what you will do, to save and redeem your people and indeed the creation itself. Grant, O God, that all might see and believe and discover their purpose and the purpose of all that is and all that is yet to be...

Lord, hear our prayer...

We lift before you, O God, those persons listed on our prayer list and those loved ones near to our hearts...

Lord, hear our prayer...

We ask all this of you, O God, knowing that you are our hope and our salvation, a very present help in times of trouble, and the One whose purpose is to grant and new and abundant life to us and our world. We offer these prayers in the name of Christ, who taught his disciples to pray: Our Father...Amen.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings:

We offer our individual gifts – our time, our talents, and our financial resources – to God; and those gifts become the church's gifts. And then the church offers them to the world. So with generous hearts, let us offer our gifts to the world.

Doxology # 606 *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNDREDTH

https://youtu.be/ILdeoa_2kdY - The St. Mary Magdalene Church Choir, Orange, California

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above ye heavenly hosts;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Holy God, help us to slow down and take the time to truly be ready for Christ's coming once again in this Season of Advent. As we present our offerings, we ask that our efforts may be pleasing in your sight. By your grace, fill our lives and our communities with the light of hope and healing. Amen.

Closing Hymn # 765 *May the God of Hope Go With Us*

ARGENTINA

<https://youtu.be/OliVvTBjzVM> - Eric Nanz

**May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.**

**May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.**

Refrain:

**Praying, let us work for peace;
singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

Charge and Benediction:

Be people of hope.

Let hope live in your heart and share the hope of Christ with all you meet.

Share hope by noticing someone else's humanity.

Share hope by listening to someone's story.

Share hope by praying for our world.

In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share hope.

As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share hope with those you meet.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you and our beautiful and broken world. Amen.