

**Sunday Worship on November 30, 2025**

(CCLI: License Number #3156883) (Welcoming Elder: Anne Neuman)

**We Gather**

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to worship (See the insert)
- Light the candle of hope
- BOP 119 Hope of a star (vs. 1)
- Praise song BOP 129 Prepare the way, O Zion
- Prayer for Worship and the Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song 109 All earth is waiting
- Prayer for children

**We listen**

- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- First reading: Matthew 24:36-44
- Second reading: Psalm 122 (Refrain 1)
- Third reading: Isaiah 2:1-5
- Sermon: **Walking in the light of the Lord**
- Praise song BOP 563 Let us talents and tongue employ
- Communion
- Prayer after communion

**We Respond**

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 321 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty vs.1) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP 117 Herald! Sound the note of judgment

**We Serve**

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

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**Responsive Call to Worship (See the insert)**

**Light the candle of hope**

**BOP 119 Hope of a star (vs. 1)**

**Praise song – BOP 129 Prepare the way, O Zion**

**Prayer of Adoration**

Almighty and everlasting God, you hold all our days in your hands, and embrace us in your everlasting arms. In a tired and violent world, you are hope. In a hectic and busy world, you are peace. In a hurting world, you are comfort.

In Jesus Christ, you bring love into this world, and call us to embody his love in all we do and say. In our worship this day, we offer you our love and loyalty, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit. Make us one in worship and service, so that the world will see your hope at work in us and through us, making all things new.

**Prayer of confession (Unison)**

**God of hope, we confess that we often prefer to accept half-truths and pleasing ideas, rather than your challenging word. We praise our own cleverness rather than your wisdom. We have exploited others for our benefit and used the earth without a thought for its well-being. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct who we shall be through the mercy of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Heavenly Father, hear us, as we offer the Prayer that Jesus taught us:** (The Lord's Prayer:) **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance**

Receive the Good News in hope. With great mercy, God forgives what we have confessed and offers us new life in Christ. Trust in the hope that you are forgiven and that, with God, new things are possible.

**May the Peace of Christ be with you.** *(Let us bless each other with the peace of the Lord.)*

**Praise song BOP 109 All earth is waiting**

**Prayer for the children**

**Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)**

- First reading: Matthew 24:36-44
- Second reading: Psalm 122 (Refrain 1)
- Third reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

**“This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.”**

**Sermon: Walking in the light of the Lord**

Precious people of God, grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ, the Light who shines in the darkness and whom no darkness can overcome.

Today, we begin a new Christian year. Advent is here. A season of anticipation, longing, and holy expectation. Advent does not deny the darkness of the world. It simply refuses to believe

that darkness has the final word. Advent begins not with celebration. But with hope – a steady trust in what God will do, even before we see it.

Our scripture for today comes from the first part of Isaiah 2, a passage given to a people who felt surrounded by discouragement. Their temple was not yet restored. Their nation was fragile. Their world felt uncertain. They remembered the glory of the past, but the present looked dim, and the future felt blurry.

Into this moment, God gives Isaiah a vision, a vision not just for Israel, but for the whole world.

When Isaiah begins this chapter, he begins with a promise.

**V2, “In days to come the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established as the highest of the mountains.”**

God lifts his mountain, his presence, above everything else. Isaiah’s people look around and see ruins, decline, and disappointment. But God lifts their eyes to see what he is building.

Advent hope begins the same way.

**Look upon God. Let us raise our vision.**

We are not to see only the things we see now. We need to see what God sees. We don’t end up what we see right now, but we are to see what God is preparing for us.

We all know the days when the present feels small, uncertain, and hopeless. But today, Advent reminds us that God is not finished with us yet. God is lifting his mountain, his presence. He’s lifting something in us. God is building something in us.

Our hope starts when God helps us look higher.

**V3, “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.’”**

Hope is not merely believing in God’s promises. Hope is walking toward God’s presence. When we come to worship, pray, repent, and seek God’s wisdom, we are already living in the light of that promise. This is, we are going up to the mountain of the Lord. Let us stand on his mountain.

Advent is a time to return. It is a time to return our feet toward the mountain of the Lord once again. Every prayer, every act of worship, every moment of obedience is a step toward hope. Let us stand on the mountain of the Lord and see what he show us.

**V4, “They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks.”**

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Weapons that once harmed people, now cultivate growth.  
Tools of destruction become tools of life.

This is the heart of Advent hope. **God can transform even what seems unchangeable.**

We live in a world still marked by conflict – political, personal, emotional, spiritual. We see hostilities between nations. We experience divisions in families. We notice unrest in our own souls. But Advent proclaims a different story.

God is at work right now. God is turning our swords into plowshares, our fears into faith, our wounds into wisdom, our bitterness into blessing.

Hope is not pretending everything is okay. Hope is trusting that God can make all things new. Hope comes from trusting God.

### **V5, “O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!”**

Let us come and walk together. Hope does not happen naturally. We need to come. Hope is not passive. It is not just waiting with arms crossed. Hope is active. Hope has steps.

Let us walk in the light of the LORD.

How do we walk to the Lord?

This is...

- To choose peace when anger is easier.
- To forgive when resentment feels justified.
- To welcome when suspicion feels safer.
- To pray when worry feels overwhelming.
- To give when it feels costly.
- To love when it feels inconvenient.

Advent does not simply tell us what God will do. It tells us how to live while we wait for the Lord.

Christ is the Light of the world. He has come, and he is coming again. So, today, we take our first Advent step. One small candle lit against a great darkness of this world. And like that candle, you and I are called to shine.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, the world may feel uncertain, but God is not uncertain. His promise is sure. His light is strong. And his future is coming with his peace.

Isaiah lifts our eyes today and says,

**“See the mountain. See the light. See the peace God is bringing.”**

The question for us is simple. “Will we walk in that light today?”

As we begin this first week of Advent, may God guide our steps. May his light shine on our path. And may our lives reflect his hope, until the day when his peace fills the whole earth.

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

**Let us pray.**

Gracious God, thank you for speaking your word of hope into our waiting hearts. Where darkness feels heavy, shine your light. Where fear whispers loudly, strengthen our trust. Where our steps have grown weary, teach us again to walk in your ways.

Help us, Lord, to be people who carry your peace into our homes, our streets, and our world.

Make us instruments of your hope in this Advent season, until the day when all nations walk in your light and your kingdom of peace fills the earth. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, our Light, and our Hope, we pray. Amen.

**Praise song BOP 563 Let us talents and tongue employ**

**Communion:**

Sisters and brothers in Christ, this is the table of our Lord Jesus Christ. We come not as strangers, but as God’s precious daughters and sons. We are called from darkness into his marvelous light.

On this first Sunday of Advent, we come with longing and hope, waiting for the Lord who promised to come again.

Just as God once gathered his people on the holy mountain, he now gathers us to feed us with his grace and to set our feet again on the path of his peace.

Here, the weary find rest, the anxious find calm, and all who hunger for hope are met by Christ himself.

Come as you are, for the light of the Lord meets us here.

At this table, we remember Christ’s death and resurrection, and we join the saints across the ages who walked in his light before us.

Now, let us confess our faith together in the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

**The Apostles’ Creed (BOP 539)**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:) (Please say BOLD print together)

L: The Lord be with you. **P: And also, with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts. **P: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

L: Holy and gracious God, in the days when your people were surrounded by conflict and uncertainty, you gave them a vision: a mountain lifted high, a word renewed, and a future filled with peace and light.

We thank you that in every generation, you have called your people to hope. We thank you for the prophets who spoke your truth, for the saints who walked before us in faith, and for the church that continues to shine your light in a world still longing for peace.

Today, on this first Sunday of Advent, we join our voices with theirs lifting our praise to you:

**(Sanctus) Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of Your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

L: God of mercy and hope, blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ. In him the light has shone in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Through him you called disciples to follow your ways, to seek your peace, and to walk in your light.

On the cross he bore our sin. In the resurrection he opened the way to life. By his Spirit, he awakens us from our sleep, calling us to live as children of the day.

So remembering his teaching, his compassion, his sacrifice, and his promise to come again, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**P: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

L: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine. As we eat and drink, fill us with the hope that Isaiah proclaimed: A hope strong enough to lift weary hearts, clear enough to guide our steps, and bright enough to shine into the darkness of our world.

Make us one with Christ, one with one another, and one in loving witness to a world yearning for peace.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

**Breaking of the BREAD and Pouring the WINE**

(The minister breaks bread in the presence of the people, saying:)

The Lord Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it and said,

“This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

(The minister may pour wine into the cup, lifting it while saying:)

In the same way, he took the cup after supper, saying,

“This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.”

**(Distribution of the elements)**

Every time you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. (Take some time for personal prayer)

**Prayer for the people:**

Holy God, you are our light and our salvation. Whom shall we fear? In this season of Advent, we lift our eyes to you, trusting that your light still breaks into places of sorrow and need.

We pray for our world. For nations torn by war, for leaders seeking wisdom, for innocent people caught in violence and displacement. Shine your peace where peace feels impossible. Protect the vulnerable, heal the wounded, and bring justice where injustice has taken root.

We lift before you those suffering from the devastating fire in Hong Kong. Comfort the grieving, strengthen the injured, and surround families and communities with your compassion. We pray for firefighters, medical teams, churches, and helpers. Empower them to bring comfort and restoration.

We remember those in our own community who are struggling. The sick, the lonely, the anxious, the grieving.

Lord, send your light into every shadowed place.

Renew our hearts, deepen our hope, and make us people who walk in the light of Christ in all we say and do.

Light of the world, our Hope, Jesus Christ, reign in us.

Reign in us. Reign in us.

We pray in the power name of Jesus Christ, our King and Lord, our Light and Hope.  
Amen.

**Invitation to the offering:**

As people who walk in God's light, we respond with grateful hearts. In Advent, we give not out of pressure, but out of hope.

Let us trust that God can take what we offer and use it to shine light into places of need. Just as the mountain of the Lord draws all nations to his peace, our giving becomes a small part of his great work in the world.

As we give our offerings, let us glorify God.

*(BOP #79, Praise God with songs)(words are on the screen)*

**Offering prayer:**

Gracious and loving God, every gift we have comes from your hand. Receive what we bring today, our money, our time, our obedience, and our hope. Use these offerings to spread your light in our church, in our community, and in places where darkness feels overwhelming. Make these gifts seeds of peace, signs of your coming kingdom, and a blessing to all who are touched by them. We dedicate them to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Song for the Journey – BOP 117 Herald! Sound of note of judgment**

Now, it is our time to be sent to the world where God called us to be.

As we prepare to go into the world, we go as people of Advent hope. We walk into this week remembering that the light of Christ goes before us, shines within us, and surrounds us.

The world may feel uncertain, but God's promise is sure. His mountain stands firm, and his peace is drawing near. So, go with open eyes and willing hearts, ready to live as children of the light.

Seek peace, do good, encourage the weary, and point others toward the hope of Christ. May his light guide your steps and his peace rest upon you.

**Benediction:** May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, our Father, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, now and always. Amen.