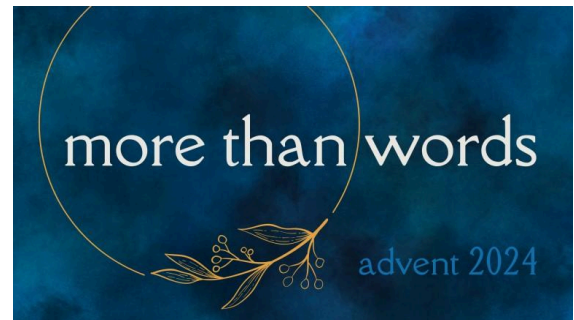


Seventh Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

Love 10:30 AM



University Lutheran Church of Hope is a welcoming, Christian community of faith centered on God's grace and called to demonstrate God's love for the world. University Lutheran Church of Hope is a Reconciling in Christ congregation and a sanctuary congregation with a commitment to racial equity.

Welcome. Peace be with you.

We continue our holy experiment. We're worshipping together in-person, and also offering a virtual option on Zoom and YouTube. Welcome to all!

For those worshipping in-person, please remember:

- ❖ **To support the health and wellness of all those among us**, feel welcome to use masks and hand sanitizer, stay current with your vaccinations, and stay home as needed if you are unwell.
- ❖ **We honor one another's boundaries** by asking permission to be in close proximity, and finding alternate ways to greet one another and share the peace (a deep bow, the peace sign, an air hug, etc.). Our risk levels and comfort differ.
- ❖ **In our service today, we will share Holy Communion.** Ushers will direct you.
- ❖ **If you are new to the community** and wish to speak with a Pastor or be included in our communication and activities, fill out the blue slip in the pew rack and give it to an usher. We'll follow up. It's also just fine to be anonymous. To get more involved, check out our website: <http://www.ulch.org/> To receive the weekly enews, the Thursday Epistle, contact our church administrator at ulch@ulch.org.
- ❖ **Children are welcome in worship.** Kids, grab your SPARK Story Bibles. Craft tables are available for families. Note: The nursery is not staffed, but is available for your use. The nursery is on the upper level of the education wing, most easily reached from the doors nearest the baptismal font.
- ❖ **After worship, enjoy the time to linger for conversation** in the lounge, courtyard and patio.

Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor Susan Debner, Pastor Maria Anderson-Lippert (presiding ministers); Bill Sanden (assisting minister); ULCHers Band (Tim Gustafson, Paul Odenbach, and Mark Nelson) and Paul Stever (musicians); Ann Agrimson, John Lauber, Lisa Morse, Jan Sanden (communion servers); Jan Sanden (lector); James Flaten, Seth Strudthoff (worship tech facilitators); Sheila Hougen (Zoom facilitator); Muffi Abrahamson (greeter); John Pignatello, Bimose Rowan, Jim Rowan, Karen Westwood (ushers); Jacob Lanthier, Viva Whitney (acolytes); Ruth Hedman (altar guild); Carol Flaten, Kathy Kufus (communion clean-up); Diane Greve, Ann Rolle (healing prayer); Donna Neste (land acknowledgment); Alden and Rebecca Tetlie, (fellowship hosts)

GATHERING

+ Indicates the assembly stand as able.

Assembly parts are marked in **bold**.

ELW refers to the red hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

ACS refers to *All Creation Sings*, an *ELW* supplement.

Prelude Now the Heavens Start to Whisper arr. James Biery (2018)

Welcome

Land Acknowledgment

This Land Acknowledgment, and our response, are both a work in progress. We're actively engaged in a process to move beyond a simple acknowledgment, and toward a more active commitment. Watch for more opportunities for our community.

We gather for worship on the land of our Creator. Many of us and our church building dwell in the traditional home of the Dakota people, and a land over which the Anishinaabeg people and others also moved. They gathered and ate food, rested, died and gave birth, and prayed here, and many still do.

+ Confession and Forgiveness

We gather in the name of the triune God. **Amen.**

As we confess our sins, we recognize how easily we overlook the gifts God gives. Let us pray.

God, we want a faith that feels like more than words.

We have lost our appetites for mere thoughts and prayers,

but we fail to match our intentions to our actions.

Forgive us and restore us to wholeness.

Beloveds, God forgives you all your sins, not because of what you have done or failed to do, but because God does. And we cannot help but be changed. **Amen.**

+ **Hymn** Christ, Our Love ACS 1037 by Marty Haugen



+ Lighting the Advent Candles and Prayer of the Day

Each of our Advent candles represents God's generous goodness, the advent of Jesus, God's greatest gift, the Spirit's fluttering flicker of joy. As we light each candle, we recognize the gifts God has given us this week.

Your love grows unseen, holy God;
we prepare for you every day.

WORD

Children's Message

First Reading - Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the
LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

+ Gospel Reading - Luke 1:39-55

The gospel according to Luke the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a
Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the
house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When
Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her
womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and

Pero tú, Belén Efrata,
pequeña entre los clanes de Judá,
de ti saldrá el que gobernará a Israel;
sus orígenes son de un pasado distante,
desde tiempos antiguos.
Por eso Dios los entregará al enemigo
hasta que tenga su hijo la que va a ser madre
y vuelva junto al pueblo de Israel
el resto de sus hermanos.
Él se establecerá y los pastoreará
con el poder del SEÑOR,
con la majestad del nombre del SEÑOR su Dios.
Vivirán seguros, porque él dominará
hasta los confines de la tierra.
¡Él será nuestra paz!

Palabra de Dios, palabra de vida.

Demos gracias a Dios.

A los pocos días María emprendió viaje y se fue de prisa a
un pueblo en la región montañosa de Judea. Al llegar,
entró en casa de Zacarías y saludó a Elisabet. Tan pronto
como Elisabet oyó el saludo de María, la criatura saltó en

exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

And Mary said,

su vientre. Entonces Elisabet, llena del Espíritu Santo, exclamó:—¡Bendita tú entre las mujeres y bendito el hijo que darás a luz! Pero ¿cómo es esto que la madre de mi Señor venga a verme? Te digo que tan pronto como llegó a mis oídos la voz de tu saludo, saltó de alegría la criatura que llevo en el vientre. ¡Dichosa tú que has creído, porque lo que el Señor te ha dicho se cumplirá!

Entonces dijo María:

All Sing

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

ELW 251

Sermon - Pastor Susan Debner

+ Hymn of the Day

Awake, Awake

ELW 242

+ Prayers of the People

Following each petition:

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

+ Sharing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

La paz de Cristo sea siempre con ustedes.

Y también contigo.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ using these or similar words “Peace be with you” or “La paz del Señor.”

MEAL

Offertory

Unexpected and Mysterious

Calvin Hampton (ELW 258)

+Offertory Prayer

Together we pray. Holy Spirit, please bless these small gifts we give.

You set the table with plenty of love.

Prepare room in your home, a place in your vision, and a seat at your table

for my neighbor and me. Amen.

+The Great Thanksgiving

God is with you.

And also with you.

Offer your hearts to God.

We do, because we know God cares for us.

We give thanks to God.

God always deserves our thanks and praise.

...*What you have done for them you have also done for us. So we sing your praise:*

+Sanctus

Music: CRANHAM, arr. Paul Stever



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, God of gent - le might,
heav - en shines with splen - dor, earth un - veils your light. Soft ho - san - nas fill the skies,
"Glo - ry" swells on high. Blest be God's own who comes Je - sus — Christ.

+Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

+The Lord's Prayer

Our Creator, Our Mother, 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.

Creador nuestro, Madre nuestra, Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu nombre. Venga tu reino. Hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día. Perdona nuestras ofensas como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden. No nos dejes caer en tentación y líbranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es el poder y tuya es la gloria, ahora y siempre. Amén.

Holy Communion

We believe that Jesus Christ is present in Holy Communion with gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. All who hunger for the presence of Christ in their life are invited to partake. By our participation in this meal and blessing, we are strengthened in faith and in life. All are welcome to commune.

If you are at home and sitting with others...

When sharing the bread with someone, say to them: "This is the body of Christ, given for you." When sharing the wine or grape juice, say, "This is the blood of Christ, shed for you."

If you are at home on your own...

Hear the voice of the pastor naming these promises of grace and life for you. If you'd prefer a blessing, hear these promises: "You are a beloved child of God. May God strengthen you with grace through Christ for all we face today."

If you are worshiping in-person today...

We invite you to come forward to receive the elements and hear the words of promise, or to receive a blessing. Following the direction of the ushers, come forward: pick up a cup, gather around the table, receive the bread (gluten free is available), the servers will pour into your cup either the red wine or white grape juice, place used cups in the basket. If you'd prefer, coming forward to the front for a blessing is always an option. Children of all ages are welcome to partake in the bread and juice at Holy Communion.

If you seek healing prayers today...

A healing minister is available during Holy Communion this morning. If you'd like prayers for healing for yourself, for those you love, or for other situations, you are invited to come to one of the healing ministers. You can ask for specific prayers, or simply ask them to pray with you...and they will. During this time, you may also dip into the baptismal waters and remember the promises, and light candles for situations around the world and close to home.

Music During Communion

More Than Words

Linnea K. Clark (2024)



1. When twi - light leaves the even - ing sky and night re - veals the
2. When bit - ter days and bar - ren ground sap strength and pow - er and
3. When rough ter - rain makes prog - ress hard, God lev - els what's in the



stars, the far ho - ri - zon hope of God comes sing - ing to our hearts.
voice, ten - a - cious faith will hold us fast; God's hope will say, re - joice!
way; a ten - der jus - tice will car - ry us, and care will not de - lay.

Refrain



Your love is more than words, O God, a flame you kin - dle, a seed you sow, a



rose that blooms in the snow, and we will mag - ni - fy your love.

What Feast of Love
Each Winter As the Year Grows Older

ELW 487
ELW 252

+Table Blessing

God, what you have planned for us unfolds slowly.

Your love is often unrecognizable, unappreciated, gentle and unnoticed.

But in this place we have noticed what others do not see.

We have tasted your unspoken goodness. And now we will magnify your love.

SENDING

Announcements

+Blessing

This world waits to know that God's love is more than words.

You, beloveds, are bearers of the blessing of

God, the First Whisper, Jesus, the Living Promise, and the Spirit, who Speaks Our Heart.

Go to the world with all justice and peace. **Amen.**

+Sending Hymn

He Came Down

ELW 253

Verses 1, 3, & 4

+Dismissal

Go in peace with God's love beyond words.

Thanks be to God!

Ve en paz con el amor de Dios más allá de las palabras.

Gracias a Dios!

Postlude

Soon and Very Soon

Andre Crouch (ELW 439)

**Staff at University Lutheran
Church of Hope**

Interim Pastor

Rev. Susan Debner (she/her)
susand@ulch.org

Pastor

Rev. Maria Anderson-Lippert (she/her)
mariaa@ulch.org

Minister of Worship and Music

Paul Stever (he/him)
pauls@ulch.org

Church Administrator

Nathan Obrestad (he/him)
nathano@ulch.org

Financial Administrator

Kari Olson (she/her)
kario@ulch.org

Sunday Opener/Closer, Worship Tech

Seth Strudthoff (he/him)
seth.strudthoff@midlandu.edu

Custodian

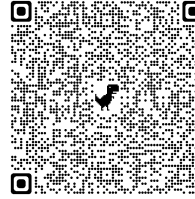
Geremew Beshah (he/him)

Lutheran Campus Pastor

Kate Reuer Welton (she/her)
kate@umnlutheran.org

Giving electronically

Use this QR code to reach the University Lutheran Church of Hope donation page:



Or go to www.ulch.org and click on the “Give” tab.

Thank you for your generous support of God’s ministry through ULCH.

Copyright Acknowledgments

More Than Words: Confession and Forgiveness, Lighting the Advent Candles and Prayer of the Day, Offertory Prayer, Holy Communion, Blessing
© Barn Geese Worship. Used by permission.

“Sighs Too Deep for Words” music and texts by the
Expanded Language Liturgy Team.

Texts and parts of the liturgy from sundaysandseasons.com
unless otherwise noted.

Copyright 2012 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies
Annual License #3625.

Printed music throughout the service reprinted under
OneLicense A-707451 unless otherwise noted.

Scripture excerpts in English from New Revised Standard
Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the
Churches of Christ in the United States of America, unless otherwise noted.
Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Scripture excerpts in Spanish from Santa Biblia,
NUEVA VERSIÓN INTERNACIONAL® NVI®
© 1999, 2015 por Biblica, Inc.® Usado con permiso de Biblica, Inc.®
Reservados todos los derechos en todo el mundo.
Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Fine art images from the Art in the Christian Tradition Database

© 2022 Vanderbilt University Divinity Library



University Lutheran Church of Hope

601 13th Avenue SE

Minneapolis, MN 55414-1437

612.331.5988

www.ulch.org

Office hours: 9am to 2pm weekdays