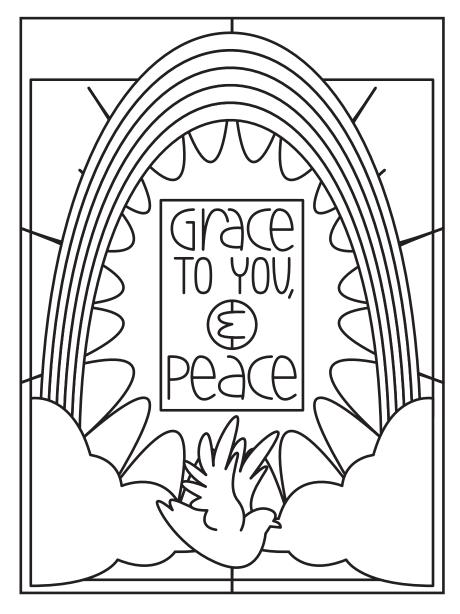
HOPE CHURCH



THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT • DECEMBER 21, 2025

We welcome you to this celebration of God's Good News! We pray that your experience in worship this day is uplifting to you in your life. Whoever you are, and wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith, you are welcome here. If you are visiting with us today, please fill out a welcome card located in the pew pocket and put it in the offertory plate and/or fill out our guest book located in the foyer. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask any church member. If they cannot answer your question, they will find someone who can. Thank you for joining us. May God's blessing and peace be with you.

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S LITURGICAL PARTICIPANTS

The Very Rev. Jared Moore; Celebrant and Preacher
Bruce Ward; Eucharistic Minister
Fran Connelly; Lector
Carol Link; Usher

Today's Music:

Chris Sturgeon (piano), Marion Lyons-Koch (flute), Julie Nguyen (violin), Jennifer Holtmann (vocalist)

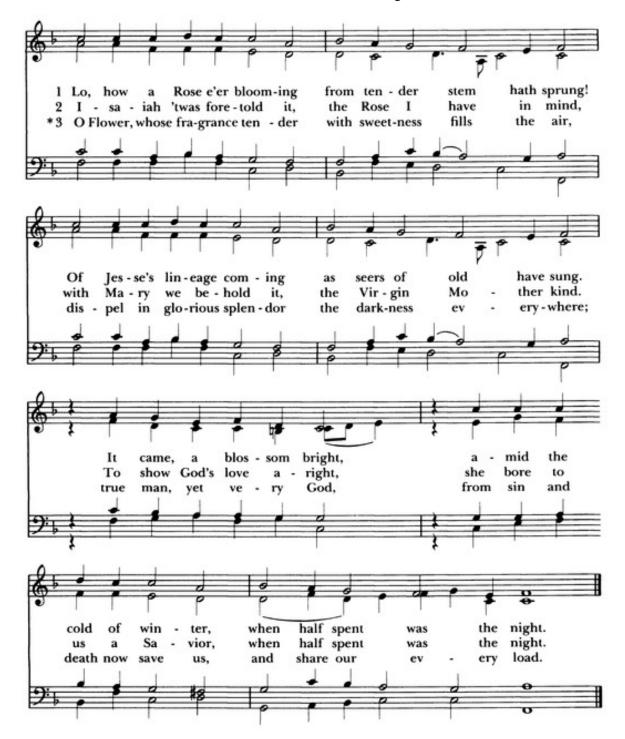
> Kathy Joslin, Carol Link, Carie Kennedy, Mary Miller, Kaye Weerts, Wendy Wirkus; *Altar Guild*

Barry Schenck, Mark Dinzler, Chris Sturgeon, Bob Stirling; Videography

ORDER OF WORSHIP HOLY EUCHARIST

Prelude

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming



Welcome and Announcements

Opening Hymn

Hope for Everyone

Matt Maher & Jason Ingram





LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Celebrant Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

Celebrant May Christ, the One whose coming we await, fill our homes and hearts with joyful

anticipation as we journey to the manger. Amen.

Each week we light an Advent candle as a symbol of our journey. With its light comes our prayers and our stories. The candle of this fourth week of Advent is a candle of LOVE. Today the flame of this candle reminds us of the love that came to this world when Jesus was born and his presence with us. Jesus said "As God has loved me, so I have loved you;

remain in my love."

Hymn Light One Candle

Light one candle for hope, one bright candle for hope. He brings hope to every heart. He comes. He comes.

Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace. He brings peace to every heart. He comes. He comes.

Light one candle for joy, one bright candle for joy. He brings jo to every heart. He comes. He comes.

Light one candle for love, one bright candle for love. He brings love to every heart. He comes. He comes.

The candles are lit.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be the Holy One whose coming we await,

People And blessed be the One who comes to set all people free. Amen.

Celebrant In the tender compassion of our God

People The dawn from on high shall break upon us,

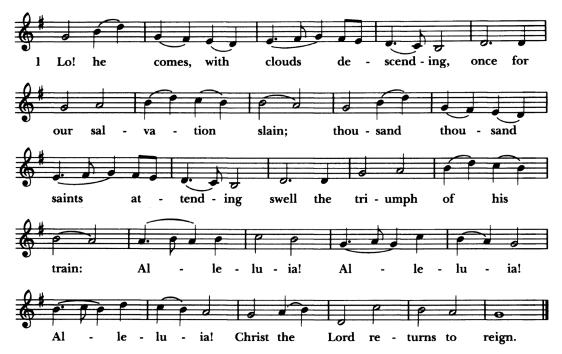
Celebrant To shine on those who dwell in the shadow of death,

People To guide our feet into the way of peace.

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are

hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord is with you. People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ,

at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with

you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

People Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE: Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;*
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,* stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God of hosts;*
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts,*

how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

You have fed them with the bread of tears;*
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbors,* and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts;*

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,*

the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

And so will we never turn away from you;*

give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;*

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

THE EPISTLE: Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Verse 1

Come Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart

Verse 2

Born Thy people to deliver
Born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever
Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON Father Jared

Following the sermon, a brief period of silence is observed.

THE NICENE CREED

All

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

Leader

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." In this holy season of watching and waiting, let us lift our hearts to the One who weaves light from darkness and life from dust.

Weaver of all creation, you spin galaxies into being and breathe life into every creature. Knit together the Church in bonds of love and mercy; mend the torn fabric of our fellowship that we may reflect your beauty to the world. Christ, our light.

People Kindle hope within us.

Leader Word made flesh, you come among us in humility and grace, revealing the face of God in

the heart of humanity. Grant wisdom and compassion to all who lead and serve, that your justice may roll down like living waters, and your peace dwell richly in every land. Christ,

our light.

People Kindle peace within us.

Leader Breath of Life, wild as the wind and gentle as dawn, stir our hearts with the fire of your

love. Move through your world as healing wind, bringing comfort to the weary and courage to the fearful. We pray for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially those

we now name.

The people offer prayers of intercession aloud or in their hearts.

Leader Christ, our light.

People Kindle love within us.

Leader Holy Mystery, you pattern the stars and sing through the oceans; you dwell within all that

has life and breath. Awaken in us delight for the earth, our island home. Teach us to walk

gently upon it, and to honor the web of life that holds us all. Christ, be our light.

People Kindle joy within us.

Leader Compassionate One, you gather your people into the great communion of saints.

Welcome into the fullness of your presence those who have died and now rest in your

eternal light, especially those we now name.

The people offer names of the dead either aloud or in their hearts

Leader Christ, our light.

People Kindle eternal hope within us.

Celebrant God beyond us, beside us, and within us—Source, Word, and Breath of Life—as we await

the coming of Christ in glory, keep us steadfast in faith, abounding in hope, and fearless in love. May the Light that knows no setting find us ever burning bright, until the whole creation is renewed in your radiant grace; through Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

Celebrant We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence

All God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in

our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior

Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus

Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in

eternal life. Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

The Ministers and People greet one another with the Peace of God.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory Sentence

Celebrant St. Paul says each of you should give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or

under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver!

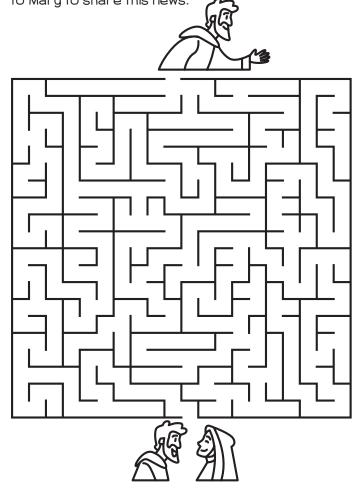
Please be seated.

Contributions to Hope with a debit or credit card can be made by scanning this QR code or by placing them in the offertory plate. Hope Church welcomes and appreciates your financial support!



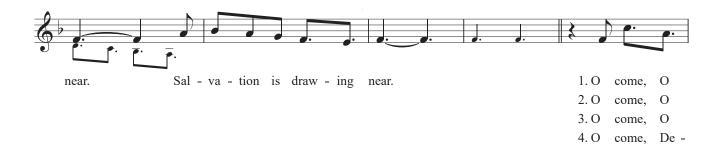
SOLVE(the) MAZE

The angel's appearance to Joseph in a dream changed everything for him! Help Joseph find his way to Mary to share this news.

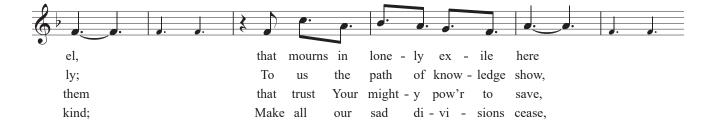














THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.CelebrantLift up your hearts.

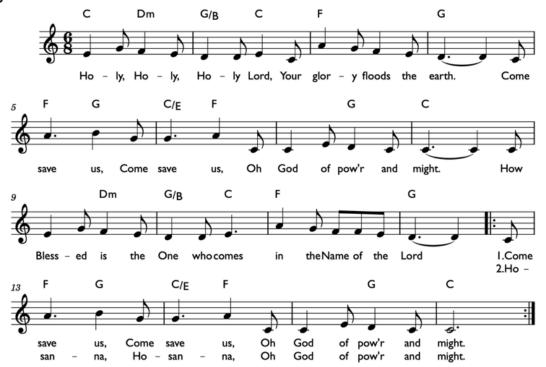
People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God;

through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

SANCTUS



Celebrant

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

People

Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Celebrant

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

People

Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.

Celebrant

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

All

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

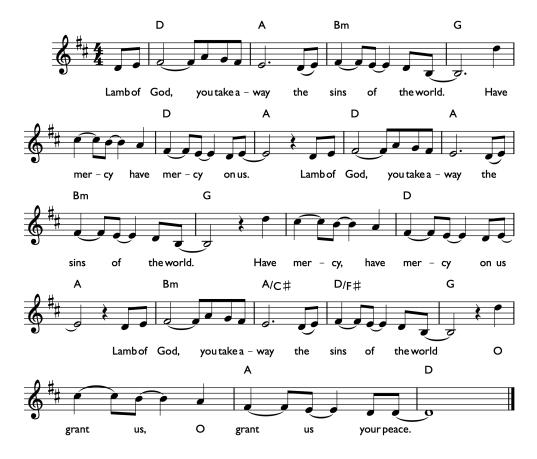
THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ, our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

AGNUS DEI



THE INVITATION

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God!

A consecrated gluten-free wafer may be requested from the Presider.

Please be seated.

Verse 1

You are matchless in grace and mercy There is nowhere we can hide from Your love You are steadfast never-failing You are faithful All creation is in awe of who You are

Verse 2

You're the healer of the sick and the broken You are comfort for ev'ry heart that mourns Our King and our Savior forever For eternity we will sing of all You've done For eternity we will sing of all You've done

Chorus

(We sing) God with us God for us Nothing can come against No one can stand between us God with us God for us Nothing can come against No one can stand between us

Verse 3

Your heart it moves with compassion There is life there is healing in Your love You're the Father the Son the Holy Spirit For eternity we will sing of all You've done

Bridge

Where there was death
You brought life Lord
Where there was fear You brought courage
When I was afraid You were with me
And You're lifting me up
And You're lifting me up

PRAYER FOR SENDING FORTH EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

If a Eucharistic visitor is to be sent, the following prayer is said. If no Eucharistic visitor is sent, the service continues with the Postcommunion Prayer.

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that

those to whom you go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's body and

blood.

People We, who are many, are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

People Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us

with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and

continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Closing Hymn

Glory (Let There Be Peace)

Stevens, Maher, Popadic

Verse 1

One star

Burns in the darkness

Shines with the promise Emmanuel

One child

Born in the stillness

Living within us Emmanuel

Chorus

We're singing Glory Glory Let there be peace let there be peace Singing Glory Glory Let there be peace let it start in mee

Verse 2

One voice
Speaks for the voiceless
Hope for the hopeless Emmanuel
One love
Brings us together
Now and forever Emmanuel

Bridge

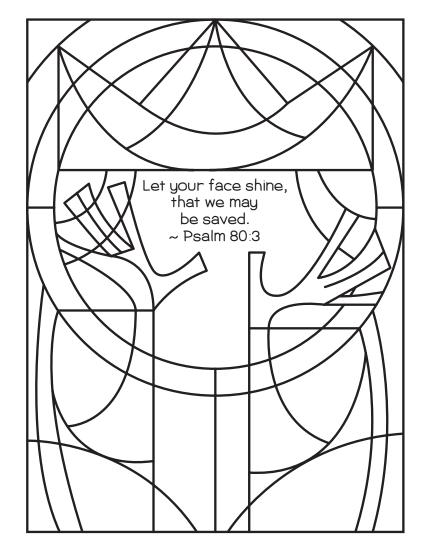
Do not be afraid His love is strong enough to save us Nothing stands in the way His love is strong enough to lead us (REPEAT)

THE DISMISSAL

The Celebrant will offer words of dismissal.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude



HOPE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

This Week at Hope		
Sun 12/21	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Service Coffee Fellowship
Wed 12/24	5:00 pm 7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service Christmas Eve Service
Thu 12/25	10:00 pm	Christmas Day Service
Sun 12/7	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Service Coffee Fellowship

NEXT SUNDAY

Lessons:

Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 147 or 147:13-21 Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7 John 1:1-18 Serving:

Eucharistic Minister: Bruce Ward Lector: Mark Gelsthorpe Usher: Dave Miller

TODAY WE PRAY FOR:

- Those who need strength and healing: Ellie Burd, Evie Morgan, The Rev. Fred Breitfeld, The Thorpe Family, Katrina Schreiber, Donna Bahr, Alexandra Link, Larry Ward, T. J. Guffey, Roger Koch, Robert Wright, Patricia Joslin, Adelaide Marie Casavant and her Family, Judi Duncan, Paul Hacunda, Mara Oien, Rhett Schenck, Mark & Lisa Hehner, for Marion Lyon's family and friends as they recover from the hurricane in Jamaica, Jeff Brueckman, and David Westfall
- Those who are homebound: Dru Rees, Mark & Linda Dinzler, Lois Wade, Bobbee Ross, Pam Finch, Jack Thompson, Nancy Fleming, Marthel Taylor

- Our Episcopal Church: The Most Rev. Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop; The Rt. Rev Deon Johnson, our bishop; The Very Rev. Jared Moore, our priest
- In our Diocese of Missouri, we pray for Trinity Episcopal Church in St. James and Kevin, their Priest-in-Charge; and Pat, their Deacon
- In our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, we pray for St. Bartholomew the Apostle (Misión San Bartolomé, Apóstol) in Lares
- In the Anglican Communion, we pray for The Anglican Church of Burundi

• Those who mourn.

Please make a prayer request by filling out a prayer request card located in the pew pocket and place it in the offering plate.

CIRCLE OF CONCERN

Don't forget, we deliver to Circle of Concern for you! Bring your non-perishables and toiletries with you on Sunday! Current URGENT needs are: baking basics and mixes, boxed potatoes and rice, canned and dry beans, canned chicken, canned tomatoes, dinner helpers, pasta sauce, peanut butter, pull-ups.

THANK YOU!

To all who donated time, talent, and financial or material support to the preschool for the Santa's Workshop, teacher Christmas gifts, and the Christmas program, THANK YOU! We couldn't have pulled it all off without you! Thank you for sharing your blessings. May your Christmas season be blessed in return.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES

Sunday School will resume at 9:00 am on January 11. See you then!

YOGA WITH HEIDI

Join us here on Wednesdays at 9:30 am. This is a gentle yoga practice. Newcomers are always welcome! Mats and other props are available. There is no cost but a donation to the church is greatly appreciated. And remember all of Heidi's past classes are on YouTube that you can access through our website hopestl. church.

WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP

The Women's Study Group meets at 4 pm the first and third Wednesdays of the month. We meet for friendship and spiritual discussions at Mike Duffy's, 1024 Schnuck's Woodsmill Plaza.are welcome to attend regularly or sporadically. If you have questions or need more information, contact Lesley McIntire at 314-341-0816.

YOUTH GROUP

Hope Youth Group (grades 6-12) meets at the rectory the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 6:00–7:30 pm. Dinner is provided!

ALTAR FLOWERS

Do you have an occasion you would like to commemorate? A person you would like to honor or remember? Sponsor our Sunday morning fresh flowers! We will purchase and arrange the flowers and include your occasion/honor/remembrance in the Sunday bulletin for \$50.00. Contact Kathy Joslin at 636-341-7694.

Hope Episcopal Church

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Bishop of the Diocese of Missouri: The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson

Priest-in-Charge: The Very Rev. Jared Moore Office: 314-576-5502 Email: jared@hopestl.church For pastoral emergencies: 573-795-4448

Organist/Choirmaster: Bobbi Reese

Please text: 314-497-5145 Email: cestbrastl@hotmail.com

Contemporary Music Director: Chris Sturgeon Cell phone: 314-917-2052 Email: sturfry@aol.com