



***Henrietta United Church of Christ***

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Ministers: Everyone!

## **Order of Worship**

**10:30 AM**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**November 28, 2021**

**Hanging of the Greens**

**WELCOME TO THE HENRIETTA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!**

***WE GATHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST***

### **CENTERING MUSIC FOR ADVENT (*in unison*)**

People, look east, the time is near of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able, Trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today: Hope the Guest is on the way.

*Words by Eleanor Farjeon (1928), adapted; Tune: Besançon, French folk melody.*

**WELCOME!**

Pastor Martha

### **PASSING OF THE PEACE (*one / many*)**

May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

*Please greet one another in the spirit of Christ's love and peace by sharing messages of peace with your pew neighbors or in the comments in our broadcast.*

### **SUNG RESPONSE "There's a Spirit of Love in This Place" .**

There's a spirit of love in this place, there's a spirit of love in this place.

You can't see it, but it's there, just as precious as the air.

There's a spirit of love in this place.

O alleluia, sing alleluia! We bless your holy name.

O alleluia, sing alleluia! There's a spirit of love in this place.

*Words and Music by Mark Miller (2003)*

## **WE OPEN OUR HEARTS TO GOD'S RENEWING PRESENCE**

### **\*+CALL TO WORSHIP** (*one / many*)

Pastor Martha

We come from a world of darkness, **Into Christ's world of light.**  
We come from a world of weariness, **Into God's strength and hope.**  
We come from a slumbering world. **Awakened by the Spirit's touch.**  
Let us watch in hope for the coming of Christ!

### **\*OPENING HYMN** "There's a Voice in the Wilderness"

There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod:  
Prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low:  
make straight all the crooked places where Emmanuel may go!

O Zion, who offers good tidings, to the height of the mountains dare!  
Lift your voice to the cities of Judah: "Behold your God!" declare.  
Like the flowers of the field we perish, our human works decay,  
the power and pomp of nations shall pass like a dream away.

But the word of our God is forever, our Defender's will is strong;  
God stands in the midst of nations, to render right the wrong.  
Then God shall be as a shepherd, the lambs gathered to God's breast;  
and pastures of peace shall greet them, to give to the weary rest.

Text: J. Lewis Milligan, 1925; alt. Tune: Ascension, by H. Hugh Bancroft, 1938.

### **++THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE** (*one / many*)

Elizabeth Pixley

When I look around, I see shadows of hunger: some people have plenty to eat,  
but many will go to bed hungry tonight. When I look around, I see shadows of  
injustice: the rich say "Buy, buy, buy!", but many will go to bed jobless tonight.  
When I look around, I see shadows of despair: though we may post happy  
photos on Facebook, someone somewhere will fall asleep under a bridge tonight.  
**In the face of hunger, injustice and despair, let us light a candle of hope.**

*(The first purple Advent candle is lit...)*

May the light from this candle say to all that God's hope is coming on earth  
as it is in heaven.

**And may we bear witness to that hope!**

### **SUNG RESPONSE** (*in unison*)

People, look east, the time is near of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able, Trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today: Hope the Guest is on the way!

+PRAYER OF RENEWAL (*Let us pray together. . .*)

Pastor Jason

**O God, with thankful hearts we pause to be reminded of our hope: that the storms, the demands, even the blessings of this world do not have the last word. You are the one who was and is, and who is yet to come—a ruler of a different kind. Although we often fail to care for each other and the earth, you never give up on us, but offer forgiveness and reconciliation for all. Open our hearts to the comfort, the challenge, and the mystery of this good news. Amen.**

+WORDS OF GOD’S ENDURING LOVE (*one / many*)

Pastor Jason

Take heart, for God is not finished with us yet! God comes again and again, to lift and heal, to redirect and inspire, to reconcile and renew. In Christ we are forgiven and given strength to grow in discipleship. Thanks be to God!  
**Alleluia and amen!**

### **WE WATCH AND LISTEN FOR GOD’S GOOD NEWS**

**PREPARING THE WAY AT ADVENT**

Pastor Martha

**GREENS: NEW LIFE TO COME**

Linda Traynor

*As we sing, worshipers at the east end of the pews place greens in windows.*

**CAROL**

“Lo How a Rose E’er Blooming”

Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming from tender stem has sprung!  
Of Jesse’s lineage coming, as saints of old have sung.  
It came a floweret bright,  
Amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.  
Isaiah had foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,  
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.  
To show God’s love aright,  
She bore to us a Savior, when half-spent was the night.

Text: German, 15th century; transl. Theodore Baker, 1894, alt.

Tune: *Es ist ein Ros’*, in *Katholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, Cologne, 1599, Harm. Michael Praetorius, 1609.

**PURPLE: ROYALTY AND REPENTANCE**

Adam H.

*As we sing, Deacons set purple paraments in place.*

**CAROL**

“Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

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.

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

*Text: Charles Wesley, 1744; Tune: Hyfrydol, Rowland H. Prichard, c. 1830, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906*

**CANDLES: LIGHT SHINING IN THE DARKNESS**

Henry Stone

*As we sing, worshipers at the east end of the pews place candles in windows.*

**CAROL** "Hope is a Star"

Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
leading us on till the morning is bright.  
When God is a child there's joy in our song,  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid!

*Text: Brian Wren, 1985; Tune: MOONBEAMS, Joan Collier Fogg, 1987, Words & music ©1989 Hope Publishing Co.*

**STARS: LEADING THE WAY TO LIFE**

Casey H.

*As the choir comes forward, the stars are hung and the tree is lit.*

**ANTHEM** "O Come to Us, Emmanuel" by Joseph M. Martin

Choir

**CHRISMONS: MESSAGES ABOUT CHRIST'S BIRTH**

Isaiah B.

*As we sing, CE Board members and Teachers come forward to hang Chrismons.*

**CAROL** "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echo back their joyous strains  
Glo--ria in excelsis Deo! Glo--ria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say, what may the tidings be  
which inspire your heavenly song?  
Glo--ria in excelsis Deo! Glo--ria in excelsis Deo!

*Text: Traditional French carol, 18th C.; tr. Crown of Jesus Music, 1862, alt.*

*Tune: GLORIA, Traditional French melody, 18th C.; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1937; desc. Richard E. Gerig, 1956.*

**CHRISMONS: WHO JESUS WAS AND WHAT HE DID**

Lydia B. and Courtney B.

*As we sing, the Deacons come forward to hang Chrismons.*

**CAROL**

“Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child”

Jesus, Jesus, O what a wonderful Child!  
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild;  
New life, new hope the Child will bring.  
Listen -- to the angels sing,  
“Glory, glory, glory,” let the heavens ring!

Jesus, Jesus, you are the Savior of all!  
Jesus, Jesus, although you seem so small,  
You’ve come in all our hearts to dwell.  
Listen -- to the story I tell:  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, you’re Emmanuel!

Text: African-American traditional; alt., found in *The New Century Hymnal*, #136; v.2 Martha Koenig Stone ©1993.  
Tune: WONDERFUL CHILD, African-American traditional, arr. Jeffrey Radford 1992.

**CHRISMONS: WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT JESUS**

Pastor Jason

*As we sing, the Trustees come forward to hang Chrismons.*

**CAROL**

“Of the Father's Love Begotten”

Of the Father’s love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see  
ever more and ever more.

Christ, to thee with the Creator and the Spirit, One in Three,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
and unwearied praises be:  
honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,  
ever more and ever more.

Text: Marcus Aurelius C. Prudentius, 4th C; tr. John M. Neale, 1854, and Henry W. Baker, 1859, alt.  
Tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, Plainsong, c. 13th C; arr. based on C. Winged Douglas, 1916.

**CRÈCHE: PLACE OF AWE AND WONDER**

Su Grimes

*As we sing, youth bring crèche figures forward and place them on the altar.*

**CAROL**

**“Once in Royal David’s City”**

Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus was her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:  
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

*Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; Tune: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849.*

***WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO GOD’S SERVICE***

**INVITATION TO GRATEFUL GIVING**

Pastor Martha

**OFFERTORY “Veni Emmanuel” arr. Thomas Helmore**

Chime Choir

**\*DOXOLOGY FOR ADVENT (*in unison*)**

Praise God, whose dawn transfigures night,  
Whose Daystar shines for us on high,  
Whose Spirit brings into our sight,  
The Hope which to our world draws nigh.

*Text: David B. Bowman, in The Westminster Collection of Christian Prayers, ©1973 John Knox Press; Tune: Geneva Psalter (1551)*

**+PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Let us pray together. . .*)**

**O God, you who have given us life and have made every child a holy child, we give you thanks. May our generous giving reflect the opening of our hearts and the deepening of our commitment to you and to your world – for the sake of the children who are our future. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD’S PRAYER (*unison*)**

Pastor Jason

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Eric Falla

**\*SENDING HYMN**

“The King of Glory Comes”

The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.  
Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.

Who is the King of glory? How shall we call him?  
He is Immanuel, the promised of ages.

The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.  
Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.

*Text: ©1966, 1985 Willard F. Jabusch;*

*Tune: PROMISED ONE, Traditional Israeli melody; arr. John Ferguson, 1973, ©1973 United Church Press*

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor Martha

**POSTLUDE**

Robin Bower

*Please remain seated for the Postlude.*

**WE RETURN TO THE WORLD  
RENEWED AND EMPOWERED BY GOD’S SPIRIT**

*As our worship ends, our service begins.*

***Please join us outside after worship for fellowship time together.***

*+Portions of today’s service are adapted from “Advent/Christmas Liturgies, Year C, First Sunday of Advent,” from Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church: [Advent/Christmas Liturgies, Year C](#)*

*++Today’s Advent candle reading was adapted from materials by SaltProject.org, found at <https://www.saltproject.org/progressive-christian-blog/advent-candle-lighting-litanies>*

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