



First Sunday after Christmas

December 28, 2025 10:30 a.m.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE "Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella" French Carol; Arr. Paul Laubengayer

(Indicates that all who are comfortably able are invited to stand)*

*CALL TO WORSHIP (1)

One: How magnificent is all creation!

All: God's love is poured throughout all God has created.

One: God's love is poured out upon us each day.

All: Praise be to God!

One: Let your souls and spirits rejoice at the goodness of God.

All: Let all the people praise God!

One: Go, tell it on the mountain: Jesus Christ is born! Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN "Go, Tell It on The Mountain" #154 *New Century Hymnal*

(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)

Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere.

Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. Refrain**

**The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain**

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (2)**

We come to you this day, gracious God, exhausted from all the activities of the season. It seems that we spend so much energy, time, and resources in preparation, and then when it is over, we collapse. We wonder what happened to all the enthusiasm we had. Forgive us for placing our energies in getting and gathering. Give us peace and strength to renew our commitment to you. Remind us again to look around at the many ways in which we can be of service to you by serving others. Help us move forward in our compassion and not collapse in our witness. Heal us, merciful Lord, for we ask this in Jesus' Name.

(moment of silent confession)

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE (3)**

Though the world swirls around you and exhaustion threatens to overtake you, rest your spirits in the great God of all creation who is with you now and forever! God will give you strength and restore your spirits.

Thanks be to God!

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE: "Angels We Have Heard on High" #125 refrain**

(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)

Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo!

***PASSING THE PEACE**

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

LISTENING

God speaks to us in the Word proclaimed.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 63:7-9

Pew Bible p. 605

A Word of God that is still speaking, **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

DeeDee Yanczer

SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF REFLECTION "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem" #51 *New Century Hymnal*
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**O sing a song of Bethlehem, of shepherds watching there,
And of the news that came to them from angels in the air:
The light that shone on Bethlehem fills all the world today;
Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth the angels sing always.**

**O sing a song of Nazareth, of days of joy and sun,
O sing of fragrant flowers' breath, and of the sinless One:
For now the flowers of Nazareth in every heart may grow;
Now spread the fame of Jesus' name on all the winds that blow.**

**O sing a song of Galilee, of lake and woods and hill,
Of One who walked upon the sea and bade its waves be still:
For though, like waves on Galilee, rough seas of trouble roll,
When faith has heard the Savior's word, falls peace upon the soul.**

**O sing a song of Calvary, its glory and dismay,
Of One who hung upon the tree, and took our sins away:
For Christ who died on Calvary is risen from the grave;
God's sovereign Child, who reconciled, is mighty now to save.**

RESPONDING

We respond to God's Word through our prayers and our gifts.

NAMING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

OFFERTORY "Away In a Manger" (Cradle Song) Richard Lloyd
(A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving.)

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE #782 *New Century Hymnal*

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light, to Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise our joyful songs of thankful praise.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*COMMISSIONING HYMN “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” #129 *New Century Hymnal*
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now give heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow, asleep within the manger now,
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now you know of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
God has opened heaven’s door, and you are blessed forevermore.
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now you need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!**

*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Sing We Now of Christmas” Based on a France Carol; Gordon Young

SENDING

With God’s blessing, we are sent forth to follow Christ in the world.

Worship Endnotes:

1. Adapted from www.ministrymatters.com
2. Adapted from www.ministrymatters.com
3. Adapted from www.ministrymatters.com

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Hope United Church of Christ Statement of Welcome and Mission
No matter where you are on life’s journey, you are invited to enter the big red doors of Hope United Church of Christ. We are an open congregation. We believe that every person is a child of God and all are welcome, regardless of race, economic background, marital status, gender, gender identity(ies) / expression(s), sexual orientation, age, physical or mental ability, nationality or faith history. It is our mission, inspired by God’s Holy Spirit, to engage persons in living out the gospel of Jesus Christ. Please come, for all things are ready.

--Adopted by Hope UCC Congregation August 29, 2010

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ministries of Hope UCC!*