

ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Northport, New York

November 28, 2021 ~ 10:00AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRAYERFUL REFLECTION

'Advent is like living in the wilderness between what was and what will be. Living into this tension, remembering God's promises, and depending on faith become spiritual disciplines ... Even though the Promised Land may seem far off, we hold tightly to the promises of our God, for "he who promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10:23 NIV).

GREETING AND WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

After our theme is shared, a soloist sings:

Hope waits for us at Advent
Hope waits for us to trust.
Hope waits for our commitment
to a land that's kind and just.

In this time of preparation
for the work of co-creation,
for the birthing of a world
that heals the ones in pain.
Hope is born in us again!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

THE PEACE

The Hope of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

*As we rise in body or spirit for our opening hymn, I invite you to pass a
"wave" of peace to the people around you
(and the people worshipping at home)!*

OPENING HYMN “All The Earth Is Waiting” UMH#210 (V 1, 2, 4)

*Words: Catalanian Text by Alberto Taulè; English translation by Gertrude C. Suppe
Music: Alberto Taulè ©1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. “Permission to reprint/ podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License 731642”*

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One, and the open furrows, the sowing of the Lord. All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty; it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

Thus says the prophet to those of Israel, "A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel," for his name is "God with us," our brother shall be, with him hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain; open new highways, new highways for the Lord. He is now coming closer, so come all and see, and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

In lowly stable the Promised One appeared, yet, feel his presence throughout the earth today, for he lives in all Christians and is with us now; again, with his coming he brings us liberty.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 33:14-16 (CEB)

SPECIAL MUSIC

A TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

SECOND READING Psalm 25: 1-10 (CEB)

SERMON “Housing The Holy – Week 1”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

“Make Of My Heart A Stable” Refrain:

**Make of my heart a stable,
a house for the holy,
a warm and sturdy place
for [hope] to live and grow.**

In this moment we open the doors of our hearts to honesty before God about what we've done and left undone that created less hope in a hurting world. Let us breathe out this regret and breathe in the life-giving, for-giving Spirit of God and out again with the Peace of Christ...

Singing Refrain

In this moment we open the doors of our lives to the call of the Spirit, inviting us to become more than we can ask or imagine. Let us breathe out our fear and breathe in the courage of the Spirit of God and out again, with the Peace of Christ.

Singing Refrain

In this moment we open the doors of this church, filling it with the compassion of Christ for all those who are struggling.
We remember and pray for...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

A STORY OF INNKEEPING: Anchor Investments, Nashville, TN

THE OFFERING

Please consider one of these ways to donate your offering: by check, bill pay, Venmo (@StPaulsUMC), or Paypal (spumcFinance@optimum.net)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**CLOSING HYMN: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" UMH # 230
(Verses 1, 3, 4, & below)**

Words: Phillips Brooks, Music: Lewis H. Redner 1868

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given; so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may

hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Where children pure and happy pray to the blessed Child,
Where misery cries out to thee, Son of the Mother mild;
Where charity stands watching and faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks, and Christmas comes once more.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

¹ Excerpt from “Here, But Not Yet: The Feeling of Advent” by Matt Rawle ©2020, <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/7850/here-but-not-yet-the-feeling-of-advent>

Our Thanks to Today’s Worship Team!

Ushers

Hope Mann, Betty White, Janet Griebert, Allison Byers

Scripture Reader

Molly Brand

Zoom Worship Assistant

Sue Sprague

Camera Team

John McGrath & Jack Maisch

Today’s Guest Musician is

Amanda Accardi