

First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 2025
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 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 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.

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.

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

FOREST GREEN (ELW 250)

arr. Bradley Sowash

ULCHers Band

Welcome

Call to Confession

Friends, if you long to feel closer to God, then the Prayer of Confession is a step in the right direction. For in the Prayer of Confession, we lay our hearts before God. We pour out the truth of our lives. We do not hide anything from our Creator, and in that simple act, God somehow always feels closer.

So join me in this prayer. Join me as we invite God to draw closer, to break in here.

Prayer of Confession

Ever-present God, we long to feel you close. We long to feel your presence in our lives.

We long for you to break through the chaos and suffering of this world.

However, if we're honest, we rarely stand still long enough to feel you in our midst.

Forgive our rushing and distractions. Forgive our wandering hearts, and center us in this space.

Remind us that even in the time of Herod, even on the longest nights, you are always there. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith, even when we doubt God's presence, even when we fail to notice God's fingerprints in this world, God is always moving closer to us. Hear and believe the good news this Advent season:

Nothing can keep God's love away. We are seen. We are forgiven. We are not alone. Amen.

+ Gathering Hymn

We Are Waiting for Jesus ACS 905, by John Helgen (2013)



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

+ Lighting the Advent Candle

In a world full of fear, where do you see hope?

We see hope when we look to the next generation. We feel hopeful when we gather together.

We know hope, deep in our bones, when we dream of a better world.

You are right. Even in a fearful world, hope is all around us. Today we light the candle of hope as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that we have reason to hope.

(The candle is lit.)

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Hymn

O Come, Take Heart

Text: Anna Strickland (2025)

Sung to the tune for "O Come, O Come, Immanuel" (VENI IMMANUEL)

O come, O come though timid and unsure

And trust that God declares your worth.

Remember when you're feeling small

That every child of God is called.

Refrain:

Take heart, take heart! The One who calls to you

Will give you strength and see you through.

WORD

Children's Message

Reading - Lamentations 3:55-57

I called on your name, O LORD,
from the depths of the pit;
you heard my plea, "Do not close your ear
to my cry for help, but give me relief."

Desde lo más profundo de la fosa
invoqué, SEÑOR, tu nombre,
y tú escuchaste mi plegaria:
«No cierres tus oídos a mi clamor de alivio».

You came near when I called on you;
you said, "Do not fear!"

Word of God. Word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Te invoqué, y viniste a mí;
«No temas», me dijiste.

Palabra de Dios, palabra de vida.
Demos gracias a Dios.

+ Gospel Acclamation

God Came Down

ELW 253

1. **God came down that we may have love;
God came down that we may have love;
God came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.**
2. **God came down that we may have hope;
God came down that we may have hope;
God came down that we may have hope;
hallelujah forevermore.**

+ Gospel Reading - Luke 1:5-13

The gospel according to Luke, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

En tiempos de Herodes, rey de Judea, hubo un sacerdote llamado Zacarías, miembro del grupo de Abías. Su esposa Elisabet también era descendiente de Aarón. Ambos eran rectos e intachables delante de Dios; obedecían todos los mandamientos y preceptos del Señor. Pero no tenían hijos, porque Elisabet era estéril y los dos eran de edad avanzada. Un día en que Zacarías, por haber llegado el turno de su grupo, oficiaba como sacerdote delante de Dios, le tocó en suerte, según la costumbre del sacerdocio, entrar en el Templo del Señor para quemar incienso. Cuando llegó la hora de ofrecer el incienso, la multitud reunida afuera estaba orando. En esto un ángel del Señor se apareció a Zacarías a la derecha del altar del incienso. Al verlo, Zacarías se asustó y el temor se apoderó de él. El ángel dijo:—No tengas miedo, Zacarías, pues ha sido escuchada tu oración. Tu esposa Elisabet te dará un hijo y le pondrás por nombre Juan.

El Evangelio del Señor.

Alabanza a ti, oh Cristo!

Sermon - Pastor Amanda Simons

+ Hymn of the Day

Let the Fires of Justice Grow

Text: Anna Strickland (2025)

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker (1835)



Fear is grow-ing all a - round us, plant - ed there by
Bind the chaff and light the mat-ches, let the fires of
A - ny - where God's chil-dren suf - fer, a - ny - where they



hu - man power Chok - ing out our li - ber - a - tion
jus - tice grow Watch the flames con - sume our bon-dage,
live in fear A - ny - where op - pres - sion deep - ens,



as King He - rod o'er us towers Yet the force of hu - man
trans - form - ing our fear to hope May the fire that we ig -
a - ny - where they sow in tears Let us shine the light of



em-pires can't take root in kin - dom ground We'll up - root
ni - ted fuel us for the work a - head Free the cap -
jus - tice, fueled by fear that had us bound Hand in hand,



the fear they plan - ted, li - ber - ate those whom they bound
tive, heal the bro - ken, fol - low - ing where Christ has led
pro - claim God's kin - dom 'til we top - ple ev - ery crown

+ Affirmation of Faith

We have seen the valley. We have seen a sky without stars. We have seen the longest night, and *still* we believe.

We believe in a with-us God. We believe in the hope of tomorrow.

We believe that good news is louder than fear. We believe this good news is for all people.

So even when our knees shake, even when our voice trembles, even when fear is all around us, we will hold onto that good news.

We will reach for each other. We will look for God in our midst.

We will sing songs of joy. We will proclaim: *Unto us, love is born.*

We have seen the longest night, and we have seen unimaginable love. So *still*, we believe. Amen.

+ Prayers of the People

Following each petition:

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

+ Sharing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

La paz de Cristo sea siempre con ustedes.

And also with you.

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

Show Up

Britt Kusserow (2025)

ULCHers Band

This song was commissioned by Sanctified Art for this year's Advent Theme

Verse 1: Sun setting early, get out the candles
What do you picture in these growing shadows?

So much revealed in a spark
What do you fear in the dark?

Verse 2: Thoughts run like branches, losing their leaves
Questioning safety as the rules change around me

Worries that loved ones will fall
Knowing that safe isn't all

Refrain: I believe that a God, born into empire
A little brave candle against growing shadows

Carries the message that hope is enough
Fearful or not, we show up. We show up.

Verse 3: You who are tired, you who are worn
Know that your actions will carry beyond you

Weary and slow on your feet
Know you are more than belief

Verse 4: Fear can be message, fear can be gift
Be not afraid of the fear that's beside you

If met with a curious heart
Let it be known who you are

Refrain: I believe...

Thank you for your continued generosity! Donations may be sent electronically or by mail, or placed in the offering plate in the center of our space as you come forward for Holy Communion. A QR code is available on the last page of the bulletin.

+Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. Creator God,

in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all. Amen.

+The Great Thanksgiving

Text adapted by P. Stever; Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune



L: May God be with you on this day. C: May God be with you too.



L: Lift up your hearts with gra - ti - tude, C: with joy they ov - er - flow.



L: Let us now and al - ways give God thanks. C: This is right and just to do.



L: That all the world may know God's love. C: A - men, let it be so.

It is indeed...join their unending hymn:

+ Sanctus

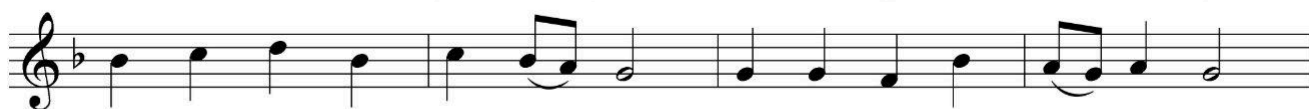
Holy, Holy, Holy

Text adapted by Paul Stever

Music: NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND (1524, J. Walter)



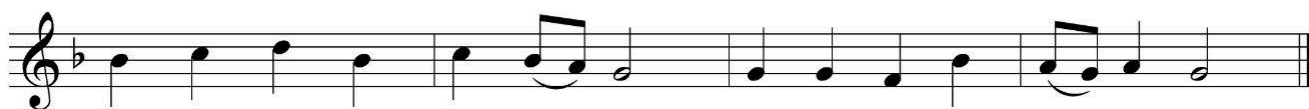
Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One, God of pow - er, God of might,



heav - en shines with splen - dor bright. All the earth will see your light.



Loud ho - san - nas fill the heights round the Bless - ed One, Most High.



We with an - gels in the sky, glo - ri - a, ho - san - na cry.

+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

Lost in the Night	ELW 243
As the Dark Awaits the Dawn	ELW 261
Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn	ELW 242

+Table Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

+Prayer after Communion

Loving God, In a world racked with fear, you gather us together. You set the table. You meet us here. You nourish our bodies as you nourish our spirits. You remind us that this is a joyful feast, and that fear cannot win every time. So with renewed courage, with renewed hope, with renewed conviction, send us out into the world. Help us to feed others as you have fed us. With gratitude we pray, **Amen.**

Announcements

SENDING

+Sending Hymn

Blessed Be the God of Israel

ELW 250

The band will have an extended improvisation/interlude between verses 2 and 3

+Blessing

In a fearful world, may you look for God's spirit. May you reach for each other's hands. May you choose courage whenever you can. And in all things, may you remember that good news is louder than fear. In the name of the one who calls, the one who sends, and the one who journeys with us. **Amen.**

+Dismissal

Go in peace and be not afraid.
Thanks be to God!

Vaya en paz y no tengáis miedo.
Gracias a Dios!

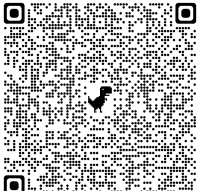
Postlude

Amen, Amen
ULCHers Band

arr. Bradley Sowash

Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor Amanda Simons, Pastor Maria Anderson-Lippert (presiding ministers); Eric Ringham (assisting minister); ULCHers Band (Tim Gustavson, Mark Nelson, Paul Odenbach, Dan Bielenberg), Paul Stever (musicians); Ruth Hedman, Lisa Morse, Gretchen Peik, Bill Sanden (communion servers); Elaine Reed (lector); Kyle Rosenberg (worship tech facilitators); Tim Abrahamson (greeter); Sampson Evans, Leena Rapacz, Scott Hvizdos, Uli Koester (ushers); Juna Evans, Liv Evans (acolytes); Jan Sanden (worship prep); Ann Agrimson, Gretchen Peik (communion clean-up); Julia Reimann-Perez, Ann Rolle (healing prayer)

Staff at University Lutheran Church of Hope Lead Pastor Rev. Amanda Simons (she/her) amandas@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 Catherine Menick (she/her) FinAdmin@ulch.org Sunday Opener/Closer, Worship Tech <i>Please share our open position</i> 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 Spoken Advent liturgy by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed A Sanctified Art LLC sanctifiedart.org (2025) Scripture excerpts in English from New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, 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.  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
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Christmas Social: Share, Pose, and Bake! (Dec 7)

Mark your calendars for a festive pre-Christmas celebration on **Sunday, December 7** in the Church Lounge! We're inviting everyone to join us for two hours of fun and faith:

- **9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**
- **11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Come and enjoy these three holiday highlights:

1. **Favorite Faith Traditions Display:** Bring your cherished Advent or Christmas tradition to share and display! This could be a beloved Nativity scene (Crèche), a special tradition like financial giving to charity, a "Birthday Party for Jesus," or another meaningful practice. Fill out a brief description of your tradition on the card provided. *Tables will be set up in the Lounge for your display. Please arrive by 9:15 a.m. to set up your tradition.*
2. **Nativity Photo Booth:** Have you ever wanted to be an angel, shepherd, or magi? Get dressed up and snap a festive photo in our fun Nativity Pageant Photo Booth!
3. **Holiday Bread Bake Distribution:** Need some delicious last-minute Christmas goodies or gifts? Peruse and donate for our delicious selection of holiday quick breads!!

Don't miss this chance to celebrate the spirit of the season together! **Questions?** Contact Rebecca Tetlie at rebecca.tetlie@gmail.com. If you would like to help with the holiday quick bread baking, contact Shelly Parry at mmpparry@comcast.net.

December 14 Fellowship Meal, Family Event, Caroling

Have you started thinking about Holiday Cooking? Share a favorite side dish or dessert at the Fellowship Meal on December 14. Mashed potatoes and meatballs will be served for the meal after the church service. We need your holiday treats to complete the festivities. Bring friends and family. Any questions? Contact Sheila at shougen03@gmail.com.

During the meal, children and their families, as well as other members of the congregation will be invited to make Christmas ornaments together! Look for the tables when you come and join in the fun!

Following the meal, one or two groups of people will go out into the community to bring joy and song to some of our members who do not get to church very often. If you'd like to join in the fun, contact Pastor Maria at mariaa@ulch.org.

Poetry for the season written by Sarah Speed (2025)

In the time of Herod

I didn't live during Herod's time—that brutal, murderous king, God save his soul.
But even hundreds of years later, I know the prayers of his people.
I know the prayers of the mothers and the children under his rule.
I know the prayers of the young men under his angry arm.
I know their prayers, because anyone who has ever lived in this soft world for more than two days
knows how to pray for a miracle.
We rub our hands together.
We fold weary shoulders in,
a cage of bone to protect our bleeding hearts.
We sing, *we shall overcome* and *bind my wandering heart to thee*.
We walk across bridges and in front of powerful buildings.
We cover our cars in stickers that scream, *we will not give up!*
We allow a hungry cry to slip from our lips,
giving our lament a life of its own (with room to dance!).
And when all of that is said and done, we whisper to our creator,
God, break through the yelling and the fear. Break through the violence and the oppression.
Get past the Herods of this world, and come be here.
Like every bleeding heart before, we pray for a miracle.