

Christmas Eve:  
The Nativity of Jesus  
December 24, 2025  
4:00 PM



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**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.

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**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 fine to be anonymous and rest in the presence of God in this space. 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](mailto:ulch@ulch.org).
- ❖ **Children worship with our community!** Craft tables are available for families but all are welcome to worship anywhere. 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.

**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

### Carol of the Bells

Mykola Leontovych

*Juna Evans, violin; Liv Evans, ukulele; Rose Jarman, viola*

### Silent Night

Franz Gruber

*Liv Evans, vocals; Juna Evans, violin; Rose Jarman, viola*

### Gesu Bambino

Pietro Yon

*Alden Tetlie, Rachel Boyer - Violins, Hollis Waalen - Viola, Rebecca Tetlie - Cello*

### Fum, Fum, Fum and Pat-a-Pan medley

arr. Tim Gustafson

*Tim Gustafson, guitar*

### Christmas Bells

John Gorka

*Dexter Wolfe Nelson, guitar; Livi Wolfe Nelson, vocals; Mark Nelson, bass & sax*

### Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming, (vss 1-2)

ELW 272

*Hope Handbells with Congregation singing*

### Creator of the Stars of Night

arr. Jeffrey Honoré

*Hope Choir and Handbells; A translation may be read in ELW 245*

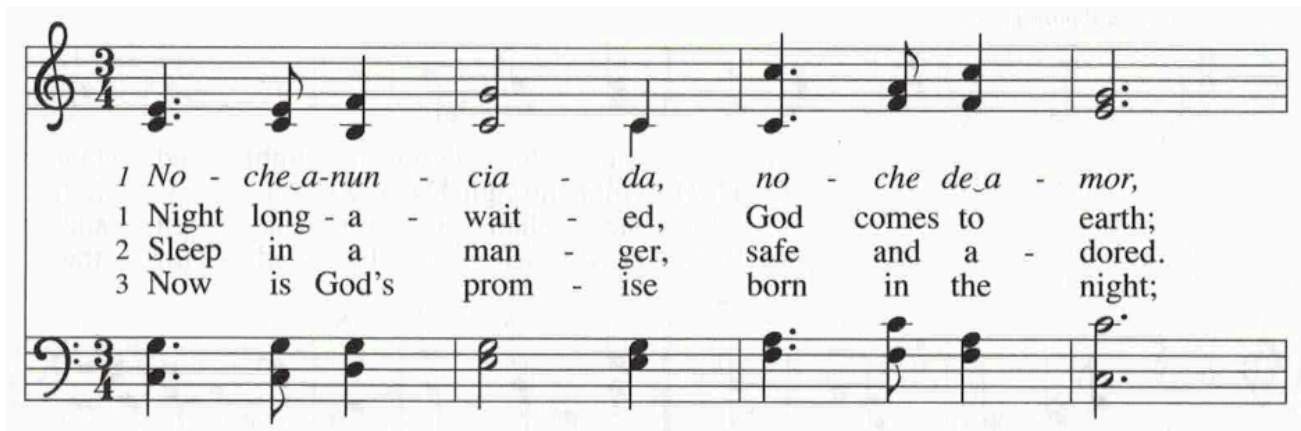
### Behold! I Bring You Good Tidings

John Goss (1800-1880)

*Hope Choir*

### Night Long Awaited (*all sing in English*)

ACS 912



1 No - che\_a-nun - cia - da, no - che de\_a - mor,  
1 Night long - a - wait - ed, God comes to earth;  
2 Sleep in a man - ger, safe and a - dored.  
3 Now is God's prom - ise born in the night;

*Dios ha na - ci - do, pé - ta - lo\_y flor.*  
 bloom - ing like ros - es, love giv - en birth.  
 All that is bro - ken shall be re - stored.  
 wake to its full - ness; live in its light.

*To - do\_es si - len - cio\_y se - re - ni - dad,*  
 Still in the star - light, si - lent and clear,  
 Light for our shad - ows, grace for our loss;  
 Christ comes a - mong us; peo - ple, draw near!

*paz en la tie - rra, es Na - vi - dad.*  
 peace comes a - mong us; Christ - mas is here.  
 born for our dy - ing; bear - ing our cross.  
 Come to the man - ger; Christ - mas is here.

## Welcome

### + Call to Worship

On this holy night, we come, **dazzled and awe-struck**, ready to sing alongside the angels.

On this holy night, we come, **eager and hopeful**, ready to journey alongside the shepherds.

On this holy night, we come, **quietly and tenderly**, ready to worship alongside Mary.

On this holy night, we come, **singing, trusting, believing, proclaiming**: good news is louder than fear.

Let us worship our good news, with-us God.

+ **Lighting the Advent Candles**

In a fearful world, where do you see the presence of God?

**We see God's fingerprints all around us. We see God in the beauty of the stars. We see God in the love of this community. We see God in the dreams we hold for a better world.**

*(The candles are lit.)*

You are right. Even in a fearful world, God is here. God is all around us.

On this holy night, we light the Christ Candle as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, God's love is all around us.

**Thanks be to God for a love like that! Amen.**

## WORD

### Children's Message

#### Carol

Your Little Ones, Dear Lord (*vss. 1-2*)

ELW 286

#### Reading - Psalm 96, read responsively

O sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

**Sing to the LORD; bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the peoples.

**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be revered above all gods.**

For all the gods of the peoples are idols,  
but the LORD made the heavens.

**Honor and majesty are before him;  
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts.**

Worship the LORD in holy splendor;  
tremble before him, all the earth.

**Say among the nations, "The LORD is king!**

**The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity."**

¡Canten al SEÑOR un cántico nuevo!

¡Canten al SEÑOR, habitantes de toda la tierra!

**¡Canten al SEÑOR, alaben su nombre!**

**¡Proclamen día tras día su salvación!**

Anuncien su gloria entre las naciones,  
sus maravillas a todos los pueblos.

**¡Grande es el SEÑOR y digno de alabanza,  
más temible que todos los dioses!**

Todos los dioses de las naciones son ídolos,  
pero el SEÑOR ha hecho los cielos.

**El esplendor y la majestad son sus heraldos;  
hay poder y belleza en su santuario.**

¡Tributen al SEÑOR, pueblos todos!

¡Tributen al SEÑOR la gloria y el poder!

**¡Tributen al SEÑOR la gloria que merece su**

**nombre! ¡Traigan sus ofrendas y entren en sus atrios!**

¡Póstrense ante el SEÑOR en la hermosura de su santidad!

**¡Tiemble delante de él toda la tierra!**

**Digan las naciones: «¡El SEÑOR reina!».**

**Ha establecido el mundo con firmeza; jamás será removido. Él juzga a los pueblos con equidad.**

¡Alégrense los cielos, regocíjese la tierra!

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
 let the sea roar and all that fills it;  
**let the field exult and everything in it.**  
**Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy**  
 before the LORD, for he is coming,  
 for he is coming to judge the earth.  
 He will judge the world with righteousness  
 and the peoples with his truth.

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

¡Brame el mar y todo lo que él contiene!  
**¡Canten alegres los campos y todo lo que hay en ellos! ¡Que canten alegres todos los árboles del bosque!**  
 ¡Canten delante del SEÑOR porque ya viene!  
 ¡Ya viene a juzgar la tierra! Y juzgará al mundo con justicia y a los pueblos con fidelidad.

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

**+ Gospel Acclamation**      Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (*vs. 1*)

ELW 270

**+ Gospel Reading - Luke 2:1-20**

The gospel according to Luke the second chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them,

“Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

Por aquellos días Augusto César decretó que se levantara un censo en todo el Imperio romano. (Este primer censo se efectuó cuando Cirenio gobernaba en Siria). Así que iban todos a inscribirse, cada cual a su propio pueblo. También José, que era descendiente del rey David, subió de Nazaret, ciudad de Galilea, a Judea. Fue a Belén, la Ciudad de David, para inscribirse junto con María su esposa. Ella se encontraba encinta y, mientras estaban allí, se le cumplió el tiempo. Así que dio a luz a su hijo primogénito. Lo envolvió en pañales y lo acostó en un pesebre, porque no había lugar para ellos en la posada.

En esa misma región había unos pastores que pasaban la noche en el campo, turnándose para cuidar su rebaño. Sucedió que un ángel del Señor se les apareció. La gloria del Señor los envolvió en su luz y se llenaron de temor. Pero el ángel dijo: «No tengan miedo. Miren que traigo buenas noticias que serán motivo de mucha alegría para todo el pueblo. Hoy ha nacido en la Ciudad de David un Salvador, que es Cristo el Señor. Esto les servirá de señal: Encontrarán a un niño envuelto en pañales y acostado en un pesebre».

**Carol** Away in a Manger (*vs. 1*)      ELW 277

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom God favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

De repente apareció una multitud de ángeles del cielo, que alababan a Dios y decían:

«Gloria a Dios en las alturas,  
y en la tierra paz a los que gozan de su buena voluntad». Cuando los ángeles se fueron al cielo, los pastores se dijeron unos a otros: «Vamos a Belén, a ver esto que ha pasado y que el Señor nos ha dado a conocer». Así que fueron de prisa y encontraron a María, a José y al niño que estaba acostado en el pesebre. Cuando vieron al niño, contaron lo que les habían dicho acerca de él y cuantos lo oyeron se asombraron de lo que los pastores decían. María, por su parte, guardaba todas estas cosas en su corazón y meditaba acerca de ellas. Los pastores regresaron glorificando y alabando a Dios por lo que habían visto y oído, pues todo sucedió tal como se les había dicho.

El Evangelio del Señor.  
**Alabanza a ti, oh Cristo!**

**Carol**                                      Go Tell It on the Mountain (*Refrain and vs. 1*)                                      ELW 290

**Sermon** - Pastor Amanda Simons

**+ Hymn of the Day**                                      Angels We Have Heard on High                                      ELW 289

**+ Prayers of the People**

*Following each petition:*

God, Emmanuel,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Dios, Emmanuel,  
**Escucha nuestra oración.**

**+ Sharing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

La paz de Cristo sea siempre con ustedes.  
**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**                                      The Happy Christmas Comes Once More    Danish Carol, arr. Joyce Barthelson  
*Hope Choir*

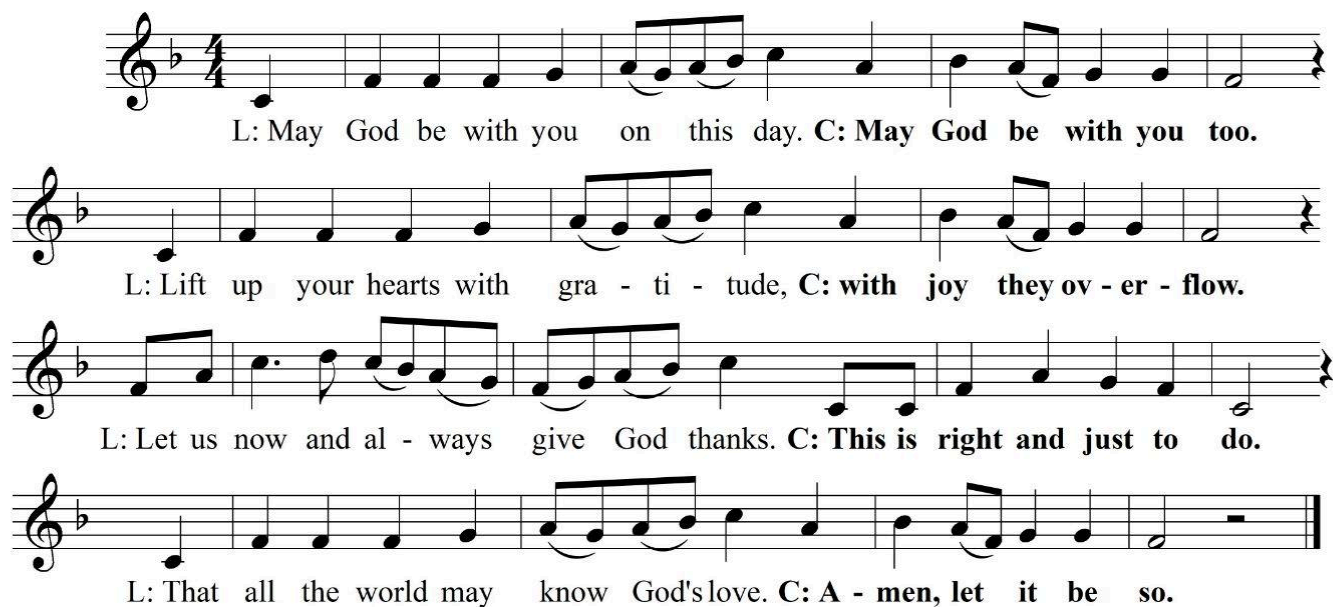
*Thank you for your continued generosity! Donations may be sent electronically or by mail, or placed in the offering plate in the center of our space as you come forward for Holy Communion. A QR code is available on the last page of the bulletin.*

## +Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. God of abundance, **receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

## +The Great Thanksgiving

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



The musical notation for 'The Great Thanksgiving' is written on four staves in 4/4 time, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and folk-like, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with 'L:' for the leader and 'C:' for the congregation. The first staff has the lyrics 'L: May God be with you on this day. C: May God be with you too.' The second staff has 'L: Lift up your hearts with gra - ti - tude, C: with joy they ov - er - flow.' The third staff has 'L: Let us now and al - ways give God thanks. C: This is right and just to do.' The fourth staff has 'L: That all the world may know God's love. C: A - men, let it be so.'

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

Text adapted by Paul Stever; Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst



The musical notation for 'Sanctus' is written on three staves in 4/4 time, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and folk-like, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with 'Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, God of gent - le might, heav - en shines with splen-dor, earth un-veils your light. Soft ho-san-nas fill the skies, "Glo-ry" swells on high. Blest be God's own who comes Je - sus — Christ.'

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, God of gent - le might,

heav - en shines with splen-dor, earth un-veils your light. Soft ho-san-nas fill the skies,

"Glo-ry" swells on high. Blest be God's own who comes Je - sus — Christ.

## +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 worshipping 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 to the communion servers in front of your section to receive the bread (gluten free is available), and dip into either the wine or the grape juice. Children of all ages are welcome to partake at Holy Communion.*

### ***If you seek healing prayers today...***

*A healing minister is available during Holy Communion. 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**

On Christmas Night

ELW 274



Shout!

Text: Anna Strickland (2025)

*Sung to the tune for "What Child is This" (GREENSLEEVES)*

1. **When fear lies like a blanket thick and mutes the joy of living  
When Herod reigns with terror great, the angels break in singing.**

*Refrain:*

**Shout! Shout your glorias in all the earth and heav'n above.**

**Shout! Shout the angels' news that hope is born in Jesus.**

2. **The piercing song the angels bring to unsuspecting shepherds  
Is hard to hear with frightened ears so used to news of terror.**

*Refrain:*

**Shout! Shout your glorias in all the earth and heav'n above.**

**Shout! Shout the angels' news that hope is born in Jesus.**

3. **Surrender to the joy this night of God incarnate born for us.  
Shout in the streets, wake those who sleep to join the angel chorus.**

*Refrain:*

**Shout! Shout your glorias in all the earth and heav'n above.**

**Shout! Shout the angels' news that hope is born in Jesus.**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

ELW 271

### **+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.**

## SENDING

### **+Candlelight Hymn**

Silent Night

ELW 281

*As we pass the candle light, please take care, keeping lit candles upright, and tilting unlit candles as you are lighting them.*

*See music on the next page*

*Stil - le Nacht, hei - li-ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,*  
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

*ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.*  
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

*Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher*  
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

*Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.*  
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

## +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.**

*Please extinguish your candles.*

## +Sending Hymn

Joy to the World (*vss. 1-2 & 4*)

ELW 267

## +Dismissal

Christ the Savior is born!  
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Cristo, el Salvador ha nacido!  
Ve en paz. Proclama esta buena noticia.  
**Gracias a Dios.**

## Postlude

Ding Dong! Merrily on High

arr. Aaron Shows (2024)

### Staff at University Lutheran Church of Hope

#### Lead Pastor

Rev. Amanda Simons (she/her)  
amandas@ulch.org

#### Pastor

Rev. Maria Anderson-Lippert (she/her)  
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Catherine Menick (she/her)  
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#### Sunday Opener/Closer, Worship Tech

*Please share our open position*

#### Custodian

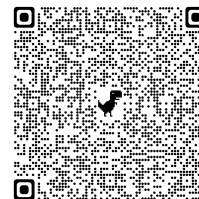
Geremew Beshah (he/him)

#### Lutheran Campus Pastor

Kate Reuer Welton (she/her)  
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**University Lutheran Church of Hope**

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612.331.5988 [www.ulch.org](http://www.ulch.org)

Office hours: 9am to 2pm weekdays

## **Night Songs: Sunday, February 15 at 7pm**

Save the date for another Night Songs performance with our own Hope Choir and other local choirs! Many things will be similar to past years, but last time this event was so popular that we weren't able to seat everyone who showed up. So this time around we are requiring people to get tickets online in advance, to help ensure there is a seat for each person who comes. Watch for a ticketing link through Eventbrite coming soon, and get your tickets early!

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### **Poetry for the season written by Sarah Speed (2025, *Sanctified Art*)**

#### **Honeysuckle**

There is an abandoned house on my block.  
Maybe someone owns it and is just waiting to fix it up,  
or maybe it belongs to a family that simply cannot let it go.  
Either way, the yard is an overgrown tangle of weeds—  
crabgrass and yellow nutsedge, horsetail and clover—  
unforgiving and entrenched.  
Over the summer, a honeysuckle bush crept  
from that forgotten house over the fence and through the yard.  
It spilled out in broad patches on the sidewalk. As a result,  
you could not pass that mess of a house without the taste of honey in your mouth.  
You could not pass that mess of a house without being engulfed in the sweet scent  
of something good. It was almost as if the earth was saying, sure, things are chaotic here,  
but pause for a moment. Pull a flower bud off in your fingers. Break the stem.  
Slurp the tiny bead of honey at the base. Remember that even when bad news is unforgiving  
and entrenched, good news grows out of its cage, across the sidewalk, just to get to you.

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### **Today's Worship Leaders**

Pastor Amanda Simons, Pastor Maria Anderson-Lippert (presiding ministers); Eric Ringham (assisting minister); prelude musicians see pg. 2, Hope Choir, Tim Gustafson-guitar, Paul Stever (musicians); Ann Beane, Jack Dant Deb Bordsen, Sarah Bordsen Bailey, Ruth Hedman, Marty Lewis-Hunstiger, Britta Anderson, Gretchen Peik (communion servers); Sharlene Hensrud (lector); Kyle Rosenberg (worship tech facilitator); Sharlene Hensrud, Anderson-Lippert Family, (greeters); Tim Abrahamson, Karen Jorstad (ushers); Carol Flaten and Kathy Kufus (worship prep); Carol Flaten (communion clean-up); Ann Agrimson, Sara Tufvesson Doure (healing prayer)