First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026
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 worshiping together in-person and virtually on YouTube. Welcome!

For those worshiping 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 at the front of the sanctuary. 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.*

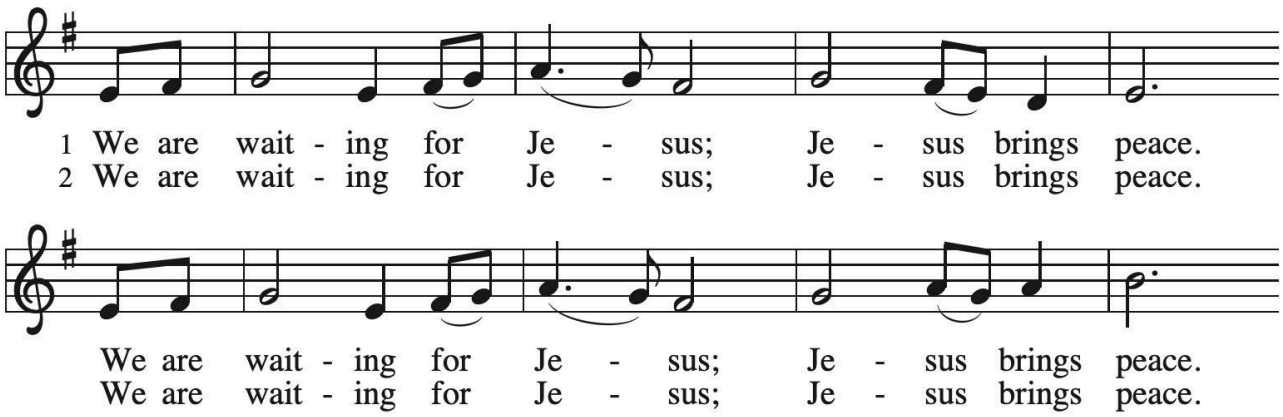
Prelude The Will To Dream by Nathan Evans Fox, Andrea Hamilton, and *ULCHers Band* Amanda Meisenheimer (2025)

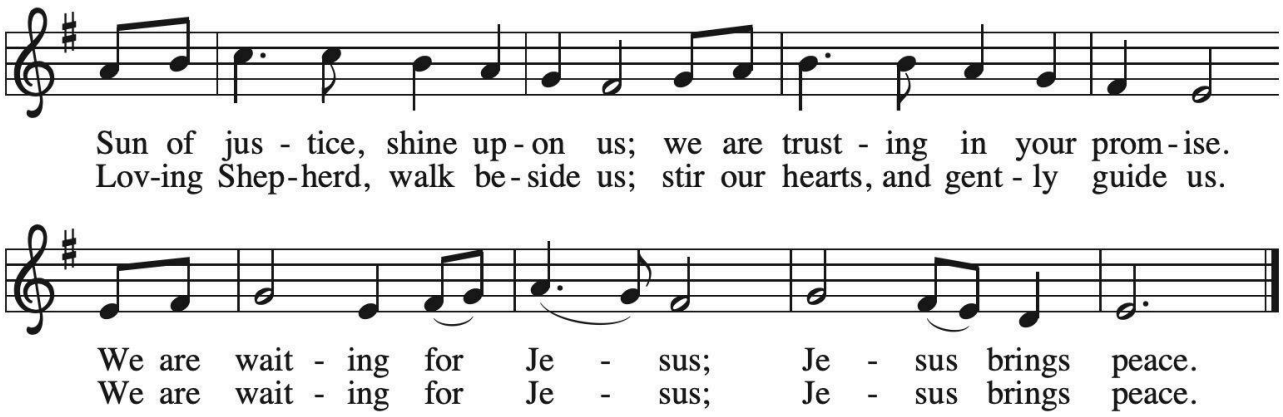
Welcome

+ Call to Worship

One: We gather together in this place:
All: prophets and dreamers, singers and poets,
One: we who dare to imagine a world renewed;
All: we who dare to dream God's dream.
One: We proclaim expectation with Isaiah!
All: God's redemption is near!
One: Through tears and through trials,
All: we hold fast to our hope.
One: Do not fear, for God is faithful.
All: Our redemption rises with the dawn.
One: Come and worship, all you who dream and wait.
All: We have come to wonder and praise.

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





+ Opening Prayer

God who is, who was, and who is to come, we enter this season of Advent keenly aware of the brokenness in and around us. Comfort our longing spirits, and teach us again how to be people of profound hope. You never leave our side, but walk with us in our pilgrimage toward the renewed world you promise. We pray as expectant people, seeking again the assurance of your salvation, brought to birth in Jesus Christ, our hope and our Savior. **Amen.**

+ Lighting the Advent Candle

L: The birth of Jesus has been told and retold a thousand times and in a thousand ways.

All: Its impact cannot be contained in any one perspective. The element of the story we focus on changes how we hear it, how we imagine it, and how we experience it.

L: Close your eyes for a moment and imagine the journey of Mary and Joseph. How do they look? They are unaware that their unborn child will catch onto the prophets' visions and challenge the world to usher in justice, peace, and transformation. What are they dreaming of for their child? What looks are they getting from those nearby?

L: Open your eyes. We know the world is not always an easy place to welcome new life. And yet, babies are born every day, and new families are formed.

L: What must those moments have been like for Mary and Joseph searching for a place to be? Now, just like then, exhausted expectant parents, far from home, are searching for safe spaces to settle. What must that be like for displaced families today?

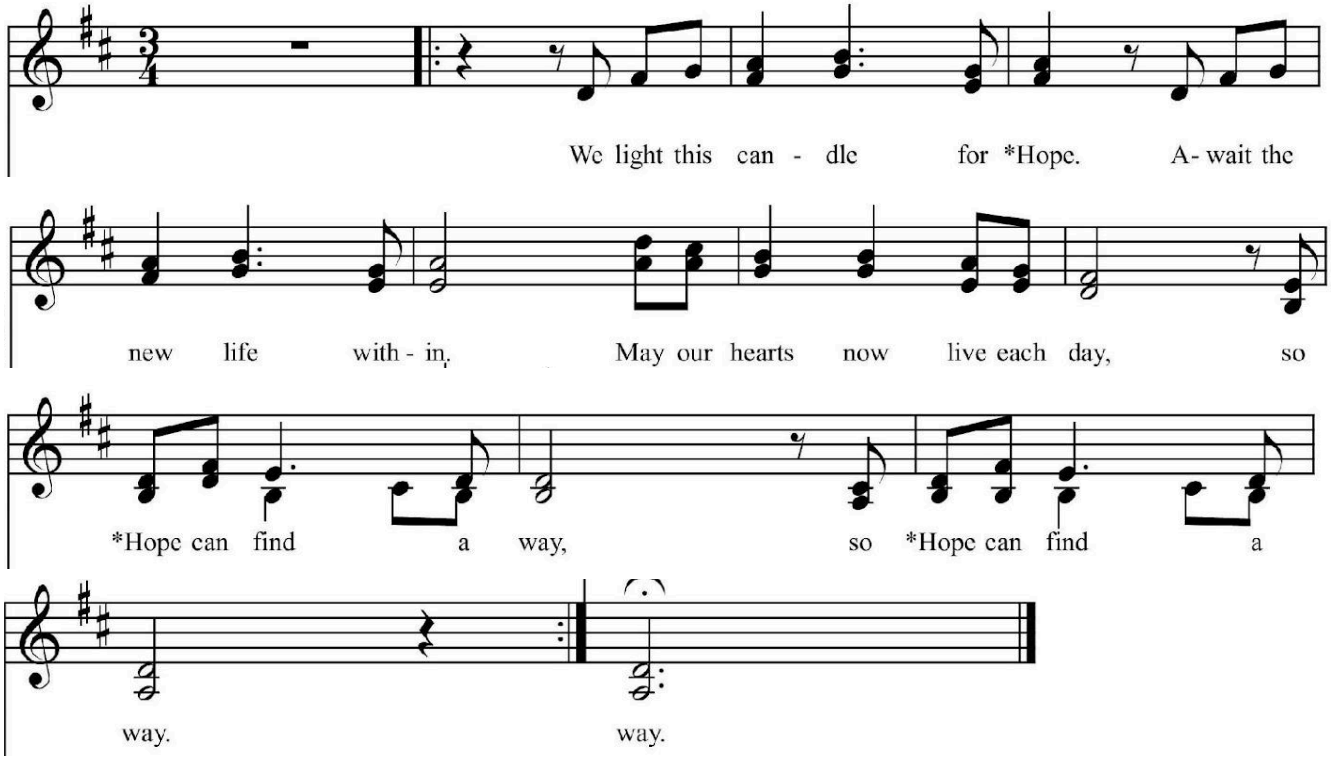
L: Now, just like then, faithful families trust that somehow, each seemingly impossible situation will work out.

L: Mary and Joseph held on to hope when their options seemed to be in short supply. It was a hope that things would get better.

All: We light the candle of hope because hope creates a path for a new, unknown story to unfold.

Light the first candle.

Song We Light This Candle (sung twice) by Pat Mayberry (2016)



Word

Children's Message

Reading - Isaiah 2:1–5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah
and Jerusalem.
In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

Palabra que Isaías, hijo de Amoz, recibió en visión acerca
de Judá y Jerusalén:
En los últimos días,
el monte del Templo del Señor será establecido
como el más alto de los montes;
se alzará por encima de las colinas
y hacia él correrán todas las naciones.
Muchos pueblos vendrán y dirán:
«¡Vengan, subamos al monte del Señor,
al Templo del Dios de Jacob!
Dios mismo nos instruirá en sus caminos
y así andaremos por sus sendas».
Porque de Sión saldrá la Ley,
de Jerusalén, la palabra del Señor.
Dios mismo juzgará entre las naciones
y administrará justicia a muchos pueblos.

they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.
O house of Jacob, come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Word of God, word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

Convertirán sus espadas en arados
y en hoces sus lanzas.
Ya no levantará su espada nación contra nación
y nunca más se adiestrarán para la guerra.
¡Ven, pueblo de Jacob,
y caminemos a la luz del SEÑOR!

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

Character Narrative: Isaiah

+ 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 - Mark 13:24–37

The gospel according to Mark, the thirteenth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
"Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these

»Pero en aquellos días, después de esa tribulación,
»"se oscurecerá el sol
y no brillará más la luna;
las estrellas caerán del cielo
y los cuerpos celestes serán sacudidos".
»Verán entonces al Hijo del hombre venir en las nubes con gran poder y gloria. Y él enviará a sus ángeles para reunir de los cuatro vientos a los elegidos, desde los confines de la tierra hasta los confines del cielo.
»Aprendan de la higuera esta lección: Tan pronto como se ponen tiernas sus ramas y brotan sus hojas, ustedes saben que el verano está cerca. Igualmente, cuando vean que suceden estas cosas, sepan que el tiempo está cerca, a las puertas. Les aseguro que no pasará esta generación hasta

things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

que todas estas cosas sucedan. El cielo y la tierra pasarán, pero mis palabras jamás pasarán. »Pero en cuanto al día y la hora, nadie lo sabe, ni siquiera los ángeles en el cielo, ni el Hijo, sino solo el Padre. ¡Estén alerta! Manténganse despiertos porque no saben cuándo llegará ese tiempo. Es como cuando un hombre sale de viaje y deja su casa al cuidado de sus siervos, cada uno con su tarea, y manda al portero que vigile.»Por lo tanto, manténganse despiertos porque no saben cuándo volverá el dueño de la casa, si al atardecer, o a la medianoche, o al canto del gallo, o al amanecer; no sea que venga de repente y los encuentre dormidos. Lo que les digo a ustedes, se lo digo a todos: ¡Manténganse despiertos!

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

Sermon - Pastor Amanda Simons

+ Hymn of the Day Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus ELW 254

+ Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a strong and sturdy hope—a hope which fully sees the world's pain, while refusing to accept life must be this way.
We name false stories and lament shallow optimism, idealism, or wishful thinking.
With the Spirit's compassion and imagination, we believe things can and will get better, committing all we have and all we are into making a new reality—God's dream—come true.
We give our creativity and courage, our prayers and perseverance, remembering that "hope is what we do."* What we practice, we will become.
Like Isaiah, we remember what God has done before, and the truth that nothing new comes without someone, somewhere, first imagining what others could not yet see.
As God's family, we believe hope lives and moves in a communal way. We will hold in our hearts and minds' eye the presence of those who've embodied hope before us as we carry forward the dream.

** Quote attributed to Rev. Mitri Raheb of Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem.*

+ Prayers of the People

Following each petition: God of hope, **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 Come Down Heaven Dan Bielenberg (2025)

ULCHers Band

As an act of gratitude and participation in God's work among us, we offer our gifts. Thank you for supporting the ministry we share together through your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Financial offerings may be made online, via the QR code at the rear of the bulletin, by mail, or in the offering plate during Communion.

+ Offertory Prayer

Holy God, **we bring our gifts and offerings to you because the voices of the prophets remind us of something bigger, something greater than any system this world offers us. We believe when we trust you with our resources, the kin-dom of God comes much closer to reality on earth. Help us steward these gifts to create abundant life and love. Amen.**

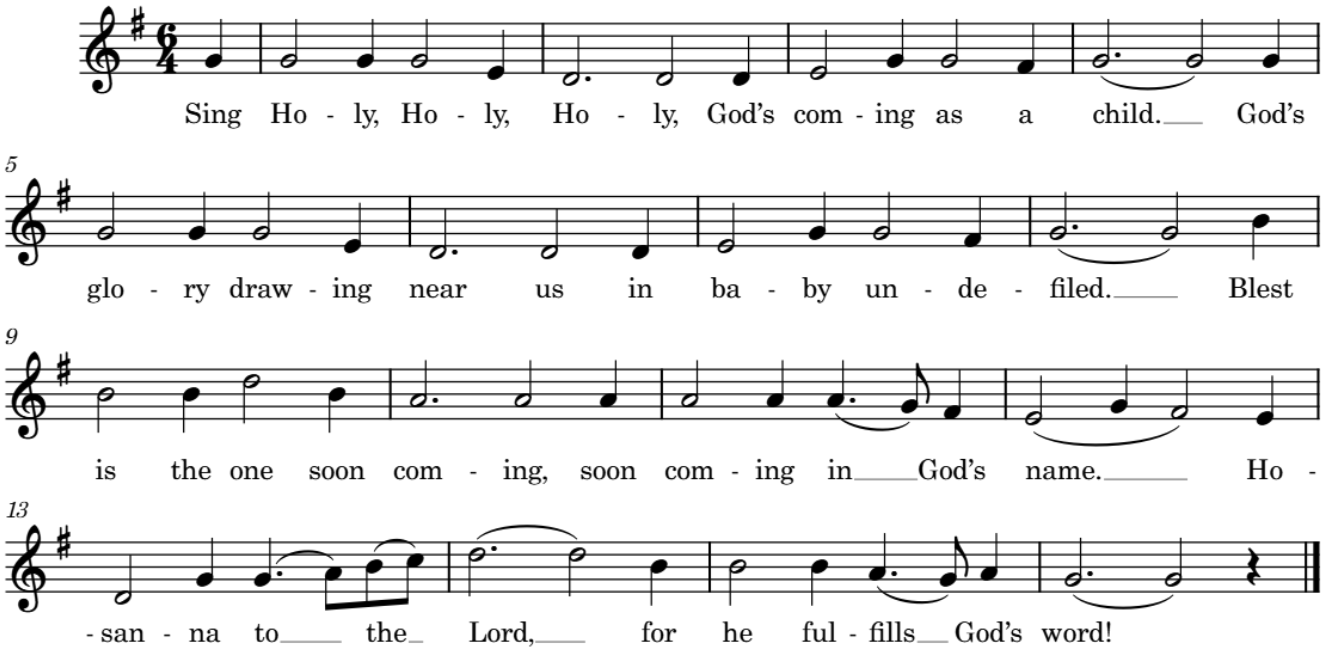
+The Great Thanksgiving

God be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your fears, your hopes, your dreams. **We lift them up to God.**
Let us give thanks to our generous, imaginative God. **We joyfully give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right.... we join their unending hymn:

+ Sanctus

Text adapted by Paul Stever
Music: Swedish folk tune (17th century)



+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."*

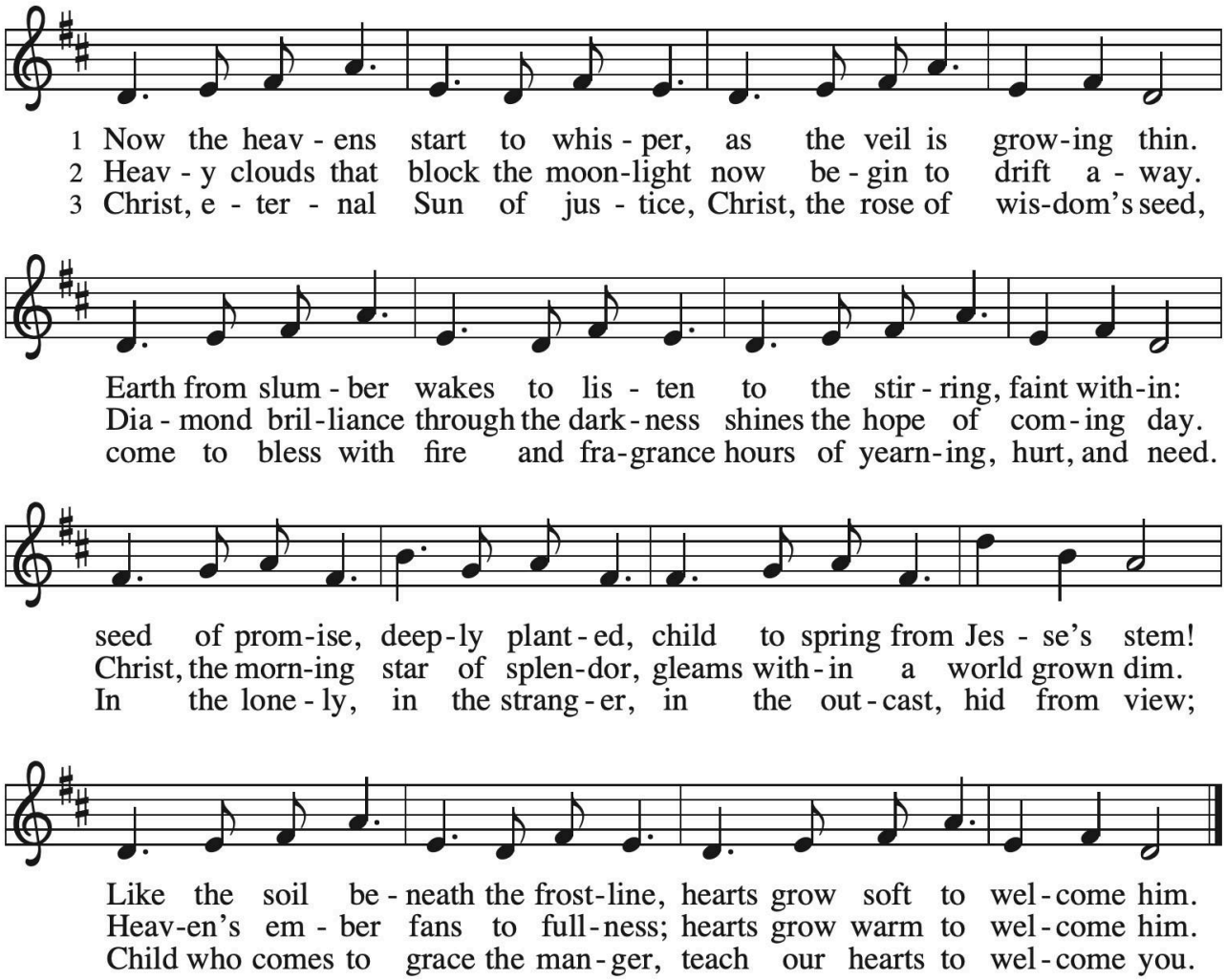
If you are at home on your own... *Hear the voice of the pastor naming these promises of grace and life for you. If you'd prefer a blessing, hear these promises: "You are a beloved child of God. May God strengthen you with grace through Christ for all we face today."*

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), receive either the red wine or white grape juice in your cup, place your used cup in the basket. 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 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.*

If you are so inclined during this time... *You may dip into the baptismal waters and remember the promises, light candles for situations around the world and close to home or add a prayer to the prayer wall. All prayer slips remain anonymous. Periodically throughout the year, prayers are removed from the wall, blessed during worship, and burned in our courtyard fireplace as a sign of releasing our burdens and entrusting our concerns to God's care.*

Music During Communion Now the Heavens Start to Whisper ACS 901, Text: M.L. Bringle



As the Dark Awaits the Dawn ELW 261
Christ, Be Our Light ELW 715

+ Table Blessing

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

+ Prayer after Communion

Creator of all good things, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of blessing, small in their presentation, yet magnificent in our holy imagination. May the hope of the Lord's table accompany us on our journeys from here. **Amen.**

+Announcements

SENDING

+Sending Hymn Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn ELW 242

+Blessing

Go out in the world embracing the will to dream,
and may hope fill you and fuel you for the days ahead. **Amen.**

+Dismissal

Go in peace, dreaming and hoping. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude Speak Forth Peace Tim Gustafson
ULCHers Band

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Giving electronically Use this QR code to reach the University Lutheran Church of Hope donation page:

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UNIVERSITY CHURCH OF LUTHERAN HOPE

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Office hours: 9am to 2pm weekdays

Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor Maria Anderson-Lippert (presiding minister); Stewart Herman (assisting minister); Dan Bielenberg, Tim Gustafson, Mark Nelson, Paul Odenbach, Paul Stever (musicians); Deb Bordsen, Jack Dant, Lisa Morse, Bill Sanden (communion servers); Ann Beane (lector); Matthew Fry (worship tech facilitator); Sheila Hougen (greeter); Leena Rapacz, Williams Santana, Jane VanHeuvelen, Tom VanHeuvelen (ushers); Lydia Rapacz, Magda VanHeuvelen (acolytes); Jan Sanden (worship prep); Bruce Eldevik, Leena Rapacz (communion clean-up); Jason Lukis, Ann Rolle (healing prayer)

Thursday, December 3, 2026, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM CT
Creekside UCC, 106 E Diamond Lake Rd, Minneapolis, MN 55419

For 25 years, Beacon has worked to create the equivalent number of new homes, and now all the progress in Minnesota is at risk. This event seeks to gather as our entire collaborative, congregants, clergy, supportive housing residents, service partners, and elected officials, to ground ourselves in the reality of supportive housing. We will do this as we meet on December 3, 2026, for our Convening: Faith in Home and launch our second Losing Home, Losing Sleep Vigil.

- 6:30 p.m. Doors open for registration, refreshments, and fellowship
- 7:00-8:00 p.m. Interactive regional breakout sessions, programming
- 8:00-9:00 p.m. public launch of Losing Sleep, Losing Homes Vigil
- 9:00 p.m. (Thurs.) – 7 a.m. (Fri.) Losing Sleep, Losing Homes virtual and In-person vigil shifts

Wednesday, December 9 at 6:30pm

Holden Evening Prayer with Astronomical Projections, in the Chapel

U of M Choirs and graduate conducting students' concert
Monday, December 14 at 7:30pm

University Singers and University Treble Chorus from the University of Minnesota, led by graduate student conductors Abby Carter and Logan Combs will present a Master's Conducting recital here! All are welcome to hear these students perform.

Christmas Eve Worship December 24 at 4pm (3:30pm prelude)