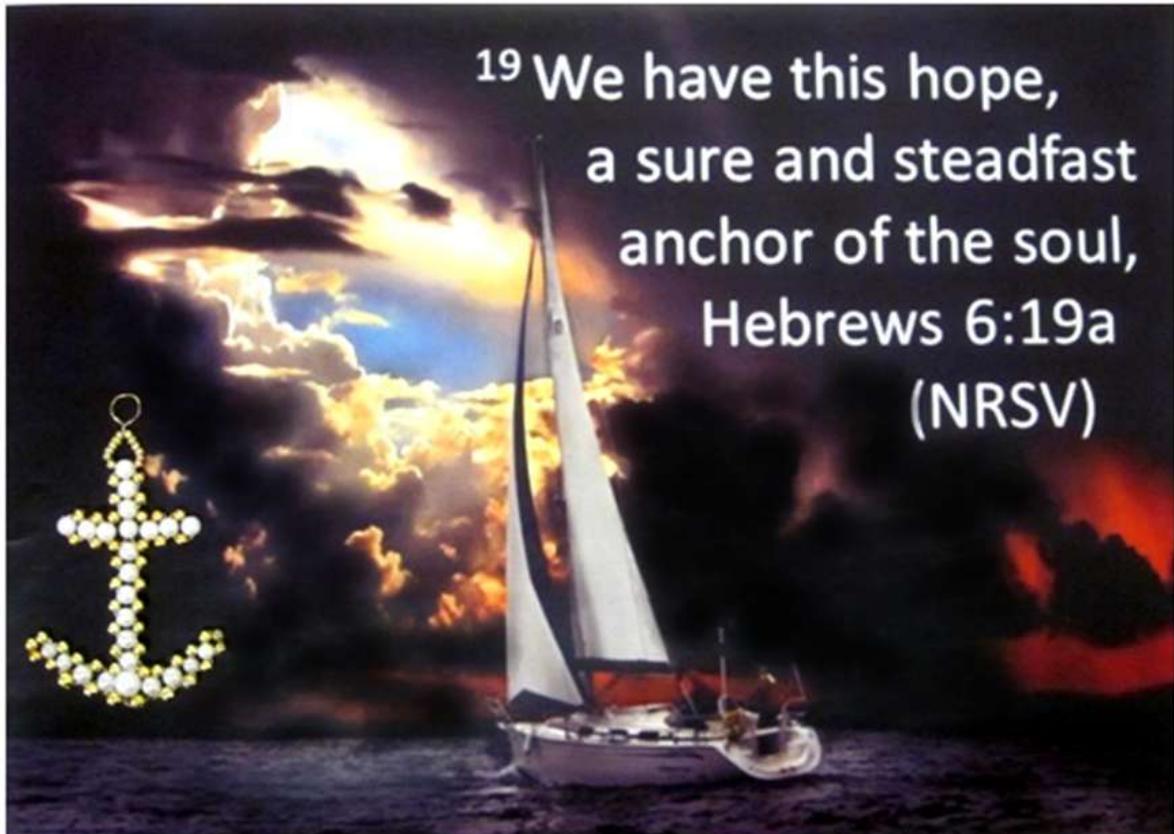


**Second Sunday in Advent  
December 23, 2018  
“Hope From Unexpected Places”**



**Delta Presbyterian Church**

**Strengthening** Christ in us  
**Sharing** Christ among us  
**Showing** Christ around us

[www.deltapresby.org](http://www.deltapresby.org)

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**Order of Worship**  
**Sunday, December 23, 2018**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent**

Prelude

Frederick Isaac, Pianist

Tolling of the Bells

**Gathering for Worship**

\*\*Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Frank Jackson, Lay Leader

(Leader) We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul,

Hebrews 6:19a

Hymn                   **Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus** (vs. 1)

(Leader) O Radiant Dawn,  
splendor of eternal light,  
Sun of justice:  
Come, shine on those who live in darkness  
and in the shadow of death.

**(People) Come, Lord Jesus**

(Leader) I light the first candle of the advent wreath to mark our search for hope.

Hymn                   **Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus** (vs. 3)

(Leader) O Ruler of the nations,  
Monarch for whom all people long,  
you are the cornerstone uniting all humanity:  
Come, save us all,  
whom you formed out of clay.

**(People) Come, Lord Jesus**

(Leader) I light the second candle of the Advent wreath to remind us of the  
promised kingdom.

Hymn                   **Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus** (vs. 2)

(Leader) O Emmanuel,  
our Sovereign and lawgiver,  
desire of the nations and Savior of all:  
Come and save us, O Lord our God.

**(People) Come, Lord Jesus**

(Leader) I light the third candle of the Advent wreath in recognition of our need  
for salvation.

Hymn                   **Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus** (vs. 4)

(Leader) O Key of David,  
Scepter over the house of Israel,  
you open and no one can close,  
you close and no one can open:  
Come to set the prisoners free.

**(People) Come, Lord Jesus**

(Leader) I light the fourth candle as a reminder that God comes to unexpected  
people in unexpected ways.

Hymn                   **Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus** (vs. 5)

## Strengthening Christ in Us

Prayer of Confession

**O Lord, our God, we confess that we get caught up  
in the world's expectations.**

**We are too quick to dismiss people that we think  
came from the wrong place.**

**There are times we fail to recognize your hand at work in our lives because it comes in an  
unexpected way from an unexpected place.**

**Forgive us, we pray.**

**Open our hearts, that we might recognize and embrace the hope  
you give.**

*(time for silent confession)*

Give us the faith to commit ourselves to

**Strengthening Christ in us  
Sharing Christ among us and  
Showing Christ around us. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

The wilderness will rejoice; the dry land will blossom.

The people of God will return with joy and singing.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

\*\*Passing of the Peace

\*\*Response **Joy to the World** (vs. 4)

Scripture Lesson **Micah 5:2-5a** (CEB)

Anthem **Night of Peace**

Celebration Choir

Scripture Lesson **Luke 1:39-45** (CEB)

Children's Sermon

Hymn **Away in a Manger** (vs. 1)  
(Children may go downstairs for Sunday School.)

Proclamation of the Word **Hope From Unexpected Places**

Rev. Wendy S. Pratt

As for you, Bethlehem of Ephrathah,

though you are the least significant of Judah's forces,

one who is to be a ruler in Israel on my behalf will come out from you.

His origin is from remote times, from ancient days. Micah 5:2

\*\*Communion Hymn **Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

**Sharing Christ Among Us--  
Showing Christ Around Us**

Offering

\*\*Response **Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn** (vs. 1)

Life in the Community

Prayers For Those Among & Around Us

\*\*Closing Hymn **Love Has Come**

**\*\*Challenge & Blessing**

**\*\*Closing Response      *May the God of Hope Go with Us***

Postlude

**\*\**Please stand if you are able to do so***



Holy Communion

At Delta Presbyterian Church, we observe open Communion. All who truly repent of their sins and seek God's forgiveness, found in Jesus Christ, are invited to participate in the Sacrament. Children who have received instruction from their parents on the meaning of communion are encouraged to participate.

As God's love came to us in Christ, so the bread and the cup will come to us today in our seats. Please hold the bread and the cup that we might partake of it together as a sign of our unity in Christ. Receive this gift as a sign of God's grace, and pray that it will awaken in you the hunger to go deeper. All the bread this morning is gluten free.

**Delta's 2018 Chrismon** is the Anchor, a symbol of hope. Our lives often seem uncertain and unsafe, as boats are in a storm. But boats can be safe, even during a storm, if their anchors hold firmly to something solid. And when we link with God, we are safe, even during terrible troubles. We are weak, but God is strong.



## Welcome to Delta Presbyterian Church!

We are pleased to have you worshipping with us this morning. We provide this information to help you fully participate in the worship of God. Please take a moment to sign the guest book on the stand in the back of the sanctuary (worship space) to the left of the drinking fountain.

We invite you to stay for our fellowship time following the service. Feel free to help yourself to the coffee and hot water (for tea) that is available in the back of the sanctuary before and after worship.

Everything you need to participate in worship is on the screen. If you are able, you are invited to stand when the congregation stands.

Restrooms are in the back of the sanctuary on the left.

There is information on the activities at Delta on the counter in the Commitment Center. The Commitment Center is on your left as you leave the sanctuary.

We welcome the sound of children in worship. If your young child is distracting to **you**, you are welcome to do any of the following:

- Get up and move to the back. The colorful bags have small items designed to keep children busy. They are welcome to play with them on the floor in front of the Commitment Center, or you may take the bags to your seats.
- There is a nursery available downstairs. Exit the sanctuary via the door on the right and go straight down the stairs. The nursery (101) is at the foot of the steps on the right. Pagers are available to notify you if your child needs you.
- There is a cry room (202) where you can take your child. Instead of going downstairs, go down the hall and the cry room is on the right. You can view the worship service through a window. The cry room is equipped with a changing table.

Preschool through early elementary children are dismissed following the Children's Sermon. They may either return to their seats, or go downstairs to the Nursery (101 infants & toddlers), or Sunday School (Room 107) Older elementary and youth are dismissed during the offering to go down to the gathering room, except when there is a Fellowship Meal following worship. There are clipboards with worksheets for them to fill out and take downstairs with them.

### Church Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday, 9:00am – 3:00pm

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## Delta Presbyterian Church

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Rev. Wendy S. Pratt, Pastor

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