



# Second Sunday of Christmas

January 4, 2026

**Hope Lutheran Church of Rossmoor**

<http://www.hoperossmoor.org/> 925-709-4673 (Voicemail ONLY)

*The Rev. Andreas Pielhoop, Pastor*

Prelude

*Instrumental Music*

Carlyn Obringer

## Welcome & Introduction

**Pastor Andreas Pielhoop**

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

## Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P:      Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

All:     Amen.

P:      Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P:      Reconciling God,

All:     we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

P:      God's grace upon grace flows over you. + Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

All:     Amen.

Gathering Hymn

*The First Noel-ELW 300 (vs 1,2)*

Judy Ryken

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing  
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . . .  
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . . .  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the  
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it  
 rev - - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -  
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the  
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

*Refrain*

night that was so deep.  
 tin - ued both day and night.  
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
 place where Je - sus lay.  
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Greeting

P: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house, and all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

All: **Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise*****It Came Upon the Midnight Clear-ELW 282 (vs 1,4)*****Judy Ryken**

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
3 And you, be -neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
4 For lo! The days are has -t'ning on, by proph -ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
and still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.  
who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."  
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov -'ring wing,  
look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still-ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

**Prayer of the Day****Pastor Andreas Pielhoop**

P: Let us all pray together.

All: **O God our redeemer, you created light that we might live, and you illumine our world with your beloved Son. By your Spirit comfort us in all darkness, and turn us toward the light of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**First Reading: Sirach 24:1-12****Mark Krauth**

*The figure of Wisdom played a major role in early discussions of Christology. Wisdom is the divine word, coming from the mouth of God, and ruling over all of creation. Wisdom, created at the beginning of time, made her dwelling place in Jerusalem among God's people.*

<sup>1</sup> Wisdom praises herself and tells of her glory in the midst of her people. <sup>2</sup> In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth, and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory: <sup>3</sup> "I came forth from the mouth of the Most High and covered the earth like a mist. <sup>4</sup> I encamped in the heights, and my throne was in a pillar of cloud. <sup>5</sup> Alone I compassed the vault of heaven and traversed the depths of the abyss. <sup>6</sup> Over waves of the sea, over all the earth, and over every people and nation I have held sway. <sup>7</sup> Among all these I sought a resting place; in whose inheritance should I abide? <sup>8</sup> "Then the Creator of all things gave me a command, and my Creator pitched my tent. He said, 'Encamp in Jacob, and in Israel receive your inheritance.' <sup>9</sup> Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me, and for all the ages I shall not cease to be. <sup>10</sup> In the holy tent I ministered before him, and so I was established in Zion. <sup>11</sup> Thus in the beloved city he gave me a resting place, and in Jerusalem was my domain. <sup>12</sup> I took root in an honored people; in the portion of the Lord is my inheritance."

## Psalm: Wisdom 10:15-21

Mark Krauth & Congregation

<sup>15</sup> A holy people and blameless race; wisdom delivered from a nation of oppressors.  
<sup>16</sup> She entered the soul of a servant of the Lord, and withstood dread kings with wonders and signs.  
<sup>17</sup> She gave to holy people the reward of their labors; she guided them along a marvelous way,  
and became a shelter to them by day, and a starry flame through the night.  
<sup>18</sup> She brought them over the Red Sea, and led them through deep waters;  
<sup>19</sup> but she drowned their enemies, and cast them up from the depth of the sea.  
<sup>20</sup> Therefore the righteous plundered the ungodly; they sang hymns, O Lord, to your holy name, and praised  
with one accord your defending hand;  
<sup>21</sup> for wisdom opened the mouths of those who were mute, and made the tongues of infants speak clearly.

## Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark Krauth

*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ.  
Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

## The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st Chapter

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

*All: Glory to you, O Lord.*

*John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.*

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**P:** The Gospel of Our Lord

*All: Praise to You, O Christ.*

**Special Music****Gift of Music****Emma Wilcox****Message****The Word Is All in All****Pastor Andreas Pielhoop****Hymn of the Day****What Child is This-ELW 296 (vs1,3)****Judy Ryken**

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

**Nicene Creed****Pastor Andreas Pielhoop**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Prayers of Intercession****Pastor Andreas Pielhoop**

Each petition ends with: Hear us, O God. **Response: Your mercy is great.**

**Offering**

*We invite you to place your **Offering** in the offering plate as it is passed.*

**Offering Prayer**

P: As we lift up our offerings to the Lord, let us pray.

All: **God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful**  
*Offering Song*

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
 bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
 fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -  
 nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**Holy Communion: Words of Institution**

**Pastor Andreas Pielhoop**

P: For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

*At Hope we practice Open Communion. We believe the invitation to the table comes from Jesus Christ himself. Therefore, you do not need to be a member of this or any other congregation to join in the meal. Gluten-free wafers are available. Please let the pastor know you prefer one when your turn comes. To preserve the solemnity as guests at Christ's table, please return silently to your seat and refrain from talking while others receive Holy Communion. There will be plenty of opportunity afterwards at our coffee hour.*

**Prayer after Communion**

P: Let us pray.

All: **Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. Amen.**

**Blessing (Please stand as you are able)**

P: The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,  $\ddagger$  bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

All: Amen.

***Peace I Leave With You***

***Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you. Not as the world giveth, give I unto you; Not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled; Neither let it be afraid. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you. Amen.***

P: Glory to God in the highest!

All: **And peace to God's people on earth!**

P: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

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**Announcements**

**Pastoral Needs** – For any pastoral need, you can call or text Pastor Andreas Pielhoop at 415-577-5461 or via email at [pielhoop77@earthlink.net](mailto:pielhoop77@earthlink.net).

**Meet with Pastor Andreas** – Pastor Andreas will have office hours on January 15 from 1pm-3pm in Card Room 1 upstairs at Stanley Dollar Clubhouse. You can make an appointment but walk-ins are welcome too.

**Birthday Blessings** go out to **Margaret Anderson & David Rossing** who celebrate their birthdays on Jan 8

Thank you to **Emma Wilcox** for providing special music for today's worship!

**SPECIAL Announcement - Our Hope Choir** rehearses January 4 at 9:15am. All are welcome to join.  
THERE IS NO CHOIR PRACTICE ON JANUARY 11

**Women of Hope** – The women's Bible study group will be meeting on Saturday, January 10, from 10:00-11:30am in the Mulligan Room at Creekside. Please join us for some wonderful fellowship as well as snacks. See Priscilla Mah if you have any questions.

**Anchor Newsletter** – if you are not currently receiving Hope's Anchor newsletter and would like to, please give Robin your email address so you can be added to the distribution list.

**Fellowship** – Immediately following worship, please join us for a time of sharing coffee, goodies and great fellowship. Thank you to those helping with the set-up and clean-up. We ask one person from each table to bring their tray up to the counter at 12:15pm. This helps the clean-up tremendously. You are welcome to stay, socialize and drink coffee beyond that but we must have the clean-up completed by 1pm.

**Helpers & Worship Assistants for:**

Today – January 4	Next Sunday – January 11
<b>Presider</b> Pastor Andreas Pielhoop	<b>Presider</b> Pastor Andreas Pielhoop
<b>Altar</b> Priscilla, Sara, Camilla	<b>Altar</b> Priscilla, Jean, Camilla
<b>Greeters</b> Barrie Christensen, Dee Reichert, John Moilan	<b>Greeters</b> Sigrid Beach, Jean Faszholtz, Ann Gillette
<b>Lay Reader</b> Mark Krauth	<b>Lay Reader</b> Jack Padley
<b>Communion Assistants</b> Mark & Karen Krauth	<b>Communion Assistants</b> Lois Nelson, Stella Tang
<b>Ushers</b> Wally Hale, Nancy Simmons	<b>Ushers</b> John Moilan, Stella Tang
<b>Livestream</b> Jaxon	<b>Livestream</b> Jaxon
<b>Special Music</b> Emma Wilcox	<b>Special Music</b> What4?

**Readings for next Sunday, Jan 11:** Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

**Rides to Church** – Our volunteer drivers to worship are Sally Lionetti, Camilla Durham, Nancy Conrad (3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays only). If you need a ride to church, please contact them for the possibility of a ride.

**Our Worship Service is available to live-stream and view online each week on our website.** The link to the live-stream worship service is <https://bit.ly/3v6JTXm> The bulletin is available on the Hope website under the tab “Worship”. Select “Worship Bulletin” and click on the desired week.

**Your Offering** – If you would like to mail us your offering (including QCDs), please send it to: Hope Lutheran Church, 399 Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek CA 94598 (This is Hope’s mailing address, not our worship location).

**Please remember in prayer:** Inge Knight, Paula Tagliareni, Joan Birke (Carole Weyand’s friend), Haley Thaning (Todd’s daughter), Nancy Siebenand, Sandy Williams, Joseph Aiello (Karen Krauth’s dad), Wayne Anderson, Michael Foreman, Lina Hale, Ingrid Brick



*"We have this Hope of Christ's promises as an Anchor for our lives"*  
Hebrews 6:19