



Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

Hope Lutheran Church of Rossmoor

www.hoperossmoor.org

925-709-4673 (Voicemail ONLY)

The Rev. Andreas Pielhoop, Pastor

Prelude

Instrumental Music

Carlyn Obringer

Welcome & Introduction

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

Lighting the Advent Wreath: Advent 2

P: We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness.

Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.

Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

All: Amen.

Light two candles.

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, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

All: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Long-expected God,

All: we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

P: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ✠ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

All: Amen.



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Refrain
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

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.

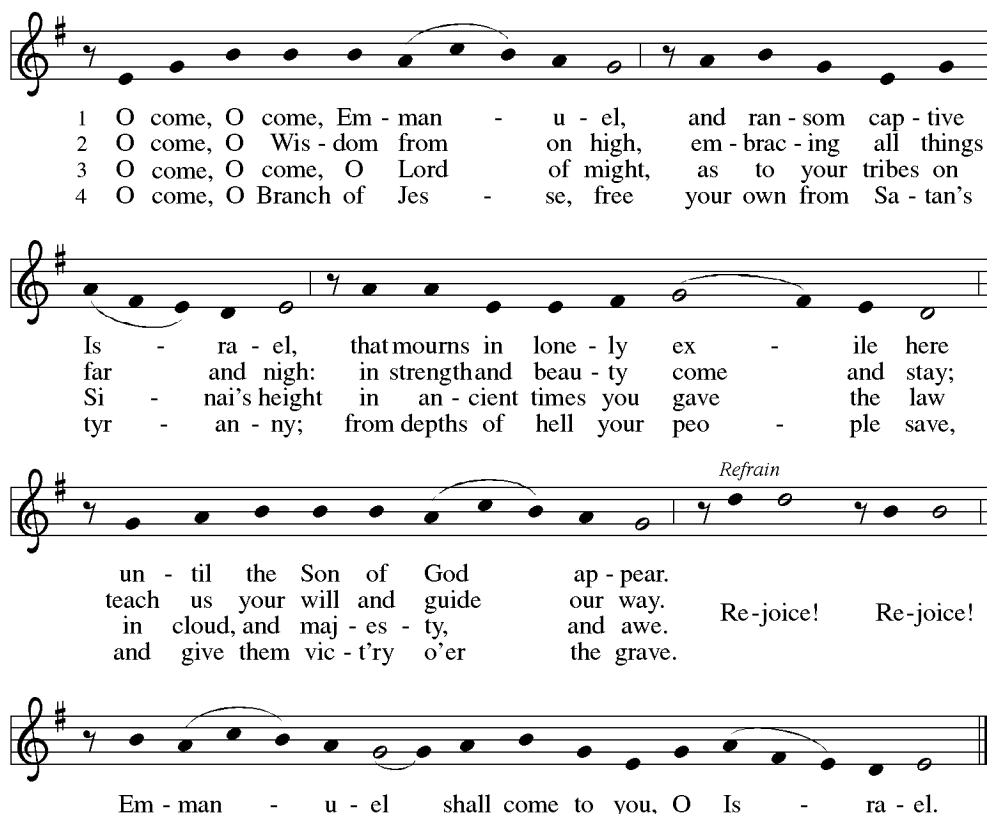
All: Lord, have mercy.

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.



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

Refrain
 un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Prayer of the Day**Pastor Andreas Pielhoop**

P: Let us all pray together.

All: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10**Jacqui Ewing**

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Jacqui Ewing & Congregation

- ¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;
² **that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**
³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴ **Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.
⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.**
⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
¹⁸ **Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!**
¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13

Jacqui Ewing

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name"; ¹⁰ and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people"; ¹¹ and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; ¹² and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope." ¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3rd Chapter

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" ⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham." ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

P: The Gospel of Our Lord

All: Praise to You, O Christ.

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounce - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

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: God of Grace, **Response: *Hear our prayer.***

Offering

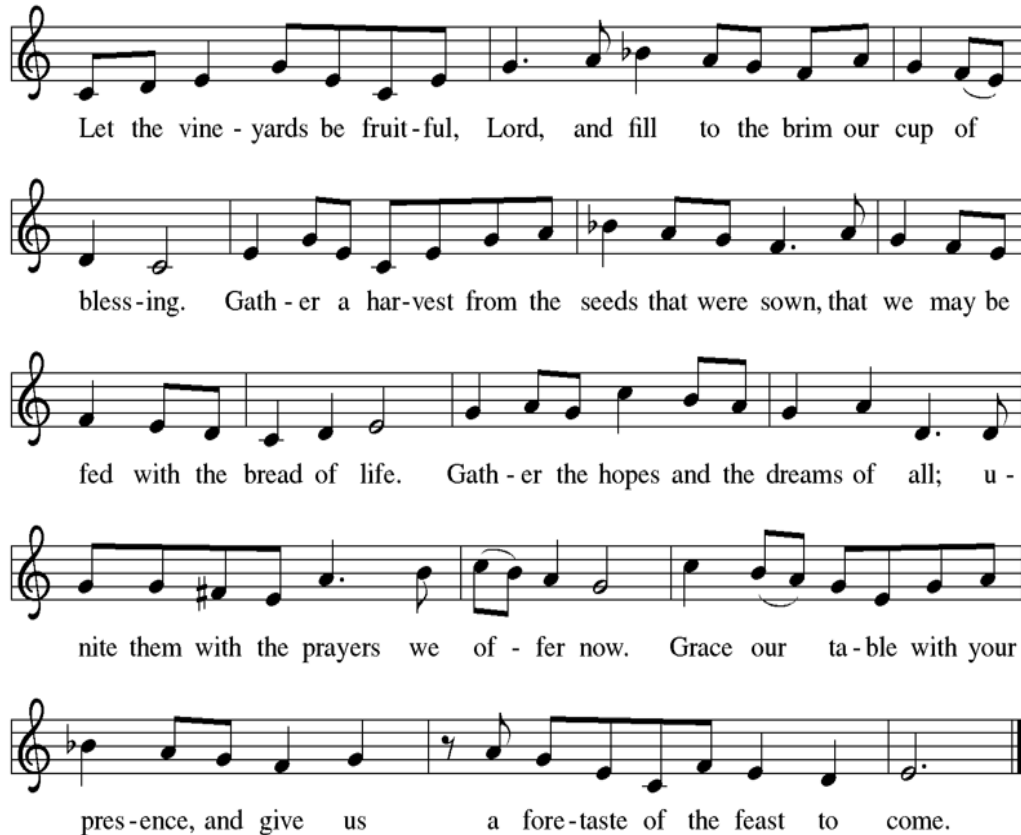
*We invite you to place your **Offering** in the offering plate as it is passed.*

Offering Prayer

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

All: Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. 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.

Instrumental Music

Carlyn Obringer

Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray.

All: God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Blessing (Please stand as you are able)

P: May God who comes among us, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

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: Go in peace. Keep awake.

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.

Meet with Pastor Andreas – Pastor Andreas will have office hours on December 18 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 **Nancy Conrad** who celebrates her birthday on Dec 13

Thank you to **Steve Mullins** for providing special music for today's worship!

Our Hope Choir rehearses Dec 7 & 14 at 9:15am. All are welcome to join.

Blue Christmas – A worship service of candles, prayer, and song for those of us who struggle with grief or loneliness during the Christmas holiday. Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at 2:00pm in the Fireside Room. All are welcome.

Women of Hope – The women's Bible study group will be meeting on Saturday, December 13, from 10:00-11:30am in the Mulligan Room at Creekside. The Advent study, found in the December issue of Gather magazine (Gathermagazine.org), will offer us ways of imagining God's future for us and all creation through the dreams of Joseph, the Wise Men, and Isaiah. Please join us for some wonderful fellowship as well as snacks. See Priscilla Mah if you have any questions.

Bible Study with Pastor Andreas will be on break in December. We will resume meeting on January 20 at 2:00pm in the Bunker Room at Creekside. All are welcome.

Fourth Wednesday Lunch Group – Due to the Christmas holiday, we will NOT be meeting in December. We will resume meeting Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at The Hangout at 11:30am.

Offerings to be credited for 2025 must be received by Dec. 28, 2025. Thank you for your gracious generosity!

The Christ In Our Home Devotional Booklets for Jan-Feb-Mar are available at the greeting table if you would like one. Large print version is available. Limit one per household please.

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.

Helpers & Worship Assistants for:

Today – December 7	Next Sunday – December 14
Presider Pastor Andreas Pielhoop	Presider Pastor Andreas Pielhoop
Altar Priscilla, Sara, Camilla	Altar Priscilla, Sara, Camilla
Greeters Barrie Christensen, Dee Reichert, Robin	Greeters Sigrid Beach, Jean Faszholz, Robin
Lay Reader Jacqui Ewing	Lay Reader Karen Peterson
Communion Assistants Wally & Lina Hale	Communion Assistants Stella Tang, Robin
Ushers Bill Kuhnsman, John Odne	Ushers Stella Tang, Robin
Livestream Chase	Livestream Jaxon
Special Music Steve Mullins	Special Music Hope Choir

Readings for next Sunday, Dec 14: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

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.

Rides to Church – Our volunteer drivers to worship are Sally Lionetti, Camilla Durham, Nancy Conrad (3rd, 4th, 5th 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



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