

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 1, 2024

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Zechariah 2:10-11b)

Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion!

**For lo, I will come and dwell in your midst, says the Lord.**

Many nations shall join themselves to the Lord in that day,

**and shall be my people; and I will dwell in your midst.**

INVOCATION

\* MUSIC                    *"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"*                    # 127

ADVENT CANDLE: Hope

Reader: The journey begins, and this candle will help light our way.

ALL : **We are on our way to more hope.**

Decrees and decisions affect our world and our lives as they did in Jesus' day.

**We are a people who long for Good News.**

There are milestones that guide us to a better day.

**God's light goes before us, we are not alone.**

Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

SUNG RESPONSE            *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*            (vs 1)            # 230

*"O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight."*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MUSIC                    *"Open Our Eyes Lord"*                    (Praise # 229)

*"Open our eyes, Lord, We want to see Jesus,  
To reach out and touch Him, And say that we love Him.  
Open our ears, Lord, And help us to listen,  
Open our eyes, Lord, We want to see Jesus."*

GOSPEL READING Luke 2:1-3 (NIV pew Bible # 1590)

**2** In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. **2**(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) **3**And everyone went to their own town to register.

EPISTLE READING Romans 8:18-25 (NIV pew Bible # 1757)

**18**I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. **19**For the creation waits in eager

expectation for the children of God to be revealed. **20** For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope **21** that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. **22** We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. **23** Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. **24** For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? **25** But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

The Word of the Lord.            **Thanks be to God!**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.**

MESSAGE *On the Way to Bethlehem: Rome - A Place of Longing* Darrell Arnold

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Sung by all*)

*"Our Father, Which 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."*

COMMUNION            *The table is open to all who profess Jesus as Lord.*

Pastor: The God of Hope be with you.

ALL: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us share in the Great Thanksgiving.

ALL: **We give thanks, together, to the Lord our God.**

Pastor: Let us confess our needs and look to God together.

ALL: **Almighty God, cleanse our hearts, forgive us our sins, fill us with your grace and inspire us by your Holy Spirit to magnify the name of Jesus.**

Pastor:                    (*Will the ushers please come forward*)

(*Those wishing to receive Communion at the rail may come forward*)

On the night in which Christ gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

*"Take eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."*

When the supper was over, Christ took the cup, gave thanks to God, gave it to his disciples, and said:

*"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."*

*(We may all eat of the bread together)  
(We may drink of the cup together)*

Pastor: Now in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**ALL: Christ has died; Christ is Risen; Christ will come again. Amen!**

GLORIA PATRI *"Glory Be to the Father"* # 70

OFFERING

\* DOXOLOGY *"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"* # 95

\* MUSIC *"Soon and Very Soon"* # 706

\* BENEDICTION *\* Please stand if you are able*

**Have a prayer concern or a blessing to share?**

**Call (209) 883-4952 or email [office@hughsonumc.com](mailto:office@hughsonumc.com).**

**Please obtain permission of individuals involved before sharing.**

### **Prayers**

Wendy Harper (Barry Patton's daughter-in-law), breast cancer surgery;  
Esta Smart, recovering from knee surgery;

### **Those Experiencing Loss**

Family & friends of Rev. Eva Herschbach Martin (Ceres UMC 1986-1992)

### **CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Dec 2 Ad Council, 1:30pm, Youth Room
- Dec 13 OWLS Lunch, 12noon, Samaritan Village
- Dec 15 Children's Christmas Program; Pizza lunch; Silent Auction
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight service, 7pm

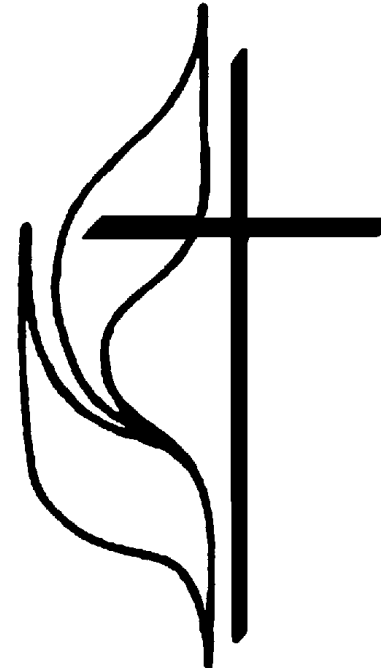
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Church office hours: Monday - Thursday 9am-3pm

Hughson UMC CCLI License: 441383



# **Hughson United Methodist Church**

December 1, 2024

## **Advent 1: Rome – A Place of Longing**

**Big Idea:** We are all on a journey. On that journey, places serve as markers for things we experience, and those experiences shape who we are.

**Key Verse:** 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have?

-Romans 8:22-24 (NIV)

These songs remind me that Christmas is not always about having hope; it is also about \_\_\_\_\_ for hope.

The question is, " \_\_\_\_\_ are we looking for hope?"

The Bible tells us that our longings show us where we need to \_\_\_\_\_ for God in our life.

In these words, Paul shows us that we long for restoration and that hope for restoration is found in \_\_\_\_\_ or the work of God.

Answering these questions gives you hope because you can \_\_\_\_\_ where God is already at work restoring your life and our world.

When we serve as messengers and servants of hope, we \_\_\_\_\_ the world hope it cries out for.

### **Scripture for Further Study:**

Luke 2:1-3

Romans 8:18-25

### **Prayer for the Week:**

Sovereign God, empires rise and fall, but your good purposes remain. As you called your saints in the past to challenge the powers of this world with the power of your justice and love, so you call us. We know we cannot change this world on our own. We also know we cannot change it without you. In Jesus Christ, you reveal your will and join us to him so we may participate in bringing it about. This Advent season, grant us courage and trust to do so, in his name. Amen.