

**H | O**      **C O M M U N I T Y**  
**P | E**      **C H U R C H**



Sunday December, 24th, 2023

## Welcome

We believe that God uses our time in corporate worship to conform us. He is like a master craftsman, and we are his work of art. God is the one who invites us to worship him and in doing so we commune with the Father in Christ through the power of His Holy Spirit. We find a specific flow of worship in Scripture, so our liturgy is based on a pattern that has been followed throughout Scripture and church history. We see that God speaks, and we respond.

**Remembering God's Presence** - God's grace initiates an invitation to worship. We remember that God is holy and glorious, and it is by grace that we are invited into his presence.

**Remembering God's Grace** - Since we are ushered into God's holy presence, we are made aware of our sin. We are reminded that our sin is forgiven in Christ, so we approach our God as his children. So we can be honest with him about our failures and be assured of his mercy.

**Renewal in Christ as Prophet** - God speaks to us through the Word of God proclaimed. The Holy Spirit uses this time to convict, rebuke, and encourage. This is a divine encounter with the true and living God.

**Renewal in Christ as Priest** - In this meal, we are strengthened and nourished by the Spirit of Christ. We commune with God himself and with one another. This is not a time for mere commemoration, but God is at work in our hearts as we partake.

**Renewal in Christ as King** - Christ the King sends us out to be a missional presence in the world. We are assured of his presence as we seek to live in our communities with Christ as our king.

This worship pattern is both biblical and spiritual formative. We invite you to participate actively in worship or to just listen and observe at your discretion.

We would love to meet you and answer any questions you may have. Be sure to stop by the Welcome table after the service or reach out to us at [info@hopecc.church](mailto:info@hopecc.church).

## Exploring?

Do you have questions about the Christian faith?

Do you desire to learn more about the person and work of Jesus Christ?

Do you wonder why we, a beautiful and messy community, love and are so committed to a local church?

Do you wrestle with intellectual barriers that make belief seem implausible, even irresponsible?

Do you struggle to reconcile a good God with a hurting world?

We recognize that you may have questions. That's why:

- We want to create a welcoming place where you feel comfortable coming with your questions and doubts.
- We seek to be a community where you can belong before you believe.
- We believe that God draws both the convinced and unconvinced to worship.
- We desire to listen to skeptics. We do not listen to respond, but we listen to hear the doubts and questions.
- We long to speak and show you how the love of Jesus Christ and a local church has changed us.

I would love to take you out to lunch and discuss with you how the gospel has changed my life, listen to your story, and try to answer your questions. Please reach out to me @ [jc@hopecc.church](mailto:jc@hopecc.church).

# Remembering God's Presence

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Please stand.

## CALL TO WORSHIP - PSALM 69:32-34

Minister: When the humble see it they will be glad; you who seek God, let your hearts revive. For the Lord hears the needy and does not despise his own people who are prisoners.

**All: Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and everything that moves in them.**

## SONG OF ADORATION

*GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN/WE THREE KINGS*

*MUSIC & WORDS: TRADITIONAL ENGLISH CAROL*

The call to worship is a reminder that God is the great initiator. He is the one calling us into His presence

Bold text is read together by the congregation. Plain text is read by the leader. Responsive readings remind us that during corporate worship God speaks to his people and we respond together as a community.

God rest ye merry, gentlemen  
Let nothing you dismay  
Remember Christ our Savior  
Was born upon this day  
To save us all from Satan's power  
When we were gone astray  
O tidings of comfort and joy  
comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

From God our heavenly Father  
This blessed angel came  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

O, star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, still  
proceeding  
Guide us to Thy perfect light

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain  
Gold I bring to crown Him again  
King forever, ceasing never  
Over us all to reign

O, star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, still  
proceeding  
Guide us to Thy perfect light

Glorious now behold Him arise  
King and God and sacrifice  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah  
Worship Him, God most high

O, star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, still  
proceeding  
Guide us to Thy perfect light

God rest ye merry, gentlemen,  
let nothing you dismay  
God rest ye merry, gentlemen,  
let nothing you dismay  
God rest ye merry, gentlemen,  
let nothing you dismay  
God rest ye merry, gentlemen,  
let nothing you dismay

**SONG OF PREPARATION**

*THE FIRST NOEL*

*MUSIC & WORDS BY: TRADITIONAL ENGLISH CAROL*

The First Noel the angels did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep  
Noel Noel Noel Noel  
Born is the King of Israel

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the East beyond them far  
And to the earth it gave great light  
And so it continued both day and night  
Noel Noel Noel Noel  
Born is the King of Israel

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord  
That hath made Heaven and earth of nought  
And with his blood mankind hath bought  
Noel Noel Noel Noel  
Born is the King of Israel  
Born is the King of Israel

# Remembering God's Grace

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Please be seated.

## **CALL TO REPENTANCE**

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Let us make our confession to God.

The call to  
repentance is an  
opportunity to  
remember God's  
grace and the  
goodness of the  
gospel as we  
confess our sins to  
Him.

## **PRAYER OF REPENTANCE**

**While we ask, Lord, for the most meaningful Advent season ever,  
we sadly confess having done so little with so much.**

**Forgive us Lord,  
for not bending the knee,  
for not reading your Word,  
for not searching our hearts,  
for not facing our sins.**

**Forgive us according to your tender mercies, O God!**

**Grant that when Christmas morning breaks for us this year,  
we may have a fresh sense of your presence  
and a renewed resolve to live to the praise of Christ's glory. Amen.**

*Silent Confession*

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS - Colossians 2:13-15**

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh,  
God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by  
canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set  
aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to  
open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

### *NOEL*

MUSIC & WORDS: CHRIS TOMLIN, EDWARD MARTIN CASH, MATTHEW JAMES REDMAN

Love incarnate, love divine  
Star and angels gave the sign  
Bow to babe on bended knee  
The Savior of humanity  
Unto us a Child is born  
He shall reign forevermore

Noel, Noel  
Come and see what God has done  
Noel, Noel  
The story of amazing love  
The light of the world, given for us  
Noel

Son of God and Son of man  
There before the world began  
Born to suffer, born to save  
Born to raise us from the grave  
Christ the everlasting Lord  
He shall reign forevermore

Noel, Noel  
Come and see what God has done  
Noel, Noel  
The story of amazing love  
The light of the world, given for us  
Noel

Noel, Noel  
Come and see what God has done  
Noel, Noel  
The story of amazing love  
The light of the world, given for us  
Noel

# Receiving Christ as Prophet

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Please be seated.

## **CHILDREN'S CLASS**

(At the parents' discretion, children up to 3rd grade may go to a class designed for them or remain in the service.)

God uses His Word to  
speak to us.

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Isaiah 7:10-16

<sup>10</sup> Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: <sup>11</sup> "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." <sup>13</sup> And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

The Spirit uses  
His Word as a  
powerful  
means of  
nourishing and  
comforting  
God's people,  
and awakening  
people to new  
faith.

## SERMON

REV. J.C. BAYSINGER

### The Love of Advent

#### ROMANS 8:31-39

**31** What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? **32** He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? **33** Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. **34** Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. **35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? **36** As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;  
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

**37** No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38** For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



## Notes

### Faith Seeking Understanding:

1. What does it mean that “God is for you”?
2. How has God shown that he is for you?
3. How does Christ’s intercession give you assurance?
4. What does it mean that “we are more than conquerors”?
5. How do Christ’s love and God’s love give you security in salvation?

# Receiving Christ as Priest

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All we have is  
given to us by  
God. Our  
offerings  
express this  
joyful  
dependance  
and our  
commitment  
to join God in  
his work of  
renewal.

## CHILDREN'S CLASS/NURSERY

(Parents are now excused to pick up their children and have them join us for the rest of worship.)

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,  
but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,  
being born in the likeness of men.

And being found in human form,  
he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,  
even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him  
and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

— **Philippians 2:5-11**

## PRAYER OF FAITH

## OFFERING

## SONG OF PREPARATION

*COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS*

MUSIC & WORD: CHARLES WESLEY

Come, Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free  
From our fears and sins release us  
Let us find our rest in Thee  
Israel's strength and consolation  
Hope of all the earth Thou art  
Dear desire of every nation  
Joy of every longing heart

Born Thy people to deliver  
Born a child and yet a King  
Born to reign in us forever  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone  
By Thine all sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

# Receiving Christ as Priest

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## **SURSUM CORDA**

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

## **PRAYER FOR THE SACRAMENT**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION**

Minister: Therefore, let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

**People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Minister: Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

**People: Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

## **INVITATION**

Minister: These are the Gifts of God, for the People of God. Feed on him in your hearts by faith, and with thanksgiving.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP**

(Directions for taking communion are on pages 14-15)

## **PASSING THE PEACE**

Minister: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People: And also with you.**

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Sursum Corda is Latin for "lift up your hearts." One of the oldest liturgical pieces still in use, it calls us to be heavenly-minded and summons us into the Lord's presence. Along with the voices around you, hear the echo of 2,000 years of worshipping Christians who have gone before.

Communion (i.e., the Lord's Supper or Eucharist) is a covenant renewal meal instituted by Jesus the night before his crucifixion. It points back to the cross, forward to the return of the King, but also, when we receive it in faith, it is true fellowship with King Jesus,

## **SONG OF BLESSING**

COME, BEHOLD THE WONDROUS MYSTERY

MUSIC AND WORDS: MATT PAPA

Come, behold the wondrous mystery  
Slain by death, the God of life  
But no grave could ever restrain Him  
Praise the Lord, He is alive

What a foretaste of deliverance  
How unwavering our hope  
Christ in power resurrected  
As we will be when He comes

What a foretaste of deliverance  
How unwavering our hope  
Christ in power resurrected  
As we will be when He comes

## **BENEDICTION**

The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

## **THE DISMISSAL**

Minister: Go in Peace

## NEXT AT HOPE

### **KIDS MUSIC REHEARSAL AFTER WORSHIP**

Our kids (ages 4-12) are helping sing “Angels From the Realm of Glory” during our Lessons and Carols service. Please join us after worship for a brief rehearsal with Micah Gaudet.

### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

Join us this afternoon at 3:30 pm for Lessons and Carols. The nursery will not be available for the afternoon service but kids are welcome to attend.

Also, the Gaudets are hosting a bring-your-own-lunch open house after our Sunday Service on December 24th. If you don't want to drive all the way home on Sunday, come hang out with the Gaudets. Their address is 41429 N Ebony St., San Tan Valley, AZ 85140.

### **COMMUNITY GROUP - Gilbert**

Tuesday 01/09/24, 7:00-8:15 pm  
The Baysingers  
7560 S Peppertree Dr,  
Gilbert, AZ 85298  
Gate Code: 0131

### **COMMUNITY GROUP - Queen Creek**

Tuesday 01/16/24, 7:00-8:15 pm  
The Tauntons  
39183 N Hailey Ln.  
San Tan Valley, 85140  
Gate Code: #0930  
Please enter at the Meridian and Via Del Jardin gate.

To stay up to date on all our activities or add your name and contact information, sign up with Church Center at [faithhopelove.churchcenter.com](http://faithhopelove.churchcenter.com)

### **STAFF**

J.C. Baysinger | Pastor | [jc@hopecc.church](mailto:jc@hopecc.church)

### **CONTACT**

[www.hopecc.church](http://www.hopecc.church)  
480-269-4517

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

### *Directions for taking communion:*

Hope Community Church welcomes all baptized believers who are trusting in Jesus Christ for salvation and understand the meaning of the Lord's Supper to eat with us. Please note that we use wine for Communion; if you prefer non-alcoholic grape juice, the grape juice is white, and the wine is red. Our bread is gluten-free.

### *When and how to come forward for communion:*

Starting with the first row, walk towards the center aisle and come forward. Once you have received the elements, please wait till all have been served, and we will partake together.

### *A Word to Parents:*

Children are welcome at the communion table. To receive the Lord's Supper, a child must have been baptized and been formally received as a communing member at Hope Community Church or the governing body of the church to which you belong. If you have any questions about how the process works, please contact Pastor J.C. Send him an email at [jc@hopecc.church](mailto:jc@hopecc.church)

Children may take the wine at their parents' discretion.



## PRAYERS FOR THOSE NOT COMMUNING

(Hope Community Church is not only for those who are committed followers of Jesus Christ, but also for those who are curious, skeptical, unsure, etc. Our desire is for you to feel that you belong, even if you are unsure if you believe that Jesus is Lord.)

## PRAYERS FOR THOSE SEARCHING FOR TRUTH

Lord, I am restless, and I am unsure why. I have desires that have no explanation. I am thirsty, but nothing seems to satisfy. I am hungry, but I can never get enough. I am restless. Please help me to understand and trust that you are my rest. Reveal yourself to me and show me that you are the way, the truth, and the life. I am restless; help me find my rest in you.

## PRAYERS OF BELIEF

Lord, I am convicted that I am a sinner in need of forgiveness. Forgive me for sinning against you in thought, word, and deed. Enable me to turn from trusting in my own efforts to trusting in you. Thank you for taking the punishment my sins deserved on the cross and by giving me new life in Christ, forgiveness of sins, and a righteousness that is not my own. Just as you raised Jesus Christ from the dead, I ask that you give me new life in him. Empower me to love you with my heart, soul, mind, and strength and my neighbor as myself. Help me to follow you in baptism and live as a committed disciple to you by faith in the power of your Spirit.

## Prayer Requests and Comments

We want to pray for you and hear your comments, suggestions, and praises. Please write them in the space below.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to speak with someone about the prayer request or other concerns. Please contact me at:

(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Day      Evening

Please hand this card in at the welcome table.

*We Are Glad You Are Here Today!*

We know it can be hard to connect with a new church. We want to help you in any way we can. Feel free to fill out the tear-off card and return it to the welcome table. Don't hesitate to check the box to meet with our pastor to help you learn more about HCC. We are here to serve you.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Children: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please add me to the church directory.

Please add me to the church email list.

*Please Let Us Know If You Are:*

First Time Visitor

Repeat Visitor

*Please Contact Me About:*

Joining a Community Group

Membership at Hope

Meeting with a Pastor

Getting Involved

## Hope Community Church

**Our Vision:** At Hope Community Church, we are a worshiping community of believers in Jesus Christ who are committed to developing our faith in him, depending on the hope he offers in the gospel, and deepening our love for Him and our neighbors.

**Developing Faith-Everybody** expresses faith to some degree. The question is, where is that faith directed? Are you banking on yourself, your family, science, the good of humanity, or are you ultimately depending on Christ? The beauty of the gospel is that when we begin to trust in Jesus, everything changes. We believe living by faith means moving into a realm whereby we are uncertain of ourselves but more confident of God and his faithfulness. As our faith increases, we become more like Christ as we seek to follow him.

**Depending on Hope-**As we express faith in Christ, we also depend on hope in the gospel. One Christian thinker puts it this way, "all hope must rest on something, but the key question is whether God and his scriptural promises are that foundation on which we find refuge by the power of the Spirit." One of the purposes of our church is to point people to the true source of hope, Jesus Christ.

**Deepening in Love-** As we develop our faith and depend on hope, our love for God and one another will increase. Our motive for loving others, not only those like us, but those who are radically different than us, is to glorify God in obedience to the gospel.

### STAFF

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