HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday December 22nd, 2024

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.

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.

Remembering God's Presence

Please stand.

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.

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

We Three Kings
WORDS & MUSIC BY: John Hopkins

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

(Refrain)

Oh, O star of wonder, star of light,
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.

Refrain

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, voices raising,
Worshiping God on high.

Refrain

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Borrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Refrain

Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

SONG OF PREPARATION

O Little Town of Bethlehem
WORDS & MUSIC BY: PHILLIPS BROOKS

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.

For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in;
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels,
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

Please be seated.

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.

CALL TO REPENTANCE

Prepare the way of the Lord!
Let us make our confession to God.

PRAYER OF REPENTANCE

Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved
but also our reluctance to love.
We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love
but also our refusal to forgive.
We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love
but also our resistance to follow you without question.
In this Advent time, forgive us our failure
to respond as we should.
Come to us anew, and by your grace,
assist us to receive you with joy, as the shepherds;
with gratitude, as Simeon;
with obedience, as Mary;
with love, as you have loved us.
Even so: come, Lord Jesus. 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

GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN
WORDS & MUSIC BY: UNKNOWN

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father
A 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.

"Fear not," then said the angel,
"Let nothing you affright;
This day is born a Savior
Of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in Him
From Satan's pow'r and might."
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.

The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks afeeding,
In tempest, storm, and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway,
This blessed Babe to find.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.

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.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 4 As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.
5 Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall become straight,
and the rough places shall become level ways,
6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "

Reader: The Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON **REV. J.C. BAYSINGER**

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

A Cry of Love

Isaiah 40:1-11

1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.
3 A voice cries:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
4 Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
5 And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."
The Word of God Stands Forever
6 A voice says, "Cry!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.
7 The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the Lord blows on it;
surely the people are grass.
8 The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.
9 Go on up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Behold your God!"
10 Behold, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
11 He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

Notes

Faith Seeking Understanding:

1. Where do we see the Lord's care for His people in the first two verses?
2. How is the covenantal promise of God's presence found in verses 3-5?
3. How do you find solace in God's enduring word?
4. What is the response from God's people to salvation?
5. Where do we see Christ fulfilling this passage?

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

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.

SONG OF PREPARATION

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH
WORDS & MUSIC BY: JAMES CHADWICK; EDWARD BARNES

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavn'ly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing.
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

See him in a manger laid,
Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid
With us sing our Savior's birth.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

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.

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 worshiping 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

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH
WORDS & MUSIC BY: JAMES CHADWICK; EDWARD BARNES

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing.
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo

BENEDICTION

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

THE DISMISSAL

Minister: Go in Peace

NEXT AT HOPE

CHRISTMAS EVE
Join us on December 24th at 3:30 pm for Lessons and Carols. The nursery will not be available for the afternoon service, but kids are welcome to attend.

COMMUNITY GROUP - Gilbert
Tuesday 01/07/24, 7:00-8:15 pm
The Baysingers
7560 S. Peppertree Dr.
Gilbert, 85298
Gate Code: 0131

COMMUNITY GROUP - Florence
Tuesday, 01/07/2024, 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm
The Tompkins
10741 E. Marigold Ct.
Florence, AZ 85132

COMMUNITY GROUP - Queen Creek
Tuesday 01/14/24, 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.

YTD	Budgeted	Actual	Difference
Internal Giving	$81,250	$69,549	-$11,171
Expenses	$97,317	$87,031	-$-10,286

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

STAFF
J.C. Baysinger | Pastor |jc@hopecc.church

CONTACT
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

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.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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

J.C. Baysinger | Pastor |jc@hopecc.church

CONTACT

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