

Hope United Methodist Church

December 7, 2025

Sunday Service

Signs and Stories

Pastor Jim Denton

Isaiah 11:1-10

Matthew 3:1-12

Today's Music:

Opening Hymn: Toda la Tierra (All Earth Is Waiting) (UMH 210)

Prayer Hymn: O Day of God, Draw Night (UMH 730, verses 1, 4, 5)

Closing Hymn: Blest Be the God of Israel (UMH 209)

Choir Anthem: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Pray Concerns:

Claude, Shirley, Rosalie, Angela, Jim, Phyllis, Breanna, Dean, Mary, Amanda, Larry, Nancy, Jerry, Sheryl, James, Tim, Heidi, Pam, Lexi, Deanne, Dave, David, Elaine, Lisa, Mary Jo, Jacob, Liliana, Tom, Don, Yvonne, Mikey, Daniel, Ramah, Francis, Jenny, Faith, Jacob, Betty, Andrea, Kristen, Steve, Dana
Families of Merle Churchill and Beth Moll

Our homebound: Wayne, Adele, Mary, Sandy, Fran, Irene, Nina, Shirlee, Betty, Diane

Weekly Calendar:

Sunday, Dec. 7

Adult Bible Study, Library

Worship Committee, Sanctuary

Confirmation Class, Sunday School Room

Monday, Dec. 8

Phil's Friends Knit & Crochet @ 10:00 am, Library

Dart Ball @ 11:30 am, Basement

UWFaith Board Meeting @ 11:00 am, Narthex/ Via Zoom

UWFaith & Mary's Circle @ 12:00 pm, Narthex

Tuesday, Dec. 9

Sonrise Seniors @ 10:30 am, Library

Wednesday, Dec. 10

Quilters @ 10:00 am, Narthex

Bible Study @ 10:30 am, Library

Brianna's Hope @ 6:00 pm, Narthex/Library

Praise Bells @ 7:00 pm, Sanctuary

Thursday, Dec. 11

Finance Meeting @ 6:00 pm, Library

Sunday, Dec. 14

Adult Bible Study, Library

Serving Today

Greeters: Irma Mora

Ushers: Irma Mora

Acolyte: Ameya Serna

Children's Message: Pastor Jim

Liturgist: Joan Link

Fellowship: The Wards, Headys, and Friends

Serving Next Sunday

Greeters: Irma Mora

Ushers: Irma Mora

Acolyte: Sofia Smith

Children's Message:

Liturgist:

Fellowship:

Romans 12:12 ~ Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

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Announcements and Community News

December Second Mile Giving for Hope UMC: The Bishop's Christmas Offering

Messy Church — The Next Messy Church event is on Tuesday, **December 16** from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Hope UMC, Community Center. Thanksgiving Dinner — Hope UMC Church

United Women in Faith & Mary's Circle — Invite you to a Christmas get together on Monday, December 8 at 12:00 p.m. in the Narthex. There will be cookies, coffee, fellowship, and fun.

The Giving Tree - Please bring the unwrapped gift, with the tag attached by **December 7**. The gifts will then be delivered to the Salvation Army on December 8.

Christmas Cantata— Ridge UMC will be hosting a Christmas Cantata "The Night of the Father's Love," on Sunday, **December 7** at 3:00 p.m. Come and enjoy good music and wonderful fellowship. See your bulletin insert for details. Questions, contact Ridge UMC (219) 838-4770.

CP & CC Christmas Pageant — The Community Preschool & Childcare will be having their annual Christmas Pageant at Hope UMC on **December 18** at 1:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. This beloved tradition is a heartwarming way for our community to come together and experience the true meaning of Christmas.

Scrip Cards - If you would like to order gift cards in time for Christmas. Please note orders need to be placed no later than Sunday, **December 14**. Questions, please contact Nancy Jarmula.

Christmas Eve Worship Services — Hope UMC will be having two worship services at 3:00pm and 7:00 pm. More details to come soon.

Connect with us

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Mon - Thursday

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NEW HERE



**TITHE &
OFFERING**



**EXPANDED
BULLETIN**

Hope United Methodist Church

Welcome and Community Life

Prelude

Call to Worship

Leader: Beloved, we gather to remember who we are, not who the world tells us to be.

People: We tell the story together of the day that all the earth awaits.

Leader: We recall the story of God's people, how God has called us to live in peace and righteousness in a world full of conflict and twisted morality.

People: We tell the story together of the day that all the earth awaits.

Leader: We recount the story of our journey with God, the moments of God's provision, God's prodding, and God's prophetic guidance.

People: We tell the story together of the day that all the earth awaits.

Leader: We gather to repent and return anew to God's story that guides our lives to work for peace and flourishing for all God's creation.

People: We gather to tell the story of the day that all the earth awaits. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Opening Hymn - Toda la Tierra (All Earth is Waiting) (UMH 210)

1. All earth is waiting to see the Promised One, and the open furrows, the sowing of the Lord. All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty; it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.
2. Thus says the prophet to those of Israel, "A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel," For his name is "God with us," our brother shall be, with him hope will blossom once more within our hearts.
3. Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain; open new highways, new highways for the Lord. He is now coming closer, so come all and see, and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.
4. In lowly stable the Promised One appeared, yet, feel his presence throughout the earth today, for he lives in all Christians and is with us now; again, with his coming he brings us liberty.

Advent Candle

Reader: ... We long for the day when "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" (Isaiah 11:6).

All: Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God's creation.

Children's Message

Memory Verse: But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God."
Luke 1:30

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Prayer Hymn - O Day of God, Draw Nigh UMH 730 (verses 1, 4, & 5)

1. O day of God, draw nigh in beauty and in power; come with thy timeless judgment now to match our present hour.
2. Bring to our world of strife thy sovereign word of peace, that war may haunt the earth no more, and desolation cease.
5. O day of God, draw nigh as at creation's birth; let there be light again, and set thy judgments on the earth.

Prayers of the People

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. Amen

Prayer Response - Hear Us, O God (UMH 490)

Choral Anthem - Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. 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. 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, 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. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. 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. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. 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. 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.

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Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” 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.’ ”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

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? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, 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. 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.

“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. 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.”

Sermon - "Signs and Stories"

Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

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And so, 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.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Prayer After Communion

ALL: Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here that flee the wrath that is to come and bear fruit worthy of repentance. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offering our Gifts to God

*The Doxology (UMH 95)

*Prayer of Dedication

***Closing Hymn** - Blest Be the God of Israel (UMH 209)

1 Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free, who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty. The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release; God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.

2 Now from the house of David a child of grace is given; a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven. Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way, the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

3 On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise, the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes, to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace; O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

***Breakthrough Prayer**

God of new beginnings and second chances. When your son, Jesus the Christ gave his life for us, the veil of separation was torn. Breakthrough all that would keep us separate from one another, from our neighbors, and from you that we may be one just as you and the Father are one. Lead us now into your beloved community where our identity is rooted in Christ alone.

Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude

Romans 12:12 ~ Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.