



## Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 13, 2009



hope church

open minds · open hands · open hearts

[www.hopeboston.org](http://www.hopeboston.org)



### FOR REFLECTION

Don't think that love, to be true, has to be extraordinary. What is necessary is to continue to love. How does a lamp burn, if it is not by the continuous feeding of little drops of oil? When there is no oil, there is no light and the bridegroom will say: "I do not know you". Dear friends, what are our drops of oil in our lamps? They are the small things from everyday life: the joy, the generosity, the little good things, the humility and the patience. A simple thought for someone else. Our way to be silent, to listen, to forgive, to speak and to act. That are the real drops of oil that make our lamps burn vividly our whole life.

Don't look for Jesus far away, He is not there. He is in you, take care of your lamp and you will see Him."

Mother Teresa

## GATHERING IN WORSHIP

*You are invited to light a candle at any time during worship that we might all share in the Light.  
During Communion find members of our prayer team are available to pray with you.  
Our prayer team will pray through the week the prayers that you offer via the prayer request form.  
We hope you will let us know that you have been with us by completing the form in the bulletin.*



**Living Hope**

**Welcome**

**The Walk to Christmas**

The Children of Hope Church

**The Candle of Joy**

**Opening Song**

“O Come O Come Emmanuel”

**Confession, Assurance and Celebration**

**Prayer & Silence**

**Sung Confession:**

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, Your name is called Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us, Your name is called Emmanuel.

**Assurance of Forgiveness and God’s Presence**

**Passing of the Peace** One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

**Sung Celebration:**

“Soon and Very Soon”

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King (3 times)

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.

No more crying there, we are going to see the King (3 times)

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.

No more dying there, we are going to see the King (3 times)

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.

(repeat first verse)

**Call To Prayer**

Hope Church Singers

**Prayers of the People**

*In addition to our open prayer time, you are encouraged to use the prayer circles that are available during Holy Communion and the Prayer Request in this bulletin which will bring your prayers to the attention of the pastor and the prayer ministry team.*

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

### Scripture



Zephaniah 3:14-20  
Luke 3:7-18

One: The Word of Truth      **All: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**                      The Trouble with Turning Down The Volume                      Rev. Wendy  
**Hymn**                                      "With Joy Draw Water"

## COMMUNION

### Offering

Invitation to Joyful Stewardship  
Sung Response (*Amen*), Procession of Gifts and Prayer of Dedication

### Holy Communion

**Invitation to the Feast:** *This is an open table; everyone is welcome. You are invited forward to receive the bread and dip it into the bowls of grape juice or the chalice of wine. Gluten Free "bread" is available. Should you need assistance; a server will bring you the communion elements.*

#### Communion Prayer and Prayer of Thanksgiving

##### Prayer of our Savior (sins; sins against us)

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever, amen.

##### Sharing the Bread and Cup

**Closing Hymn**                      "Jesus, Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child"

### Benediction

## **CHILD CARE**

Child Care and is available in the parlor,  
(through right hand door at the front of the sanctuary).

## **LIVING HOPE**

### **WORSHIP THIS WEEK & BEYOND:**

Invite a friend to come along and join us for worship.

**Today, Sunday, December 13, Third Sunday of Advent. 5:30pm Worship:** The children of Hope will lay a path to Christmas and light the Candle of Joy. John the Baptist will join us again, and challenge us with his annual call to repentance. We will ask, as the hearers did so many years ago, "What Then Shall We Do"?

### **Next Sunday, December 20, Fourth Sunday of Advent, 5:30pm Worship:**

The children of Hope will lay a path to Christmas and light the Candle of Love. And our worship will "Surprise" us with the almost unimaginable ways in which God is with us. We will sing along with Elizabeth and Mary-rejoicing in the Messiah and the Hope that Jesus brings.

## **SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES**

**The Social Justice Support Team** will be meeting on Sunday, Dec 13, from 3-5 pm. Please join us as we consider the issues of how to share our abundance, what activities and issues will be prioritized next year (possibly "Greening Hope Church"), the use of fast track grants, and how we can integrate justice into our daily lives as a church. Please RSVP to Neeka at [NStan108@gmail.com](mailto:NStan108@gmail.com), or feel free to contact her to talk about those issues separately if you can't join the meeting.

**Christmas Basket Building—Dec 19, 10 am—noon, Capen Hall:** We are accepting donations of non-perishable foods for the basket. Pasta, rice, sauce, crackers, cookies, soups, canned veggies, basic spices, flour, sugar, tea, coffee, stuffing, cereal, etc. Anything in a can, box, bag. Donations can be left in the container in the narthex.

**City Mission Society Christmas Shop** - This longstanding holiday tradition of the City Mission Society provides free, new gifts to as many as 2,000 Boston children and families. We will gather new, unwrapped gifts through Saturday a.m., Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>. On that day, volunteers are invited to help take the collected gifts to the First Congregational Church, UCC, in Winchester, where gifts will be sorted and which now serves as the distribution center. Gift Suggestions: Winter coats, sweaters and sweatshirts (esp. larger sizes), Hats, mittens, gloves and scarves, Socks and underwear, Blankets and backpacks, Toys, games and books for all ages, Gift cards from Target, Walgreens, CVS, Kohl's or others.

**Jason & deMarco are coming to Massachusetts:** Save the date of Sunday, December 13, 2009. Join Jason & deMarco in worship with the First Congregational Church, UCC of Natick, 2 East Central Street Natick, MA 01760 at 10:30AM. Be there when Jason & deMarco take the stage in concert at First Congregational Church, UCC of Natick at 2PM. These performances are free, but a love offering will be taken to support Jason & deMarco's ministry during both the service and the concert.

**Day of Service:** We will be joining with the City Mission Society in their annual Martin Luther King Day of Service and Learning. It's on Saturday, January 16, 2010 from 9am-4pm and we will be working in Boston. This is your chance for a hands-on project and an opportunity to work with people from other churches. Due to safety issues, participants 14 and older are welcome. You must RSVP to Neeka by December 18 if you want to participate.  
Nstan108@gmail.com

**Worship Participation:** Please consider signing up for one of the Sunday worship roles in advance at the online Worship Participation site. Go to [http://hopeboston.org/worship\\_spirituality/worship\\_participation](http://hopeboston.org/worship_spirituality/worship_participation) and then click on the words "Worship Participation".

### Fast Track Grant

We have been blessed with yet another opportunity to provide a fast track grant for a cause near and dear to the heart of one of our Covenant Partners. Kathy Mainzer introduced us to the Farm of the Child, an orphanage in Honduras Kathy learned of from her cousin who worked there for two years. The money goes to support the children and the "house parents" who live in small huts with them. They teach things such as English and gardening. The goal of the program is to educate the residents to become agents of change in their community, They are "a Christian community working to be God's hands and feet in Honduras".

*Christmas is coming...*  
**...slow down...make space...for the holy...**  
**...take time...get ready...for the miracle...**

**Tuesday Twilights**  
*Designed with the  
commuter in mind.*

**Dec 15—labyrinth walk  
& meditation**

*Each evening:*  
6:00 pm silent sanctuary  
6:15 pm guided worship  
6:45 pm fellowship & break  
7:00-7:30 dig discussion option  
(deeper inquiry group)



**Tues, Dec 22, 7:00 pm**  
**A Blue Christmas**  
**Longest Night Service**  
Sacred space offering hope and healing for those living with darkness and loss.

**Community Carol Sing**  
Sat, Dec 12, 4:00—6:00 pm

**A Sweet the Sound Christmas  
Concert for All**  
Sat, Dec 19, 4:00-5:30 pm

**Christmas Eve, 6:00 pm**  
Hope Church's renowned  
Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant  
Joy for all ages!



## HOPE CHURCH LEADERSHIP

**Ministers:** All of us!

**Interim Pastor:**

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade, [pastor@hopeboston.org](mailto:pastor@hopeboston.org)

**Administrative Manager:**

Frederick Hayes, [office@hopeboston.org](mailto:office@hopeboston.org),

**Interim Music Director**

Jeanne Lucas, [jeannemlucas@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannemlucas@hotmail.com)

**Music Leadership**

Hope Church Singers,  
Sara Goplin, Bobby Hall, Neil Helme, Todor Stoinov

**Interim Minister**

**Spiritual Formation & Christian Education**

Frederick Hayes, [office@hopeboston.org](mailto:office@hopeboston.org),

**Leadership Circle:**

J Conlon, [board@hopeboston.org](mailto:board@hopeboston.org) (Moderator)

John Brock, Bob Drake, Christie Dustman,

Kathie Mainzer, Stacey Schamber,

Frank Stevens, Kevin Tucker, Judy Wagoner

## HOPE CHURCH MINISTRIES

*Hope Church is a vibrant and growing community with lots of ways to get involved. Please contact these leaders and let us know where you feel called to serve and we'll plug you in!*

**Casserole Care:**

Kathy Bermingham

**Children's Church:**

Fred Hayes

**Finance:**

Frank Stevens

**Hospitality:**

All of us....

**In Care Committee**

Polly Hamlen

**Nominating Committee:**

Laura Everett

**Prayer Ministry:**

Beverly Pacheco

**Search Committee:**

Beth Chandler

**Seminarian Support:**

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

Rev. Steven Vandergrift

**Social Justice:**

Neeka Stanley

**Stewardship:**

Ellen Snoeyenbos

**Welcome Baby:**

Barbara McQueen

**Welcome Wagon:**

Jean Vandergrift

**Worship, Arts and Music:**

Nanette Savides/Sarah Goplin

## **Welcome to Hope Church...**

Welcome to all who have no church home, need strength, want to follow Christ, have doubts, or do not believe.

Welcome to new visitors and to old friends.

Welcome to grandparents, to mothers, fathers, and single people.

Welcome to people of all colors, cultures, abilities, and sexual orientations, to old and young, to believers and questioners – and welcome to questioning believers.

Welcome to everyone!

Tonight we are all invited to live into God's love, peace, and justice

### **CONTACT:**

#### **Hope Church**

United Church of Christ & Disciples of Christ

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