

Today we hold on to the memories that give us laughter and warmth.

In the stillness of this place, we offer thanks.

Today as we observe our candle of Hope and never-ending circle of the remembrance wreath, we remember that the love of God surrounds us in all the times of our lives.

In the stillness of this place, we offer thanks.

And we remember that your hope through Jesus came when we least expected and continues to come even during our darkest hours.

In the stillness of this place, we offer thanks and remember.

Those who wish may come forward to pin their ribbon on the wreath during a time of reflection

(Remain Seated)

HYMN MV #90 “Don’t Be Afraid”

*Don’t be afraid. My love is stronger
my love is stronger than your fear.*

*Don’t be afraid. My love is stronger and
I have promised, promised to be always near.*

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

OFFERING INVITATION

***Please Stand for the Offering Hymn**

OFFERTORY HYMN

tune of “Good King Wenceslas”

Here are gifts we offer, God,
thankful for our blessings.

Take them, Spirit, use them to,
spread the *hopeful* message;

That Christ comes to bring to us
life for all creation.

May our gifts help bring to all,
love and transformation.

ORDER OF SERVICE

*Please Stand Where Able

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

MUSICAL PRELUDE

BIBLE OPENING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

GATHERING and PRAISE

(* Please stand if able)

CENTRING SONG: VU#10

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

If God only had given us this precious moment of life

It would have been enough

If God had only given us the warmth and cold of this good earth

It would have been enough

If God had only given us the love we share among family and friends

It would have been enough

If God had only given us this church with its praise and service

It would have been enough

But God, most wonderful, has given us all this and so much more this Advent in and through Jesus Christ!

And so our thanks overflows as we enter this time of worship.

***HYMN VU#5**

“All Earth is Waiting”

**LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE
A SYMBOL OF HOPE**

Light the first purple candle

Holy God, in a world filled with tragedy, loss and chaos, we arrive weary and wrung out.

We come to find shelter from our grief and fears, to discover hope as we practice our faith in worship.

We long for relief.

We come because the vulnerable Christ child enlightens us with possibility.

On this second Sunday of Advent, we light this second candle symbolizing hope—the assurance that the risen Christ transforms all things in love.

The second purple candle is lit.

Flickering and fragile, this tiny flame opens us to wonder, to the heart of God, which transforms us.

PRESENTING THE SYMBOL OF HOPE

HYMN VU#7 “Hope is a Star” vs 1 ONLY

Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.
When God is a child there’s joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.

LET US PRAY (*unison*)

We come to be sustained in life, O God. Inspire us to perceive the Way of Jesus as the path of wholeness. Unite us to become a community of faith woven as one by the

Spirit. Teach us how to live by loving-kindness, becoming catalysts for hope in the hearts of those we encounter. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

WE HEAR THE WORD

A Time for All Ages

Prayer of Illumination

SCRIPTURE

Psalm #121

Isaiah 9: 1,2

Romans 8: 18, 35,38,39

RESPONSE: *Thanks be to God*

REFLECTION *“Hope for the Holidays”*

(Remain Seated)

HYMN MV #90 *“Don’t Be Afraid”*

*Don’t be afraid. My love is stronger
my love is stronger than your fear.*

*Don’t be afraid. My love is stronger and
I have promised, promised to be always near.*

REMEMBRANCE WREATH

Litany of Remembrance

Today we remember all those who have brought light and love to our lives.

In the stillness of this place, we offer thanks.

Today we recall people who walked the road beside us when the way was dark.

In the stillness of this place, we offer thanks.