

**"I Believe in the Sun: Hope for Tomorrow"
WORSHIP SERVICE NOVEMBER 29, 2020
CONSECRATION SUNDAY**

FELLOWSHIP TIME 9:30

WORSHIP TIME 10:00

Please put your Joys & Concerns in the zoom chat box
Have your Advent display or candle available to light

PRELUDE "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

"Stillness" - Val O'Connor

The gentle pull of God is often lost amidst the rush of all the obligations which lay a claim on us. Yet just beyond the frantic pace our restless feet have trod lie deep still pools of quietness—the dwelling place of God. Meet me in the stillness, Lord Be the air I breathe

Meet me in the stillness, Lord Free me to receive O take me to that secret place where lost in wonder and in awe, the moment comes and I rejoice to be and be with God. Meet me in the stillness, Lord Be the air I breathe
Meet me in the stillness, Lord Free me to receive

OPENING HYMN O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(Choir)

UMH #211 vs1,2,6,7

ADVENT LIGHTING - Vandall Family

Reader: The place without light

ALL: The place without light

Reader: The depth of night

ALL: The depth of night

Reader: The pit of unknowing

ALL: The pit of unknowing

Reader: As we together light the candle of Hope let us pray

Holy One, we thank you for the glimpses we catch
of your gift of untiring hope. Even in the midst of fear,
of challenge, of struggle—even when our view is obscured
by clouds of doubt, ignite the flame of hope within us,

All ... that we might glow with its brilliance from the inside out. Amen

"I Believe"

JOYS & CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

ALL: The Lord's Prayer:

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. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory now and forever. Amen.

PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH

604 SEVEN MILE ROAD HOPE, RI. 02831

401-821-8217

www.sovumc.org/give-now

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, these gifts are not payment for services rendered. These aren't our dues necessary for us to belong to this church. We know you made us with a purpose, and so now we give ... on purpose, freely offering to you the best of who we are. Continue to work out your purpose in us. Make us your hands, outstretched, on purpose. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE

"Humbly"

(you tube)

SCRIPTURE READINGS - Liturgist Linda Gay

Isaiah 40: 1-11 (Message)

"Comfort, oh comfort my people," says your God. "Speak softly and tenderly to Jerusalem, but also make it very clear That she Has served her sentence, that her sin is taken care of—forgiven! She's been punished enough and more than enough, and now it's over and done with." Thunder in the desert! "Prepare for God's arrival! Make the road straight and smooth, a highway fit for our God. Fill in the valleys, level off the hills, Smooth out the ruts, clear out the rocks. Then God's bright glory will shine and everyone will see it. Yes,. Just as God has said." A voice says, "Shout!" I said, "What shall I shout?" "These people are nothing but grass, their love fragile as wildflowers. The grass withers, the wildflowers fade, if God so much as puffs on them. Aren't these people just so much grass? True, the grass withers and the wildflowers fade, but our

God's Word stands firm and forever." Climb a high mountain, Zion. You're the preacher of good news. Raise your voice. Make it good and loud, Jerusalem. You're the preacher of good news. Speak loud and clear. Don't be timid! Tell the cities of Judah, "Look! Your God!" Look at him! God, the Master, comes in power, ready to go into action. He is going to pay back his enemies and reward those who have loved him. Like a shepherd, he will care for his flock, gathering the lambs in his arms, Hugging them as he carries them, leading the nursing ewes to good pasture.

1Corinthians 1:3-9

May all the gifts and benefits that come from God our Father, and the Master, Jesus Christ, be yours. Every time I think of you—and I think of you often!—I thank God for your lives of free and open access to God, given by Jesus. There's no end to what has happened in you—it's beyond speech, beyond knowledge. The evidence of Christ has been clearly verified in your lives. Just think—you don't need a thing, you've got it all! All God's gifts are right in front of you as you wait expectantly for our Master Jesus to arrive on the scene for the Finale. And not only that, but God himself is right alongside to keep you steady and on track until things are all wrapped up by Jesus. God, who got you started in this spiritual adventure, shares with us the life of his Son and our Master Jesus. He will never give up on you. Never forget that.

**THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD
THANKS BE TO GOD**

MESSAGE

"Lacking in Nothing"
Rev. Effie E. McAvoy

Prayer of Dedication for our time, talents, gifts, service, and witness.

Gracious God, we lift these pledges to you. For the world in need, we dedicate them to you. For the church...often times dismembered due to human frailty and schism, we dedicate them to you that you may remember us as we remember you in all that we strive to do in mission and ministry. Holy One, for the gift of life that you have given us and the work that you have entrusted us with to move in your world we as that your continued blessings flow. Yes, Dear God, Bless them and make them enough. In Christ we pray, Amen.

Rev. Dr. Hope Luckie and Rev. Effie McAvoy

Litany of Belief - Greg Thuotte

Pastor: I believe that we have looked the other way too many times AND

All: We have failed to truly SEE the impact that we as individuals have in and on the world around us.

Pastor: I believe that our fear of difference has robbed us of compassion AND

All: has blinded us to the ways that we as a community of faith and as individuals can be change agents for the world around us!

Pastor: I believe that our fear and doubt makes us stop asking tough questions AND

All: keeps us from moving forward toward the illuminating light that transforms our hearts and minds and moves us to action in the world around us.

Pastor: However, because we serve a god who gives us the ability to witness, has opened our eyes to new things, and walks with us on the journey of transformation, we believe, even when we are discouraged AND

All: That God can and does use us. We can make a difference on this Planet Earth. We can be agents of transformative change! We can REFUSE to take more than we need.

(Responses written by the Wisdom Seekers bible study group)

CLOSING HYMN "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

UMH#196

(Choir)

BENEDICTION