

WORSHIP SERVICE DECEMBER 27, 2020
Sunday After Christmas
“Believe This: The Time Has Come”

PRELUDE **“DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR”**

(you tube)

OPENING PRAYER - 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 **“Angels from the Realms of Glory”** UMH#220

(choir)

ADVENT LIGHTING Mike & Sandy knapp

Reader: The clouds begin to clear

All: The clouds begin to clear

Reader: The horizon starts to glow

All: The horizon starts to glow

Reader: The time has come

All: The time has come

Leader: Help us continue to proclaim far and wide that the time has come for light to be among all people. Amen.

Leader: You are invited to light all your Advent and Christmas candles at this time.

LEADER

Holy One,

we thank you for the glimpses we have caught throughout this season of Advent and Christmas of your gifts of hope, love, joy, and peace. Even in the midst of fear, of challenge, of struggle— even when we have not been sure of tomorrow, you have ignited the Light within us, People: ... and we have glowed with its brilliance from the inside out.

“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
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www.sovumc.org/give-now

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, this gift is 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

“HOLY IS HIS NAME”

(you tube)

SCRIPTURE READINGS - Liturgist Jay O'Connor

Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3

I will sing for joy in God, explode in praise from deep in my soul!
He dressed me up in a suit of salvation, he outfitted me in a robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom who puts on a tuxedo and a bride a jeweled tiara. For as the earth bursts with spring wildflowers, and as a garden cascades with blossoms, So the Master, God, brings righteousness into full bloom and puts praise on display before the nations. Look, Your Savior Comes! Regarding Zion, I can't keep my mouth shut, regarding Jerusalem, I can't hold my tongue, Until her righteousness blazes down like the sun and her salvation flames up like a torch. Foreign countries will see your righteousness, and world leaders your glory. You'll get a brand-new name straight from the mouth of God. You'll be a stunning crown in the palm of God's hand, a jeweled gold cup held high in the hand of your God. No more will anyone call you Rejected,

and your country will no more be called Ruined. You'll be called Hephzibah (My Delight), and your land Beulah (Married), Because God delights in you and your land will be like a wedding celebration. For as a young man marries his virgin bride, so your builder marries you, And as a bridegroom is happy in his bride, so your God is happy with you.

Luke 2: 22-40

Then when the days stipulated by Moses for purification were complete, they took him up to Jerusalem to offer him to God as commanded in God's Law: "Every male who opens the womb shall be a holy offering to God," and also to sacrifice the "pair of doves or two young pigeons" prescribed in God's Law. In Jerusalem at the time, there was a man, Simeon by name, a good man, a man who lived in the prayerful expectancy of help for Israel. And the Holy Spirit was on him. The Holy Spirit had shown him that he would see the Messiah of God before he died. Led by the Spirit, he entered the Temple. As the parents of the child Jesus brought him in to carry out the rituals of the Law, Simeon took him into his arms and blessed God: God, you can now release your servant; release me in peace as you promised. With my own eyes I've seen your salvation; it's now out in the open for everyone to see: A God-revealing light to the non Jewish nations, and of glory for your people Israel. Jesus' father and mother were speechless with surprise at these words. Simeon went on to bless them, and said to Mary his mother, This child marks both the failure and the recovery of many in Israel, A figure misunderstood and contradicted the pain of a sword-thrust through you— But the rejection will force honesty, as God reveals who they really are. Anna the prophetess was also there, a daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher. She was by now a very old woman. She had been married seven years and a widow for eighty-four. She never left the Temple area, worshiping night and day with her fastings and prayers. At the very time Simeon was praying, she showed up, broke into an anthem of praise to God, and talked about the child to all who were waiting expectantly for the freeing of Jerusalem. When they finished everything required by God in the Law, they returned to Galilee and their own town, Nazareth. There the child grew strong in body and wise in spirit. And the grace of God was on him.

SERMON

"WE MADE IT. PRAISE GOD!"

REV. DR. HOPE LUCKIE

CLOSING HYMN

"God Has Work for Us to Do"

by Mark A. Miller

BENEDICTION