

# Hope United Methodist Church

December 21, 2025

## Sunday Service

### Signs and Faithfulness

Pastor Jim Denton

Isaiah 7:10-16

Matthew 1:18-25

## 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, 2, 5)

Closing Hymn: To a Maid Engaged to Joseph (UMH 215)

Choir Anthem: My Lord, He Is A Comin' Soon

## 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, Denny

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

## Weekly Calendar:

### Sunday, Dec. 21

Confirmation Class, Sunday School Room  
Christmas Carol Sing-a-long, Community Center

### Monday, Dec. 22

Dart Ball @ 11:30 am, Basement  
Phil's Friends @ 10:00 am, Library

### Tuesday, Dec. 23

Sonrise Seniors @ 10:30 am, Library

### Wednesday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve Worship @ 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm

### Thursday, Dec. 25 – **Christmas Day**

Church Office Closed

### Sunday, Dec. 28

Adult Bible Study, Library

## Serving Today

**Greeters:** Irma Mora, Donald French

**Ushers:** Irma Mora, Donald French

**Acolyte:** Georgia Heady

**Children's Message:** Cyndi Slaboski

**Liturgist:** Joan Link

**Fellowship:** Congregational Care

## Serving Next Sunday

**Greeters:** Irma Mora

**Ushers:** Irma Mora

**Acolyte:** Bellamy Avina

**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.

**Northern Lakes District Leadership University 2026** - Free Zoom workshops for laity and clergy will be held Sat., Jan. 31 (9am–noon CST) and Sat., Feb. 7, 2026 (8–11am CST). Register by Jan. 30 or Feb. 6. Learn more and register at [inumc.org/districts/northern-lakes-district](http://inumc.org/districts/northern-lakes-district) or contact Eva Goeb - [eva.goeb@inumc.org](mailto:eva.goeb@inumc.org)

**Hope UMC Church Directory** - We're updating our Hope Directory and have started taking photos for our directory. Today is the last day to have your photo taken. Please reach out to Sarah Ward if you were unable to get your photo taken.

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

**Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long** - There will be a Christmas Carol sing-a-long on TODAY after worship in the Community Center. We will have cookies and hot chocolate.

**Financial Gifts for 2025** - The last date for which tithes and offerings can be attributed to 2025 is Sunday, December 28, which should be clearly marked 2025 offerings.

The alter flowers in worship are in memory of Rose Kruse and in honor of Grace Kruse for their birthdays, given by Praise Bells.

Remember to like and follow our Facebook page if you are social media: [www.facebook.com/INHopeUMC](https://www.facebook.com/INHopeUMC). And make sure you visit the website: [inhopeumc.org/](http://inhopeumc.org/)

### Connect with us

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Mon - Thursday

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NEW HERE



TITHE &  
OFFERING



EXPANDED  
BULLETIN

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

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\*Please stand, as you are comfortable.

## Welcome and Community Life

### Prelude

### Call to Worship

Leader: Beloved, God calls to us—like Joseph—through angels and messengers, inviting us to listen for the Spirit's guidance in the midst of half-truths and distractions.

**People: We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.**

Leader: Sometimes, angels surprise us (as they did Mary) with good news too fantastical to believe and yet too real—realer than real—to ignore.

**People: We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.**

Leader: For generations, God has sent signs of God's coming kingdom in unexpected places - the birth of a child, the wisdom of the lowly, the faithfulness of a carpenter.

**People: We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.**

Leader: Come! Let us worship God who calls out to us, inviting us to faithfulness as we watch, wait, and work for the day when the whole world knows the abundant love and grace of Emmanuel, God-with-us.

**People: Come! Let us worship as we listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits**

**\*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: ...God's love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

**All: With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world's judgment.**

### 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

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

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## Prayer Hymn - O Day of God, Draw Nigh UMH 730 (verses 1, 2, & 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 troubled minds, uncertain and afraid, the quiet of a steadfast faith, calm of a call obeyed.
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 - Is Your Heart Prepared for a King?

## Prayer of Illumination

## Scripture Reading

### Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

### Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah[a] took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord

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

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commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

**Leader:** The Word of God

**People: Thanks be to God**

**Sermon - "Signs and Truths"**

**Apostle's Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;\* the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\*\* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

**Lesser Thanksgiving**

**Leader:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Offering our Gifts to God**

\*The Doxology (UMH 95)

\*Prayer of Dedication

**\*Closing Hymn - To a Maid Engaged to Joseph (UMH 215)**

1 To a maid engaged to Joseph, the angel Gabriel came. "Fear not," the angel told her, "I come to bring good news, good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news.

2 "For you are highly favored by God the Lord of all, who even now is with you. You are on earth most blest, you are most blest, most blessed, God chose you, you are blest!"

3 But Mary was most troubled to hear the angel's word. What was the angel saying? It troubled her to hear, to hear the angel's message, it troubled her to hear.

4 "Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child. His name shall be called Jesus, God's offspring from on high. And he shall reign forever, forever reign on high."

5 "How shall this be?" said Mary, "I am not yet a wife." The angel answered quickly, "The power of the Most High will come upon you shortly, your child will be God's child."

6 As Mary heard the angel, she wondered at his words. "Behold, I am your handmaid," she said unto her God. "So be it; I am ready according to your word."

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## **\*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**