

***We are here to: Love God, Love Our Neighbor and Serve the World.***

**December 3, 2023    9:00 AM and 10:30 AM    Advent I: "Being Present with Hope"**

**Prelude**                      *In Silence We Wait*    Parker/Larson

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Becoming Present - an Advent Ritual**

We unwrap a present on this first Sunday of Advent with great anticipation for the gift that God will reveal.

**We open our hearts as we open the gift!**

The promise of Hope is the Divine Gift we receive.

**And what will we do with it?**

The gift of hope is an essential survival tool because it reminds us that the hard times do not have the last word. Hope is not simply a wish.

Hope calls us into action based on a belief that things can be different.

We can work to bring about the better world that we hope for.

**We light this Candle of Hope as a sign that we will be Present with Hope in the world.**

**\*Song**                      *Christ Be Our Light*    Farrell

Congregation joins on the refrain:

**Christ, be our light!**

**Shine in our hearts.**

**Shine through the darkness.**

**Christ be our light!**

**Shine in your church gathered today.**

**Prayer of Presence**

**Holy Living Light of God,  
you are our Hopeful Presence.**

**Let this hope grow in our lives each day,  
so we can be a Present of Hope to others.**

**Unwrap and open our hearts.**

**May it be so.**

**Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn**                      *What Gift Can We Bring (vs. 1-3)*    UMH #87

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Invitation**

**Confession and Assurance**

...In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

**Glory to God, Amen.**

*-the liturgy continues-*

**The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks.

**It's so right to do.**

We open our hearts

**To let all gifts flow through.**

*-the liturgy continues-*

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*-the liturgy continues-*

They all came together at table that night.

He broke bread and said,

**"this is my body broken for you and also for you.**

**Take, eat, remember, do this and believe"**

Whenever you gather, lift up this cup.

Know of my promise, a new covenant.

**"This now is poured out to offer my love.**

**Take, drink, remember, do this and believe."**

*-the liturgy continues-*

...as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

*-the liturgy continues-*

...until Christ comes in final victory

And we feast at his heavenly banquet.

**With Jesus, the Christ, and with the Spirit,**

**All glory and honor is yours, Giving God.**

**We know and believe that what we must do**

**Is open our hearts to let all gifts flow through.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

UMH# 895

**Our Hope who art in heaven ...**

**Sharing the Bread and the Cup**

**Communion Song**                      *Oh Christ You Call to Your Table*

\*You are invited to stand as you are able or comfortable

**Prayer after Receiving**

**Hymn**                      *Jesus Loves Me (Verse 1)*                      UMH #191

**A Time for Young Disciples**

**Hymn**                      *Jesus Loves Me (Verse 3)*                      UMH #191

**Gospel Reading**                      Mark 13: 24-3

**Message**                      "Being Present with Hope"                      Rev. Amy B. Gregory

**Response**                      *Hymn of Promise*                      UMH #707

**Invitation to Generosity: Offering Our Gifts and Our Thanks**

**Offertory**                      *When A Child Is Born*    Jacobson/Zacar

**\*Singing Our Praises** to the tune of *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*    UMH# 211

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise God, all creatures here below.**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host.**

**Praise Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Sharing Our Joys and Concerns**

with Prayer Blanket Dedication

**Prayer Song**                      *Come, O Redeemer, Come*    Ortega

**Pastoral Prayer**                      Pastor Brendan J. Fox

**\*Sending Hymn**                      *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*    UMH #218

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**                      *Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works*    Dakota tune

**Welcome**

- **Welcome to worship!** If you are new, **please fill out a welcome card** found in the pews, if you'd like to receive more information. **Thank you for coming** to spend part of your Sunday with us. We hope you experience a sense of God's love and grace here today.
- We will be **collecting prayer cards** during the offering. If you would like your **prayer request** forwarded to the Prayer Chain, please check the appropriate box on the card.

Please join us for Coffee Hour after the service hosted by the Church Council.

### Announcements

- The **SERRV/Mayan Fair Trade Sale** will take place after **both services in Knight Hall today**. There will be Christmas ornaments, woven goods, baskets, placements, tablecloths, fair trade coffee and chocolates. **Come shop where your dollars make a real difference in people's lives.** The Outreach Commission
- The Giving Tree** is set up and full of "ornaments". On the back of each "ornament" is a gift request. Please buy the item, wrap it and ATTACH THE ORNAMENT by securely taping the string to the package. The ornament information is the only way we know who gets the gift. **Bring the gifts to church and place under the Giving Tree by December 17** so we have time to distribute them. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mark Witkofsky (669-2978). Thank you for your generosity.
- Communion Update**-This month we are making a change to our gluten free offering for communion. We are switching to a combination of **gluten free bread and juice cup**. This will help ensure we do not contaminate the bread for our more gluten intolerant members. You will find them on the communion table in a basket near a small "Gluten Free" sign. We hope you appreciate our attempts to make communion safe for everyone.
- Help us Decorate the Sanctuary for Advent** - As in years past we are asking the congregation to help us decorate the sanctuary for Advent. This year our theme is the Magi. Please consider bringing in **your Magi from home to place on the sanctuary windowsills**. Please do not share your breakable family heirlooms; we cannot guarantee their safety.
- Heifer International** -For more than 75 years, Heifer International has worked with people around the globe to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth. **Animals, trees and seeds are provided to families to improve food security**. Your gifts save lives. We will have an information table in Knight Hall after Sunday services in December. Please stop by to see the animal gift cards and brochures. Your donation will be gratefully received. The Outreach Commission
- Christmas Offering** -Our Christmas Offering **helps neighbors near and far**. Our church keeps none of your gifts received from this offering. This year we will again support **Schenectady Community Ministries, RISSE (support for refugees and recent immigrants), The Guardian House Future Playground Fund, Chocacente Scholars ( Managua, Nicaragua), Captain/ CHS and the food pantries of SICM, Lifeworks in Ballston Spa and Rensselaer UMC**. Thank you for giving to people in need. The Outreach Commission

### Save the Date

- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Services**

- 9:30 am **Advent IV: One morning service** focusing on the culmination of the Advent season.
- 3:30 pm **Short and Sweet Christmas Eve**—If you'd like to be home before dark, have dinner guests later in the evening or kiddos to get to bed (fairly!) early, this informal 30 minute service is for you. Come as you are—pj's or Christmas dresses—whatever you like! Low sensory.
- 7:00 pm **Children and Youth Christmas Pageant**
- 9:00 pm **Traditional Candlelight Service with Lessons and Carols**

#### WEEKLY CALENDAR

<b>Sunday, December 3</b>	
9:00 AM	Worship
9:45 AM	Youth Choir Rehearsal
10:30 AM	Worship
11:30 AM	Voices of Hope
12:00 PM	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
3:00 PM	Scouts/KH
<b>Monday, December 4</b>	
9:30 AM	Earlybirds
<b>Tuesday, December 5</b>	
7:00 PM	Scouts/KH
<b>Wednesday, December 6</b>	
8:30 AM	Fix-its
9:30 AM	Explorers
7:00 PM	AA/Fireside Room
7:00 PM	Pub Theology/Pizza Works
<b>Thursday, December 7</b>	
9:15 AM	Seekers
10:30 AM	BH-BL Women's Club/Fireside
7:00 PM	Choir rehearsal
<b>Saturday, December 9</b>	
11:00 AM	Birthday Party/Knight Hall
<b>Sunday, December 10</b>	
9:00 AM	Worship
10:00 AM	Youth Choir and VOH Rehearsal
10:30 AM	Worship
12:00 PM	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

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**December 3, 2023**

*Being Present  
with Hope*



#### BHUMC Welcome Statement

*At Burnt Hills UMC, we aspire to be a community of grace and unconditional love, where all people will find hospitality, compassion and mercy. We seek to welcome all on the journey, to grow together in faith and to go out to serve the world. We welcome people of any age, culture, race, nationality, ability, marital status, economic status, sexual orientation and gender identity, as full participants in the life of our congregation. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we seek to be part of Jesus' movement of love and justice for all of God's children. All are welcome to worship, grow and serve with us.*

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