**LIVING HOPE OPC ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**for Sunday, December 24th, 2023, at 10:45 AM**

**Opening Song** – NTH 229 – Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

**Announcements**

**Gospel Greeting** – To the church of God . . . with all the saints . . . Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Cor. 1:1b-2

**Call to Worship Song** – NTH 233 – To Us a Child of Hope Is Born

**Call to Worship** – And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” – Luke 2:10-11

**Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

**Hymn of Praise** – NTH 195 – Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

**Reading of the Law** – Titus 3:1-3

*(Silent Confession of Sin)*

**Corporate Confession of Sin** – Almighty, everlasting God, for our many sins we justly deserve eternal condemnation. In Your great mercy, you sent your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who won for us forgiveness of sins and everlasting righteousness. Grant us true repentance that, dead to sin, we may be raised up by faith in Your life-giving Gospel. Grant us your Holy Spirit that we may be ever thankful and live a faithful and godly life in your service; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon** – But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. – Titus 3:4-7

**Exhortation to Give** – For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. – 2 Cor. 8:9

**Collection with Prayer** (Offertory: NTH 213 – What Child Is This)

**Doxology** – NTH 733

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Medley**

– NTH 295 – Away in a Manger

– NTH 216 – Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

**Scripture Readings** – OT: Isaiah 9:1-7 / NT: Luke 1:26-38

Isaiah 9:1–7 (ESV)

1 But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. 2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. 3 You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. 4 For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Luke 1:26–38 (ESV)

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” 34 And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” 35 And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38 And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Sermon** – An Exposition of Luke 1:26-38: “A Stunning Birth Announcement”

The One who is the promised Son of David and Son of God, the only Savior of sinners, will be born to Mary.

1. Gabriel’s visit and Mary’s shock. (Luke 1:26-29)
   1. Does God’s Word of grace shock you?
2. Gabriel’s message and Mary’s question. (Luke 1:30-34)
   1. Does God’s Word of grace awe you?
3. Gabriel’s answer and Mary’s faith. (Luke 1:35-38)
   1. Does God’s Word of grace provoke your trust in what God says?

**Prayer of Application**

**Hymn of Response** – NTH 193 – Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

**Benediction** – The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. – 2 Corinthians 13:14