**LIVING HOPE OPC ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**for Sunday, December 22nd, 2024 at 10:45 AM**

**Opening Song** – NTH 211 – God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

**Gospel Greeting** – Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. –2 Timothy 1:2

**Call to Worship Song** – O Come Let Us Adore Him

**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**

**Carol of Praise** – NTH 214 – Angels We Have Heard on High

**Special Music** – O Holy Night (harp solo by Hannah Batten)

**Reading of the Law** – Romans 3:9-20

*(Silent Confession of Sin)*

**General 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** – In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. – 1 John 4:9-10

**Exhortation to Give** – “…Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” – Acts 20:35b

**Collection with Prayer** – Offertory: Away in a Manger – Harp & Piano duet (Hannah Batten & Beth Barshinger)

**Doxology** – NTH 731

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Carol Medley**

– NTH 223 – While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks

– NTH 207 – Good Christian Men Rejoice

**Scripture Readings** – OT Lesson: Isaiah 9:1-7 / NT Lesson: Luke 2:1-14

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 2:1–14 (ESV)

1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. 8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 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. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Sermon** – An Exposition of Luke 2:8-14: “The Angelic Gospel”

Hear the angelic Gospel of Christ's birth! It's good news of great joy - to the glory of God:

1. It comes with God's glory - to the lowly. (Luke 2:8-9)
2. It's for all people - with a surprising sigh. (Luke 2:10-12)
3. It brings God's peace - to God's elect. (Luke 2:13-14)

**Prayer of Application**

**Hymn of Response** – NTH 203 – Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

**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