



Welcome!

We are glad that you are here and hope that you will be enriched by this time of worship. In this unprecedented time, we are exploring worship in new ways and ask for your input and patience. If you are new with us today – welcome!

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December 20 Service of Songs & Stories Welcome & Introduction

Gathering Song “Hope is a Star” (VU 7)

First Story **Genesis 2:4b-7, 18-22a**

At the time when YHWH made the heavens and the earth, there was still no wild bush on the earth nor had any wild plant sprung up, for YHWH had not yet sent rain to the earth, and there was no human being to till the soil. Instead, a flow of water would well up from the ground and irrigate the soil. So YHWH fashioned an earth creature out of the clay of the earth, and blew into its nostrils the breath of life. And the earth creature became a living being. Then YHWH said, “It is not good for the earth creature to be alone. I will make a fitting companion for it.” So from the soil YHWH formed all the various wild beasts and all the birds of the air, and brought them to the earth creature to be named. Whatever the earth creature called each one, that became its name. The earth creature gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals. But none of them proved to be a fitting companion, so YHWH made the earth creature fall into a deep sleep, and while it slept, God divided the earth creature in two, then closed up the flesh from its side. YHWH then fashioned the two halves into male and female, and presented them to one another.

Prayer

Come, God, Creator of bright days and calming nights, for creation we pray – the vast mystery of life of which we are a part. Teach us how intricately we are woven together that we may care for all that you have made. Come soon dear Jesus.

In your name we pray.

Song “Blessed Be the God of Israel” (ELW 250)

Second Story **Isaiah 40:1-8**

“Console my people, give them comfort,” says your God. “Speak tenderly to Jerusalem’s heart, and tell it that its time of service is ended, that its iniquity is atoned for, that it has received from YHWH’s hand double punishment for all its sins.” A voice cries out, “Clear a path through the wilderness for YHWH! Make a straight road through the desert for our God! Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low; let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges become a valley! Then

the glory of YHWH will be revealed, and all humankind will see it.” The mouth of YHWH has spoken! A voice commands, “Cry out!” and I answer, “What will I say?”— “All flesh is grass and its beauty is like the wildflowers: the grass withers and the flower wilts when the breath of YHWH blows on them. How the people are like grass! Grass withers, and flowers wilt, but the promise of our God will stand forever.”

Prayers

Come, God, Leader of nations. This world can be scary and exciting, filled with danger and discovery. We step out each day in hope that love will overcome the threads of violence and discord among us. Comfort, encourage and stir us as we seek your guidance. Come soon dear Jesus.

In your name we pray.

Song “Comfort, Comfort Now My People” (ELW 256)

Third Story **Jeremiah 23:5-6**

Behold, the days are coming, declares YHWH, when I will raise up for the house of David a righteous branch, who will reign as a true ruler and act wisely, and do what is just and right in the land. In those days, Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. This is the Name on which they will call: ‘YHWH, Our Justice.’

Prayer

Come, God who waits with us, open our eyes to see the new way of your hope and justice. Temper our power over others, alight hearts to compassion, lead us to imaginative work towards loving our neighbours as ourselves, that all the world may find liberation together. Come soon dear Jesus.

In your name we pray.

Song “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” (ELW 240)

Fourth Story **Angel Dialogue**

Prayer

Come, God. Call us as we pray for pastors, bishops, congregational councils, Sunday School teachers, and all who proclaim and teach the ways of God’s love and good news. May we all be inspiration for each other. Come soon dear Jesus.

In your name we pray.

Song “He Came Down” (ELW 253)

Fifth Story

Luke 1:26-35,38

Six months later, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a young woman named Mary; she was engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. Upon arriving, the angel said to Mary, "Rejoice, highly favored one! God is with you! Blessed are you among women!" Mary was deeply troubled by these words and wondered what the angel's greeting meant. The angel went on to say to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary. You have found favor with God. You'll conceive and bear a son, and give him the name Jesus—'Deliverance.' His dignity will be great, and he will be called the Only Begotten of God. God will give Jesus the judgment seat of David, his ancestor, to rule over the house of Jacob forever, and his reign will never end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have never been with a man?" The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you—hence the offspring to be born will be called the Holy One of God. Mary said, "I am the servant of God. Let it be done to me as you say." With that, the angel left her.

Prayer

Come, God. May our souls be rested God this Christmas, not in flight from your amazing world, but because we need energy to struggle for justice, to tell others about you, to share, to laugh and to love. Come soon dear Jesus.

In your name we pray.

Song (verses 1–3)

"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" (ELW 265)

Sixth Story

Mark 1:1-8

Here begins the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God: as it was written in Isaiah the prophet: "I send my messenger before you to prepare your way, a herald's voice in the desert, crying, 'Make ready the way of our God. Clear a straight path.'" And so John the Baptizer appeared in the desert, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to John and were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist, and he ate nothing but grasshoppers and wild honey. In the course of his preaching, John said, "One more powerful than I is to come after me. I am not fit to stoop and untie his sandal straps. I have baptized you in water, but the One to come will baptize you in the Holy Spirit."

Prayer

Come, God. Come with the frightened. Come with the poor. Come with the children. Come with those who have always been your friends. Come and lead us to how you are living, and show us what you want us to do. Come soon dear Jesus. **In your name we pray.**

Song "Once in Royal David's City" (ELW 269)

The Lord's Prayer

Community Life

Blessing

Sending Song

"Prepare the Royal Highway" (ELW 264)

Dismissal

Be held in peace as you wait in hope and joy.

Thanks be to God!

Stay tuned following service today for HSLC Online Sunday School Adventure Time!

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**Advent & Christmas Worship
Live-streamed at Holy Spirit**

Christmas Eve - Thurs, Dec 24

5:00 pm Candle-light Service

Christmas Day - Fri, Dec 25

10:00 am Service of Holy Communion

1 Christmas - Sun, Dec 27

10:00 am Service of the Word

2 Christmas - Sun, Jan 3

10:00 am Service of the Word



SEND IN YOUR

*Family
Photo*

BY MONDAY, DEC 21

In this special season we invite you to share a photo of your family as a means to greet one another through time and place in the Christmas season.

Send in your photo by December 21 to be shared at the end of our Christmas Evening Candlelight Service, December 24, 7:00 PM. Please include the names of everyone in your picture.

December 23 7pm-8:30pm

HSLC YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

JOIN US ON ZOOM
MEETING ID 999 441 264

*Winter
Book Group*

Wednesdays
7:00 - 8:30 pm
January 6 onward
Zoom #999 441 264

NOW AVAILABLE!

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