

Worship Program for First Church in Pembroke.  
Today we light the candle of Hope.

Sunday December 4th 2022

PRELUDE:

MEDITATION PRAYER:

"For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently." (Romans 8:24-25).

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Meet & Greet:

CALL TO WORSHIP:

P: To our God who created all seasons, and who is the inventor of time, today we light the first candle of Advent.

C: As we light the candle of Hope, we remember your spoken words to your disciples, that you will return to earth one day to gather your children home.

P: Your everlasting promise that "You have gone to prepare a place for us," gives us even more hope to believe in Your Holy Name.

ALL: God of Hope, be with us through-out this Advent Season. Give us courage, wisdom, and much hope as we try to abide by the words of the Scriptures. Enable us to forever be yielding to Your truth, and may we always cling to the hope of Your eternal glory. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: #110 (Red Hymnal) "Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

God of Hope,

As we are nearing the end of this year, we have decided to never let go of your embrace. Indeed we have endured and encountered so much for the past two years that many times we are left speechless! Today with outstretched arms we look up to heaven and cry "Abba, Father, give us the hope to endure to the end." Lord, be our shield and buckler in these trying times. Let no evil befall us. We pray that You will bring much joy to our hearts this Advent Season. Renew our bodies that we will be able to stand strong in these trying times. Revive, our minds and emotions to be open to Your loving-kindness.

Blessed be the name of God; and blessed be those who believe in God. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 1:68-75

SERMON: 'Eph/Hope spelled Backwards' (by Minister Miriam Theodore)

COMMUNION HYMN: #288 (Red Hymnal) "Let Us Break Bread Together"

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

With grateful hearts we praise you O God, for your great goodness in the gift of Christ. Through sacred memory, Christ has come to us and fed us at this table. Strengthen us by your grace to fellowship with Christ each day. Stir us to share Christ's cross in daily sacrificial service. Amen.

OFFERTORY INVITATION: Isaiah 11:1

"And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots."

PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

A TIME OF SILENT PRAYER:

PASTORAL PRAYER:

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

MUSICAL RESPONSE:

CLOSING HYMN: #403 (Black Hymnal) "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

BENEDICTION:

POSTLUDE: