

Order of Worship

Fifth Sunday of Advent

February 8, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

Gathering Music *Hymn Melodies* arr. Adam O'Boyle

Welcome

Prelude *Alleluia* Rowland Hugh Prichard

*Call to Worship (Responsive)

O God, you are the gathering one who calls us into community with each other;
to love and work, to support and heal.
You are the gathering one who calls us into community with all people;
to bring justice and hope, freedom and truth.
You are the gathering one who calls us into community with the whole creation;
to live in harmony, to cherish and renew.
Let us worship the God who makes us one!

***Hymn 37** *Let All Things Now Living* Ash Grove

Call to Prayer

Prayer for Forgiveness (Unison)

Save us, O God,
From the blindness, **which is not even aware that it is sinning;**
From the pride, **which cannot admit that it is wrong;**
From the self-will, **which can see nothing but its own way;**
From the self-righteousness **which can see no flaw within itself;**
From the callousness, **which has sinned so often it has ceased**
to care;
From the defiance, **which is not even sorry for its sins;**
From the evasion, **which always puts the blame on someone**
or something else;
From the heart so hardened, **that is cannot repent.**

(silent time for your reflection and personal confessions)

Give us at all times,
Eyes, **which are open to our faults,**
A conscience, **which is sensitive and quick to warn;**
A heart that cannot sin in peace, **but is moved to regret and remorse.**
So grant that being truly penitent we may be truly forgiven,
So that we may find your love is great enough to cover all of our sin.
Amen.

Word and Wonder – A Time for Children

Scripture Lessons Exodus 23:1-2, 6-9 OT, p. 69

Sermon Why We Need Each Other Rabbi P.J. Schwartz

***Hymn 769** *For Everyone Born* For Everyone Born
(verses 1-3, and 5)

Affirmation of Faith (Unison) Our World Belongs to God (adapted)

As the people of God, living in this world—which some seek to control, but which others view with despair—we declare with joy and trust: Our world belongs to God!

From the beginning, through all the crises of our times, God keeps covenant forever.

We rejoice in the goodness of God, renounce the works of darkness, and dedicate ourselves to holy living.

As covenant partners, called to faithful obedience, and set free for joyful praise, we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work in the world.

With tempered impatience, eager to see injustice ended, we seek to be the light which shines in the present darkness, and we proclaim with faith and hope: Our world belongs to God!

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

As we pray together the prayer Christ taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Hymn 722** *Live Into Hope* Truro

*Charge and Benediction

***Postlude** Look, Ye Saints, the Sight in Glorious arr. Phillip Keveren

Prayer Family of the Week:

Our prayer family of the week is **George Young**. This week, we ask the congregation to remember George and his family, asking God to strengthen and bless them.

The Elder on Call for February is Angie Wester. She may be contacted at any time for information, emergencies, or concerns at **256-684-7691**.

What's Happening at Hope?

Save the Date: TODAY, we will be joined in worship by our friends from Temple B'nai Shalom as part of our clergy swap. Following the service, we will enjoy our Mardi Gras Pancake Brunch. We will also take an offering to benefit the Huntsville Assistance Program as part of the Souper Bowl of Caring. We hope you will join us for this time of worship, fellowship, and service with our siblings in faith.

Annual Congregational Meeting: the annual meeting of the congregation will be Sunday, February 22, immediately following worship. The agenda includes proposed changes to the bylaws, electing Session and Nominating Committee members, and presentation of the budget. The proposed changes to the bylaws will be available next Sunday for review prior to the meeting. The Nominating Committee presents Travis Williams for the Session class of 2028 and Peter Loveman for the 2026 Nominating Committee. Nominations will be accepted from the floor. Please plan to stay for a few minutes following worship for this important meeting.

Worship Leader this week: Danielle Debraccio

Worship Leader next week: Jenny Langston

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Hymn Medley

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Look, Ye Saints, the Sight is Glorious

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Let All Things Now Living

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For Everyone Born

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Prayer Concerns

Members:

Holly Lowe
Luanne Biles
Traci Loveman
Andy Young

Friends:

Margaret Bibb (Christie Ashton)
Barbara Dennis
Emily Loeb (Debbie Adsit)
Suzanne Minga (Traci Loveman)
Holly Carroll (Traci Loveman)
Bob Harriger (Joanna Sterling)
Melissa Altice (Angie Toles)
Mary Neikirk (Angie Toles)

Family:

Laura Terry (Susan Terry)
Lys Howdle (Susan Terry)
Parker Lord (Candy & Bob Lord)
Marcia Loveman (Peter Loveman)
Fred Jones (Bill Jones)

Those serving in our military

Those affected by natural disasters and war around the world.

Church Calendar at a Glance

February 8	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Worship –With Temple B'nai Shalom
	11:30 a.m.	Mardi Gras Pancake Brunch
February 15	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
	11:30 a.m.	Choir Practice

Our Mission Statement

Called by God's grace, we celebrate life with Hope by creating a loving Christian community, serving and worshipping God, and proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We provide an open environment to explore God's will, to grow in commitment to Christ, and to be a refuge of healing.

A Community of Hope