



IN JOINT FELLOWSHIP

*Sustaining a vibrant and growing congregation through Christian spiritual transformation,  
making our work and the church relevant and visible.*

(510) 465-4793

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1255 First Avenue Oakland, CA 94606

## Angels Among Us: #Do Not Be Afraid

#morehope  
#donotbeafraid



*"We must accept finite disappointment,  
but never lose infinite Hope."  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

### *"#morehope"*

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November 28, 2021  
Third Sunday of Advent  
*Celebration of Divine Worship*

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WELCOME

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor*

INTROIT

“Sleepers Wake”

by: Johann Sebastian Bach

OPENING PRAYER *[responsive]*

Virginia Turner & Sherri Elinson

There are angels among us that may not meet the eye  
There are messages of hope coming from a choir on high  
But don't just look up:  
for the way God works  
is to plant more hope right here on earth  
just like it was with Jesus' birth.

There are angels among us,  
there are angels among us,  
bringing hope on earth.

Holy Living God, Blessed Jesus, Guiding Spirit,  
*alight within us your flames of hope this day.*

Grant us openness to hear your message.  
*Grant us courage to be your messengers in the world,  
creating more hope in the midst of fear.*

(WDS; *Angels Among Us: Do Not Be Afraid*)

SUNG RESPONSE

He Came Down

TFWS 2085 (adapt.)

*He came down that we may have hope;  
He came down that we may have hope;  
He came down that we may have hope,  
Hallelujah forevermore.*

## A SONG, SCRIPTURE AND A PRAYER

Opening Song

Blessed Be the God of Israel UMH 209

- 1. Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free;  
who visits and redeems us, who grants us liberty.  
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release:  
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.*
- 2. Now from the house of David a child of grace is given;  
a savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.  
Before him goes his herald, forerunner in the way,  
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.*
- 3. On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise,  
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes;  
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace:  
O bless our God and Savior, with songs that never cease!*

During the rule of King Herod of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah. His wife Elizabeth was a descendant of Aaron. They were both righteous before God, blameless in their observance of all the Lord's commandments and regulations. They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to become pregnant and they both were very old. One day Zechariah was serving as a priest before God because his priestly division was on duty.

An angel from the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw the angel, he was startled and overcome with fear.

The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayers have been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will give birth to your son and you must name him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many people will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the Lord's eyes. He must not drink wine and liquor. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before his birth.

Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I be sure of this? My wife and I are very old."

The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in God's presence. I was sent to speak to you and to bring this good news to you. Know this: What I have spoken will come true at the proper time."

## Scriptural Response [VIDEO] *Hope Has a Name*

by: Kristian Stanfill

*Breaking through the silence with glory in the highest  
The hope of all creation, resting in His mother's arms  
The song on the horizon, ringing through the heavens  
The long-awaited Savior, come to set the captives free  
Come to set the captives free; He set me free*

*Hope has a name, Immanuel  
The light of the world who broke through the darkness  
All hail the king, Immanuel  
The light of the world, the glory of heaven*

*So, come if your broken, come if your searching  
And if you need healing, yeah, He's where you'll find it  
So lay down your burdens and breathe in forgiveness  
And if you need freedom, He's where you're gonna find it  
Yeah, if you need freedom, He's where you'll find it  
Oh, He's where you'll find it.*

*Oooo, hope has a name, Immanuel  
The light of the world who broke through the darkness  
All hail the king, Immanuel  
The light of the world, the glory of heaven*

*Hope has a name, Immanuel  
The light of the world who broke through my darkness  
All hail the king, Immanuel  
The light of the world, the glory of heaven*

*So, come if your broken, come if your searching  
And if you need healing, He's where you'll find it*

*So, lay down your burdens, breathe in His forgiveness  
And if you need freedom, He's where you're gonna find it  
And if you need freedom, come on and find it here  
If you need freedom, He's where you'll find it.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor*

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Ecumenical Version (UMH 894)

\*Please feel free to use the name of your choice for God that speaks to your soul.

Our \*Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

## HOLY COMMUNION

### Prayer of Confession and Resolve [*unison*]

Virginia Turner

*It is so easy for us, Lord, to let the anger, frustration, and fear overshadow our lives. We can't seem to escape it. We try to find some way to cover it up, but it remains. And in our anxiety, we act out our fear in ways which are not helpful and, far too often, go against the ways you have taught us to live. We feel the pressure to give, and resentment in giving. We feel the push to be present at every upcoming event, and want to run and hide. Help us, Lord. Heal our wounded spirits. Free us again to look to you for Hope. Let us see the many ways in which you are present to us.....*

*guiding, healing, loving, encouraging us. Forgive us for our fears and our stubbornness. Bring us again to your light, for we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.*

B. J. Beu

### TIME OF SILENCE FOR PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND HOPE

#### Assurance of Grace

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor*

"The days are coming", says the prophet Isaiah, "when all God's promises will be fulfilled." These promises of faith, trust, hope, peace, joy, and love are for you. Receive the hope that God offers to you today. We are forgiven in Jesus' name.

*B. J. Beu (adapt.)*

#### PASSING THE PEACE

*As forgiven people Living in the season of waiting,  
let us share peace with our siblings in the world!*

### SHARING IN COMMUNION OF THE BREAD AND CUP

#### MESSAGE

#### “Angels Among Us: #morehope”

Rev. Pamela L. Kurtz, *Pastor*

#### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Surely the Presence of the Lord* UMH 328  
*Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;*

*I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.  
I can feel the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face;  
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.*

## LIVING AS THE CHURCH, GRATITUDES, OFFERINGS

Living as the Church

Gratitude Times

Offering Time

Offering Words

### THANKSGIVING SONG

God is Good, All the Time W&S 3026

*5. God is good, God is good all the time.  
God is good, God is good all the time.  
As our thanks and our praise now we raise,  
God is good, God is good all the time.*

### CLOSING SONG Hark! The Herald Angels Sing UMH 240

- 1. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
with th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"*
- 2. Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"*
- 3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"*

### CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

Virginia Turner

*Help us today to fix our thoughts on You-to dwell on all that is good and lovely and pure, and to know that You love us and are caring for all our needs . . . even now.*

*We declare that HOPE is in us, because You are in us, working all things for our good, for Your purposes and glory. In Jesus name. Amen*

Leila Grandemange (adapt.)

### POSTLUDE

In Dulci Jubilo

by: J. S. Bach

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