

# New Hope Lutheran Church

189 Regent St.  
Sudbury, Ontario  
P3C 4C4

705-673-2933  
email: [office@nhlc.ca](mailto:office@nhlc.ca)  
website: [nhlc.ca](http://nhlc.ca)

face book: New Hope Lutheran Church  
you tube: New Hope Lutheran Church Sudbury

## Pastors:

Rev. Charles Nolting  
phone: 705-920-3573 email: [pcn@nhlc.ca](mailto:pcn@nhlc.ca)

Rev. Johanna Porkola  
phone: 705-688-6284 email: [pjp@nhlc.ca](mailto:pjp@nhlc.ca)

*December 24, 2021*  
*Christmas Eve*

## Coming Events

Offices closed Dec 24, 2021 – Jan 7, 2022

Dec 25 1:00 Finnish Worship Service † **Regent St.**  
Jan 2 2:00 English Worship Service † **Regent St.**  
Jan 9 10:00 Finnish Worship Service † **Voima Hall**  
2:00 English Worship Service † **Regent St.**

**In our prayers** Ruth, Esme.

**Notice:** As of January 1, 2022 the sermons will no longer be emailed. You can find them on our webpage [nhlc.ca](http://nhlc.ca)

Opening Hymn – It Came Upon A Midnight Clear (282)  
[https://youtu.be/D0t5CH\\_3280](https://youtu.be/D0t5CH_3280)

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; we pray through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Psalm 96

- <sup>1</sup> Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- <sup>2</sup> Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.
- <sup>3</sup> Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.
- <sup>4</sup> For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be Feared above all gods.
- <sup>5</sup> For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.
- <sup>6</sup> Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.
- <sup>7</sup> Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- <sup>8</sup> Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts.
- <sup>9</sup> Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.
- <sup>10</sup> Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns." The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.
- <sup>11</sup> Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it.
- <sup>12</sup> Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.
- <sup>13</sup> Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Hymn – O Come, O Come Emmanuel (257)  
[https://youtu.be/7xtpJ4Q\\_Q-4](https://youtu.be/7xtpJ4Q_Q-4)

## Lesson "Isaiah 9:2 – 7"

<sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. <sup>3</sup> You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they

rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. <sup>4</sup> For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. <sup>5</sup> Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.



Hymn – Once in Royal David's City (269)  
<https://youtu.be/FO45toyjUXw>

## Lesson "Luke 2:1 – 7"

<sup>1</sup> In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register. <sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.



Hymn – O Little Town of Bethlehem (279)  
<https://youtu.be/CwfkGj51S2c>

## Lesson “Luke 2:8 – 14”

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”



Hymn – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (270)

<https://youtu.be/I9IAGkIrAoc>

## Lesson “Luke 2:15 – 20”

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” <sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.



Hymn – Away In a Manger (277)

<https://youtu.be/M2ULTkNmIEY>

## Sermon

By Rev. Charles Nolting

“Joy: For All People”

You may have noticed that in England there is always a joyous celebration whenever an heir to the throne is born. People gather at the palace gates, bands play, fireworks may be set off, and even big guns may be fired in a royal salute. And, when the formal announcement is finally made, applause erupts from the waiting crowds.

It should be with that same mood of joyous celebration that we read of the birth of Jesus. What may be surprising, or even shocking to us, are the people this announcement was first made to. Shepherds were far from considered to be the *crème de la crème* of society. Imagine those shepherds sitting around a fire within the stone walls of an enclosure deep in the night, attempting to keep the chill away. Those who were awake keeping watch were probably talking about whatever kinds of things shepherds might talk about in the middle of the night.

We often tend to romanticize the shepherds and forget just what common people they were. On a social ladder, they were right near the bottom. In a time when your social standing was tied to how religious you were, shepherds – whose job kept them from observing many of the elaborate rituals of worship – were considered to be on the fringes of society, and on the fringes of being cared about by God.

So it should be a huge surprise to us that when it came to God announcing the most royal birth of all time, God chose common, ordinary, bottom-of-the-social-ladder shepherds to be the first to hear this news. Very suddenly, without any kind of warning, they are surrounded by the glory of God, and music like they’d never heard before coming from the heavens announcing to social castaways that a most royal birth has occurred. And the message begins with the unexpected words; “fear not”.

That’s probably a good message for us to hear as well because we live in an age of anxiety. We are surrounded by a variety of fears that are difficult to ignore. Some are legitimate, and some are not. Some live in fear of COVID. Some live in fear of vaccines. There are fears the earth is heating too fast. Fears that the economy could collapse, or inflation rise too quickly. For those who are facing old age there is the fear of becoming a burden on the family, or becoming ill with some dreaded disease. We may fear being left alone with no one to care for us.

Fortunately the scriptures are filled with messages to help us cope with fear and avoid the panic that can come with it. Many of them encourage us to turn to God in our fears, to trust in God to strengthen and guide us through our times of fear and lessen our angst.

The main way to fight fear is to remember (as we do tonight) that the Messiah has brought eternal joy to all of us who believe. He was God’s gift in the flesh, a mirror in which we can see God, and perhaps see ourselves and our situation more clearly. Jesus came to show us that we can overcome all fears, even the greatest fear of all, that of death.

I know that doesn’t always help us overcome our fears, but we often run into a problem because we have difficulty knowing the difference between happiness and joy. Happiness is superficial; joy is real. Happiness only lasts for a short time; joy is eternal. Happiness can be bought; joy is a gift. Happiness is often the thrill of a moment; joy is the thrill of a lifetime.

Happiness is like a spring creek that flows only during certain times; joy is like an eternal spring welling up within us. Joy is a special word in the New Testament and something that should be easily found at Christmas. You see, Christmas – the coming of the royal son to earth – means God is not absent but rather that God is ever with us. The divine name Emmanuel literally means “God with us”. And this is a gift to all humankind who wish to receive it! It is not happiness that has to be purchased, but rather joy that has been given; a joy that overcomes our fears and our anxieties.

Today, and in the days to come, let us give thanks for this incredible gift. Let us leave our fears on God’s shoulders and find the joy first announced to humble shepherds – a certain sign that this joy is for all people. Amen.

Hymn – Silent Night (281)

<https://youtu.be/obF2V72Kx1Y>

## Prayers

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

The shepherds sing, “Jesus Christ is born!” Let your church throughout the world proclaim this good news, over the hills and everywhere. Unite the voices of all your faithful people

in songs of praise and rejoicing. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Heaven and nature sing, “Joy to the world!” Give respite to flocks, fields, and those who tend them. Come near to us in the beauty of nighttime, the shining of the stars, and the hush of a world at rest. May our wonder at your creation rouse our care for all the earth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The angels sing, “Peace on earth!” Come quickly to still the strife of this world. Hush the noise of war and violence in places of unrest. Inspire leaders of nations to seek lasting peace and sustainable provision for all in their care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Mary sings melodies of comfort to her newborn child. Bring rest and reassurance to those facing struggles this night. Shelter travelers and those without homes. Console those who lie awake due to pain or anxiety. Heal those who are sick or hurting. Bless those who have struggled on the front lines of this pandemic. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray.

Our Father 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.**

Hymn – Joy to the World (267)

<https://youtu.be/Kqi8aphPtNQ>