

Traditional Service

11:00 am

Prelude **Watchman, Tell Us of the Night**
(Composer: Seth Bingham)

Welcome

Call to Worship
This is the day the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Introit **Veni Emmanuel**
(Composer: trad., 9th c.)

Responsive Reading **Based on Psalm 25:1-10**

In this Advent season of waiting on the Lord,
We trust in the Lord's goodness.

We rely on his mercy.

We find shelter in his steadfast love.

In this Advent Season of waiting on the Lord,

We walk in the Lord's way.

We follow his example of love.

We keep our covenant promises.

In this Advent season of waiting,

Lord, forget our sins.

Remember your love.

Remember each one of us.

Remember your people everywhere.

In this Advent season of waiting,

Lord, we wait for your salvation.

We wait for your leading.

We wait for your coming.

Opening Hymn **Once in Royal David's City** **#87**
(verses 1-4)

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Gracious God, we confess that we are women and men of little faith. Like Zechariah and Elizabeth, who faced the unexpected and doubted your promises, we, too, confess that we are people of little faith. You call us to step out of the comfortable life we built and follow you, but we find this difficult to do. Despite the fact you said we can move mountains if we have faith the size of a mustard seed, we are still not convinced. Forgive us, O God. Help us to stay focused on You. Help us to step into the deep waters of life knowing you are with us. Help us to remember that following you doesn't guarantee an easy life, but a life filled with your presence. Enable us to live by the faith we have received from you during this Advent season.

(People silently offer their personal confessions to God.)

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Pastor: Friends, believe the Good News:

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Response **Glory be to the Father** **#961**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be
World without end. Amen, Amen.

Passing the Peace

Announcements

Anthem **In the Bleak Midwinter**
(Composer: G. Holst, arr. J Wagner)

Scripture Reading **Luke 1:5-25**

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

Sermon **Zechariah and Elizabeth: Finding**
Hope in the Silence
Hope in a Weary World

Musical Reflection **Advent Antiphon I**
(Composer: J. MacMillan)

Doxology **Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him, above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Communion
Invitation to the Lord's Table

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and was born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven and is seated
at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Communion Music **Of the Father's Love Begotten**
(Composer: arr. A. Danyew)

Closing Hymn **Come, Thou Long-Expected** **#56**
Jesus
(Singing alternate tune, HYFRYDOL)

Benediction

Postlude **Of the Father's Love Begotten**
(Composer: Miles Martin)

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Welcome & Sermon
Lighting the Advent Candle
Announcements & Liturgy
Worship Leader
Praise Music
Director of Music
Choral Music
Communion Music
Scripture Reader
Organist
Celloist

Rev. Spencer Lundgaard
Blythe Shaver and George Bezrukova
Greg Buell
Luke Stoner (9:30)
Village Church Worship Band
Logan Henke
Village Church Choir
Village Church Bell Choir
Tony Forchetti (9:30)
Sharon Peterson (11:00)
Nancy Equall (11:00)

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Contemporary Service

9:30 am

Questions for Discussion

Welcome and Call to Worship

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Praise and Prayer

Raise A Hallelujah

Great Are You Lord

Prayer of Confession

Here Comes Heaven

Passing the Peace

Announcements

(Offerings are received weekly via mail and online giving at <https://villagechurchnorthbrook.org/give/> . Those attending live worship can leave their donations in the offering plates at the back of the sanctuary.)

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:5-25

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon

**Zechariah and Elizabeth:
Finding Hope in the Silence**
Hope in a Weary World

Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Apostles' Creed

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Closing Song

Same God

Blessing

Read: Luke 1:5-25

1. How are Zechariah and Elizabeth described in verses 5 through 7?
2. Knowing the 1st Century believe that childbearing was seen as a sign of God's favor toward those who lived faithfully toward god, how was their situation especially painful?
3. What daily custom was Zechariah involved in? Was this something he did regularly? (v.8-10)
4. What did Zechariah experience in the temple? Why did he react the way he did? Do you think that this was a regular experience for priests, or not? (v.11-12)
5. What did the angel tell Zechariah? What was Zechariah's prayer and how was God answering him? (v.13)
6. How do you think God's answer to Zechariah's prayer far exceeded any expectation? (v.13-17)
7. What was Zechariah's response to such incredible news and promise? And what happened as a result? (v. 18-22)
8. In the end, what happened at the end of the reading? What was Elizabeth's response? (v.23-25)

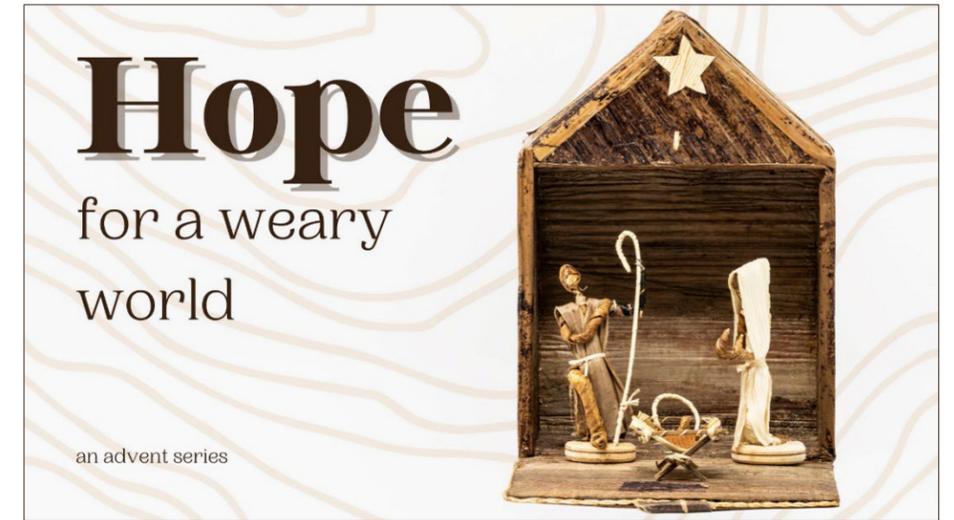
Application:

1. How have you experienced God answering your prayers in the past?
2. What ongoing issues or difficulties do you have going on in your own life?
3. How often do you pray about the burdens on your heart? What do you ask of God? Is there anything that keeps you from lifting these concerns to God more regularly?
4. Zechariah went from feeling forgotten by God because he wasn't answering his prayers, to being used by God in a powerful way to help prepare people for the coming Messiah. How might this give you hope in your own current situation?

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Worship

December 3, 2023

Program Staff

Spencer Lundgaard, Senior Pastor

Greg Buell, Associate Pastor for Discipleship & Caring Ministries

Ed Burton, Minister of Family Ministries

Luke Stoner, Minister of Contemporary Worship/Sr. High Youth

Logan Henke, Director of Traditional Music

The Village Church

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