



Virtual Service 28 November 2021

Welcome!

(Brian Lima)

“Welcome to Milford Baptist Church’s virtual service. We are thrilled you have joined us as we seek to follow Jesus together. Today is the first Sunday of Advent. The theme of this Sunday is hope. May we find God’s hope for us and may we follow that hope with the strength He provides in His Son and by His Spirit.”

Call to Worship

(Brian Lima)

Isaiah 9:1–7

9¹ Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honour Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

*2 The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.*

*3 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.*

*4 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.*

*5 Every warrior’s boot used in battle
and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning,
will be fuel for the fire.*

*6 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 Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*⁷Of 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.*

“May we share the hope of the psalmist, the coming of a child and the greatness of his government and peace not will have no end.”

Carol: Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

(Jo & Brian Lima)

“Let the Spirit cause you to worship the Son of God. Glory to the newborn king!”

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

Prayer

(Eileen Barclay)

“O Lord, this is the day that You have made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it and to set aside our cares and the things that detract from the purpose of this special day You have given us.

When we contemplate the vastness of Your universe and the intricate beauty of all that surrounds us, we marvel Lord at your goodness and greatness and realise how far short we fall. Forgive us Father for the things we have done that we shouldn't have done and for the things we have omitted to do that we should have done, for our rebelliousness and selfishness. Forgive us Father, and we thank you that because Jesus has paid the penalty we can come to You and You can forgive. Thank You for Your great, amazing Love. We thank You too for the gift of Your Holy Spirit to guide and empower us. Help us to know Your will and be willing to do what You would have us do that Your light may shine through us – Your love, kindness and compassion.

We thank You again for all You have done for us. For Your constant love, the way You answer our prayers, for your guidance and provision. Help us to worship You as we should and to be more aware of Your blessings in the world around us.

We thank You that You hear our prayers and that we can bring our petitions to you. We think of our own Church family and would ask for Your healing touch on those who are not well, especially Barbara as she recovers from her hip replacement, Des from his broken vertebrae and that they may find the source of Nelli's pain. We remember too Frank, Ross, Steve, Lisa, Bruce, Pat, Tom, Denys, Anita, both Maurice's, Alison, Amal, Guilia's family and Mils' parents and grandmother.

We remember too those who are now in care – Les, Melva, Don, Phyl, Lynne, Bill, and Jim Clark and ask that You will grant them Your peace.

We pray about the Covid pandemic, that the vaccines will be successful and its spread restricted. We pray for those in authority over us and our Church Leaders that the decisions they make will be wise and in accordance with Your will.

We would also remember those who are homeless and the work of organisations like the Salvation Army, the City Mission and IOSIS that they may be able to help spiritually as well as practically.

We pray for the young people of our land and ask that You will raise up people to spread Your Word among them.

O Lord, we thank You again that we can bring our petitions to You, and we ask these things in Jesus' name.

O Lord we acknowledge that every good and perfect gift is from You, that all we have is Yours and we ask that we will be good stewards of all You have entrusted us with. We bring back our tithes and offerings and ask that they will be acceptable to You and that they will be used wisely for the extension of Your kingdom.

We thank You because You are good and gracious and we know Your Love is eternal – so here we are to worship, here we are to bow down and to acknowledge that You are our God. You ARE altogether worthy, altogether lovely and we worship You Almighty God for there is none like You. Amen.”

Carol: O Come all ye Faithful

(Jo & Brian Lima)

“Worship and be filled with joy knowing that Jesus has triumphed over judgement and death.”

[O Come all ye Faithful](#)

Advent - Hope

(Jim Milmine)

[Watch the presentation](#)

“Advent (coming) has been celebrated in traditional churches from before the Middle Ages. It marks the four Sundays leading up to Christmas Day. The Advent Wreath is a circular assembly of ever-green leaves symbolizing God's eternity. It holds four, sometimes five candles, one to be lit each Sunday up to and perhaps including Christmas Day. The candles symbolize HOPE, LOVE, JOY and PEACE and JESUS CHRIST should there be a fifth.

At this time, I am reminded that in fact there are two advents. The first when Jesus came as a baby in Bethlehem and the second when He will return with us, the Church, as King, Ruler and Judge at the second advent (coming). So it is that sometimes the first candle, the HOPE candle, is actually called the ‘prophecy candle.’ This reminds us of the HOPE we have in the return of Jesus Christ – and through what is happening around the world at this present time, some of us think that this time may be closer than we ever thought. As someone has said, ‘a time is coming for all men, when they will either be born again, or wish they had never been born.’

The Gospel records gave the manifestation of the first coming of HOPE, through the genealogy of Jesus, Joseph's dream, the Wise Men, the Shepherds, Mary's song, and John the Baptist, who said, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him.'

The prophetic record of prophets like Isaiah give me HOPE for the future. For, over 700 years before Jesus came as a baby in Bethlehem in Israel, Isaiah prophesied, 'For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder, and His name will be called, Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' (Isaiah 9:6). Maranatha – so come Lord Jesus, our HOPE is in You."

Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem

(Jo & Brian Lima)

"Let the words of this next song fill our hearts with hope for those who don't yet know Jesus. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today."

[O Little Town of Bethlehem](#)

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see Thee lie
Above Thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in Thee tonight

2. For Christ is born of Mary
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the Holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And peace to men on earth

3. No ear may hear His coming
But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive Him
Still the dear Christ enters in
Where children, pure and happy
Pray to the Blessed Child
Where misery cries out to Thee
Son of the Mother mild

4. O Holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born in us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel

Bible Reading

(Jim Milmine)

Genesis 12:1–9

[Listen to the Reading](#)

The Call of Abram

12¹ The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

² "I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;

*I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.
³ I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”*

⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. ⁵ He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

⁶ Abram travelled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring^[c] I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

⁸ From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord.

⁹ Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

Sermon “Advent Series – HOPE”

(Brian Lima)

[Watch the Sermon](#)

[Read the Sermon](#)

Song: Hope of the Ages

(Jo Lima)

“The chorus of this next song is, ‘Hope of the Ages, Isaiah’s Great Light. Abraham’s offspring, blessing of Jacob, Judah’s might. Hope of the Ages, David’s true son. Desire of the nations, promised salvation, God with us.’”

[Hope of the Ages](#)

Benediction

(Brian Lima)

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”

Romans 15:13