

Hope in Adam In the beginning God created Adam and Eve in His beautiful, perfect image. When they sinned, Adam and Eve distorted their reflection of this image and all of creation was twisted by their actions. God promised things would not always stay twisted because He would send a Savior in His image who would deliver mankind from their sin. This New Adam would conquer the sin and death the old Adam brought into the world.

Hope in Noah Adam's sin only got worse in his descendants, but God refused to let His creation continue in wickedness, so He sent a flood to cleanse the world. He gathered Noah and his family and all the animals on the Ark to save them from the great flood. When the water subsided, God made a covenant with Noah and all mankind never to destroy the earth again with water. God put a rainbow in the sky as a promise to Noah and to us that He would renew all things through Christ.

Hope in Abraham God promised to bless all the nations through Abraham's descendants, but Abraham only had one son. God called Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, but provided a ram as a substitute in his place. God promises us He will bless us through the perfect substitutionary sacrifice: His only son, Jesus.

Hope in Moses Isaac's Descendants became the great nation of Israel, but in spite of their great numbers, they became slaves in Egypt. God raised up Moses to lead His people and commanded Pharaoh to let His people go, but Pharaoh refused. God sent ten plagues to show both Israel and Egypt His power and control. God's final plague killed every first born child in Egypt, but the Israelites spread the blood of a lamb over their doorpost so the Angel of Death would pass over their families. This sacrifice pointed to God's promise to save His people who were covered under the Blood of the Lamb who would be sacrificed for all mankind. His son Jesus would be the perfect Lamb to set His people free.

Hope in the Promised Land Moses led the people out of Egypt into the wilderness where God guided them on their journey through a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. The Israelites reached Mount Sinai where God gave them the Ten Commandments. After Moses led the people through the wilderness, God raised up Joshua to lead His people. Before they could enter the Land God promised them, Joshua led the Israelites through the Jordan River. God created a path through the river when there seemed to be no hope of crossing, in the same way He sent His son to make a way for our salvation.

Hope in the Tabernacle As the people traveled toward the Promised Land, God gave them a plan for His house. Like His chosen people, God's house was temporary until they entered Jerusalem. God dwelled among His people and gave them hope through His presence. God's promise of a final destination unfolded as His people travel to the Promised Land.

Hope in Rahab God's plan to redeem His people has always included "outsiders". Rahab was not an Israelite and she wasn't even respectable. She and her family lived in the Promised Land in Jericho right on the wall. When the Israelite spies came to Jericho, Rahab gave them a safe place to stay, so God promised to save Rahab and her family when Israel took over the Promised Land. Rahab hung a scarlet sash from her window and when the walls fell down, she and her family were saved. God's promise to save extends to all those who trust in Him like Rahab.

Hope in David God's people entered the Promised Land and God gave them a king to point them to their High King in Heaven. King David was a man after God's own heart. He trusted God from his youth as the young shepherd boy who defeated Goliath. In his adulthood, David followed God into battle and won many victories for God's people. God promised him that an eternal King would come from his family. That king would be born in David's home town, Bethlehem.

Hope through the Prophets The prophets helped God's people look forward to a day when God would restore all the twisted distortion caused by Adam and Eve's sin. They spoke of a Savior who would bind up the broken hearted, release the captives, proclaim the year of God's favor, and comfort those who mourn. They told of a virgin who would be with child who would be called Immanuel, "God with us".

Hope in God With Us A young couple named Joseph and Mary made their way to Bethlehem for a great census. They were from the line of the great King David and Mary was with child. This slowed their travel, so when they arrived in Bethlehem in the middle of the night, all the rooms in the inn were taken. The little couple made their way into a cold stable and the silence of that night was broken by the cries of a baby boy. As Mary held the maker of the moon in her arms, she held not only her Son, but also her Savior and the Savior of the world.

Those who looked for Hope Wise Men & Shepherds Magi from the East studied the Scriptures and followed a star that would lead them to a King. The star led them to a home in Bethlehem where they found Mary and Joseph and worshiped Jesus. They gave King Jesus gifts of Gold because He was a King, Frankincense because He was a Prophet, and Myrrh because He would die to save His people. There were also shepherds tending their flocks when an angel appeared to them announcing the Savior's birth. "Glory to God and peace to men on earth". It was Peace they found, wrapped in swaddling clothes and laying in the arms of Mary.

Hope in the Good News The prophets called Him Savior, the Wise men called Him King, and Mary and Joseph called Him Immanuel. All of these titles would meet at a place called Calvary, but the cross was not the end of the story. The restoration God started in the garden defeated sin when the stone rolled away and the child born from Heaven conquered death!

Good Shepherd

Presbyterian Church

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Sunday Worship Service 10:30am

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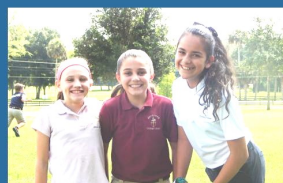
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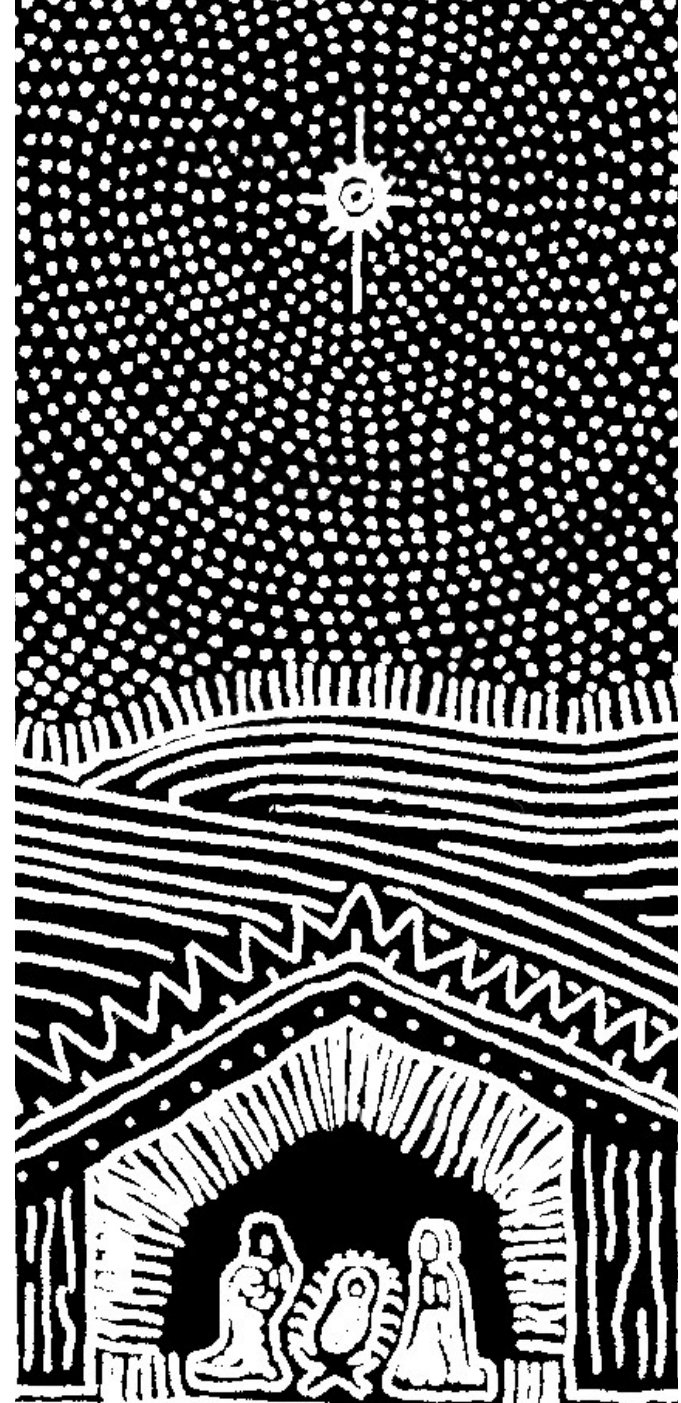
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Welcome to our 26th annual

Living Nativity Pageant

"The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God." — C. S. Lewis

Please join us for our

Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Service

5:00 pm

Dec. 24th

