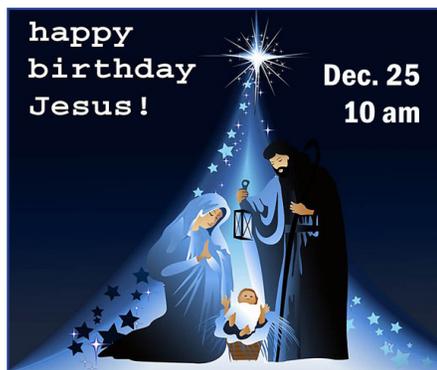


**Come join us for**  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**  
**Dec. 24: 4:00\*, 5:30\*, 7:00 pm**  
 \*childcare available



**WS South Sanctuary – 603 Wright Ave**

happy birthday  
 Jesus!  
 Dec. 25  
 10 am



**Come join us @ WS North!**

END OF YEAR  
 GIVING

**With only 2 weeks left ,  
 we need \$26,000  
 to meet our budget for the year.  
 Please consider making a gift  
 to the church by Dec. 31.**

**CZECH THIS OUT!  
 MISSION TRIP 2020**



**Applications due Dec. 31**

**MEN'S Indoor Tailgate Party &  
 CORNHOLE  
 tournament**

**RSVP online TODAY!**

**Sat., JAN. 4 . time tbd . WSS**

Financial data: Jan. 1, 2019 Beginning Balance \$59,595; 2019 YTD Income \$945,413; 2019 YTD Expenses (\$1,022,689); Ending Balance Nov. 30, 2019: (\$17,681).



**THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE:**  
**Choosing Hope**  
 Matthew 2:13-18 (NIV)

<sup>13</sup>When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

<sup>14</sup>So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, <sup>15</sup>where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

<sup>16</sup>When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. <sup>17</sup>Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

<sup>18</sup>"A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

Looking for more info? Go to [westsidechurchrichland.org](http://westsidechurchrichland.org)

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Dec. 22, 2019 • 11:15 am

<b>Prelude</b>	Patty Niccoli
<b>Deacon Beacon</b>	Wendy Thomson
<b>Greetings &amp; Life in the Church</b>	Will Shaw
<b>Call to Worship</b>	
Leader: No one who hopes in the LORD will ever be put to shame.	
People: <b>Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long</b>	
Leader: The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.	
People: <b>In you, LORD my God, I put my trust.</b>	
Leader: All your works praise you, LORD; your faithful people extol you.	
All: <b>My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD. Let every creature praise his holy name forever and ever.</b>	
<b>Songs of Worship &amp; Praise</b>	
<i>Emmanuel</i> (2x)	No. 243
<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	No. 245
<b>First Scripture Reading</b>	1 Peter 1:3-9
<b>Prayer of Confession &amp; Assurance of Pardon</b>	
<b>Song of Thanksgiving</b> <i>Lo! How A Rose E'er Blooming</i>	No. 255
<b>Prayers of the People &amp; The Lord's Prayer</b>	
<b>Second Scripture Reading</b>	Matthew 2:13-18
<b>Message</b> <i>Choosing Hope</i>	Rev. Ralph Kieneker
<b>Song of Response</b> <i>While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks</i>	No. 272
<b>Offering</b> <i>It Came Upon A Midnight Clear</i>	Adult Choir
<b>Doxology &amp; Celebration of Life</b>	
<b>Benediction</b>	

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# Choosing Hope

## SERMON NOTES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### I. Introduction

- How do we celebrate Christmas when the world is so broken?

### II. What is Hope?

- Matthew 2:13-18

a. Hope isn't blind optimism (wishful thinking or a dream of what could be)

b. Biblical Hope is living with conviction that the promises of God are reliable.

#### i. Living Hope

- 1 Peter 1:3-4

#### ii. Conviction

- Romans 8:24-25

#### iii. Reliable

Choosing Hope

## Discussion Questions

### Sharing Life Together

1. How are you feeling about the world in general? Are you more overwhelmed or hopeful?
2. Does Christmas tend to lift your spirit or does it create more stress? Why do you think you experience it this way?

### Reflecting on the Message Together

1. The story of Jesus is not just "a" story of hope, but it is "the" story of hope. How would you defend this statement to someone who does not believe in Jesus as savior and Lord?
2. Ralph claimed that the Bible tells the best story of the world. It is better able to explain all of life than any other worldview. How would you defend this belief? Where is your biggest area of doubt as to whether this is really true? In other words, where do you sometime struggle in trusting God's truth? How should we deal with these sorts of doubts?
3. Biblical hope is not blind optimism or wishful thinking, it is living with conviction that despite mounting evidence to the contrary, God's promises are reliable. What are situations in your own life where your hope in God was shaken and your conviction that God is reliable was undermined?
4. What are one or two experiences where God has strengthened your hope even through hardship and difficulties?
5. What are practical steps we can take to choose to live by hope?
6. How did God speak to you through this teaching?
7. How can we pray for one another?