



# HIGHLIGHTS *from* ONE HOPE CHURCH

December 12, 2024

## THIS WEEK

THE BLESSING OF MARY

DECEMBER SERMON SERIES  
MY THREE FAVORITE HYMNS  
CONNECTIONS

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 6PM  
PICNIC IN THE PARK OUTREACH  
MISSION

12/15 VOLUNTEERS  
PRAYER CONCERNS



## The Blessing of Mary

Pastor Eric [pastoreric@onehopekc.org](mailto:pastoreric@onehopekc.org) (*reach out if you need anything!*)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house and line of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Luke 1:26-33

One of the longest debates in Christianity is about Mary. Mary actually appears to have had a simple, normal life in the first century B.C. (or BCE). She was a young lady who was about to marry a carpenter named Joseph. We know they were good Jews and desired to follow the law. However, Gabriel complicated their lives.

Mary's blessing was to conceive and bear a son. This son was the Messiah. He would be called Jesus because he came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). Also, the baby would be known as the Son of the Most High, because the Holy Spirit would be the One conceiving. This had not happened to anyone in history before this, nor has it happened since. This makes Mary's life a little more complicated.

In the post-Biblical days, theologians and church leaders have complicated Mary further. Catholics and Eastern Orthodox have elevated the value and

role of Mary. She is called Theotokos, which is Greek for Mother of God. In both Catholic and Orthodox practices, Mary is prayed to and/or venerated. Catholicism developed the Immaculate Conception, which is a post-biblical theological view that Mary was undefiled by original sin at conception.

The Protestant reform began on October 31, 1517, when the Catholic priest Martin Luther posted his 95 theses (which protested certain Catholic beliefs and practices). Christians began to push back on worshiping anyone but God through Jesus. This continued with a rapid devaluing of Mary.

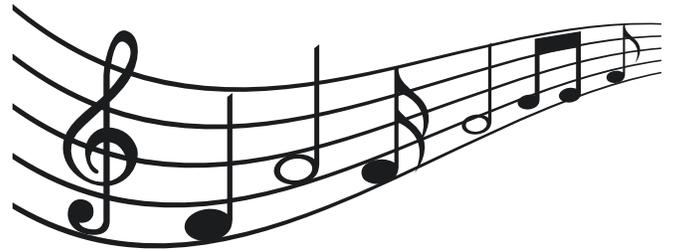
As we near Christmas, remember that Mary is favored and blessed. As Protestants, we especially should remember Jesus loved His mother dearly. We are thankful God chose a simple, humble young woman. For One Hope, let us be grateful for Mary's faith, a true Christmas blessing for all of us!

## DECEMBER SERMON SERIES



## MY THREE FAVORITE HYMNS

We'd like to know your top three favorite hymns for worship. Take a moment to call [\[913-232-7431\]](tel:913-232-7431) or send an email to [Pastor Eric](mailto:PastorEric) with the hymn titles that you love to sing. Feel free to use a hymnal on Sunday to find your favorites.



Access the sign up for [Sunday Volunteers!](#)

Click [missed a sermon](#) to hear any sermon from the One Hope archives!

Click the link below to sign up for a **Hope Builders group**.

[Hope Builders interest form](#)



One Hope Church

**Join us Christmas Eve!**

**Candlelight Worship Service**

December 24, 2024  
6:00 p.m.

Christmas Message:  
**The Season of Expectations;  
From the Manger**

onehopekc.org (913) 232-7431  
9400 Nall Ave | Overland Park, Kansas

## PICNIC IN THE PARK OUTREACH MISSION

We are beginning a new homeless outreach mission to reach the less fortunate in the Kansas City area. Our church has teamed up with the Kansas City Kansas Police Department Homeless Unit to set up a monthly outreach to help feed and clothe those in desperate need. Beginning December 15, and the third Sunday of each month thereafter, we will be leaving the church after worship service and going to [Shawnee Park, 7th and Shawnee, Kansas City, KS](#). There we will set up our tent, plant our flag, and prepare a hot meal for anyone who is there to join us.

We will look to minister to these people, as well as feed their bodies. 1 Peter 3:15 says, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."

Our one hope is in Jesus. Let's work together to spread his light and love to those who need it most. You don't have to go to participate. We will be collecting hats, gloves, socks, coats, and blankets to give to those in need. There is also a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for needed food and drink items for the meal.



# 12/15 VOLUNTEERS

- Clean Up**  
Earl E.
- Prayer Group**  
Earl S.
- Music**  
Christian C.
- Tech - Audio**  
Laurie K.
- Tech - Video**  
Bob K.



# PRAYER CONCERNS

*“Do not be anxious about anything,  
but in every situation, by prayer and petition,  
with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”  
~ Philippians 4:6*

### Prayers for:

- Earl S., recovering after hernia surgery
- Joanna G., doing better, kidney stone may have passed, and pregnant
- Becky S., stomach cancer, Sue S. sister-in-law
- Ruby, hospitalized for possible TIA,  
Sheryl A.’s mom
- Healing for all who are struggling with  
allergies or illness

For those in transition... new living situations, jobs

For those who have lost their hope in Jesus Christ, may their hearts be softened to hear His voice again

One Hope Church, to find its own affordable and spacious worship location

Global Methodist Church Heartland Conference

Peace for Israel, Ukraine & Taiwan



# SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- Prayer | 8:30am
- Worship | 9:00am
- Children | 9:15am
- Fellowship | 9:50am
- Youth | e-mail for info

Website: [OneHopeKC.org](http://OneHopeKC.org)  
Email: [PastorEric@onehopekc.org](mailto:PastorEric@onehopekc.org)

Find us on:

