

# IN EXCELSIS DEO

## ADVENT 2024

**Sunday, December 1**

**Read: Thessalonians 3:9-13**

As we transition from a season of giving thanks to a season of hope, we are mindful of the thanks we have given for our blessings and at the same time we look forward to the hope of new life in God. We know that God made the way for us as we attained the blessings for which we have just given thanks.

Were you more thankful for the “things” that God blessed you with, or the people that God put in your life? Hopefully, you spent Thanksgiving with your loved ones and will also spend Christmas with your loved ones and that will be the greatest blessing of the holiday season. Even if that weird uncle made some off-color jokes, or if your daughter burned the rolls, or if you are sure your siblings will get you some gift that you don’t really care for, the people in our family and Christian community are the greatest blessings we have. God put them in our lives as a blessing for us and has promised that he will make the way clear for us to be with them again. Just as our predecessors made that way for us, and we responded in faith, we are making that same way for those that will come after us.

We thank God for the paths that were made for us and we thank God that we can help make the same paths for the next generation of Christians. God has been faithful in making the way for us and we have hope that God’s providence will make the way for those to come. The road will rise to meet us; the wind will be at our back; the sun will shine upon us; the rain will fall softly on our fields until we meet again. And God will hold us all in the palm of his hand.

Jacob Best