

## Joy and Peace in Believing

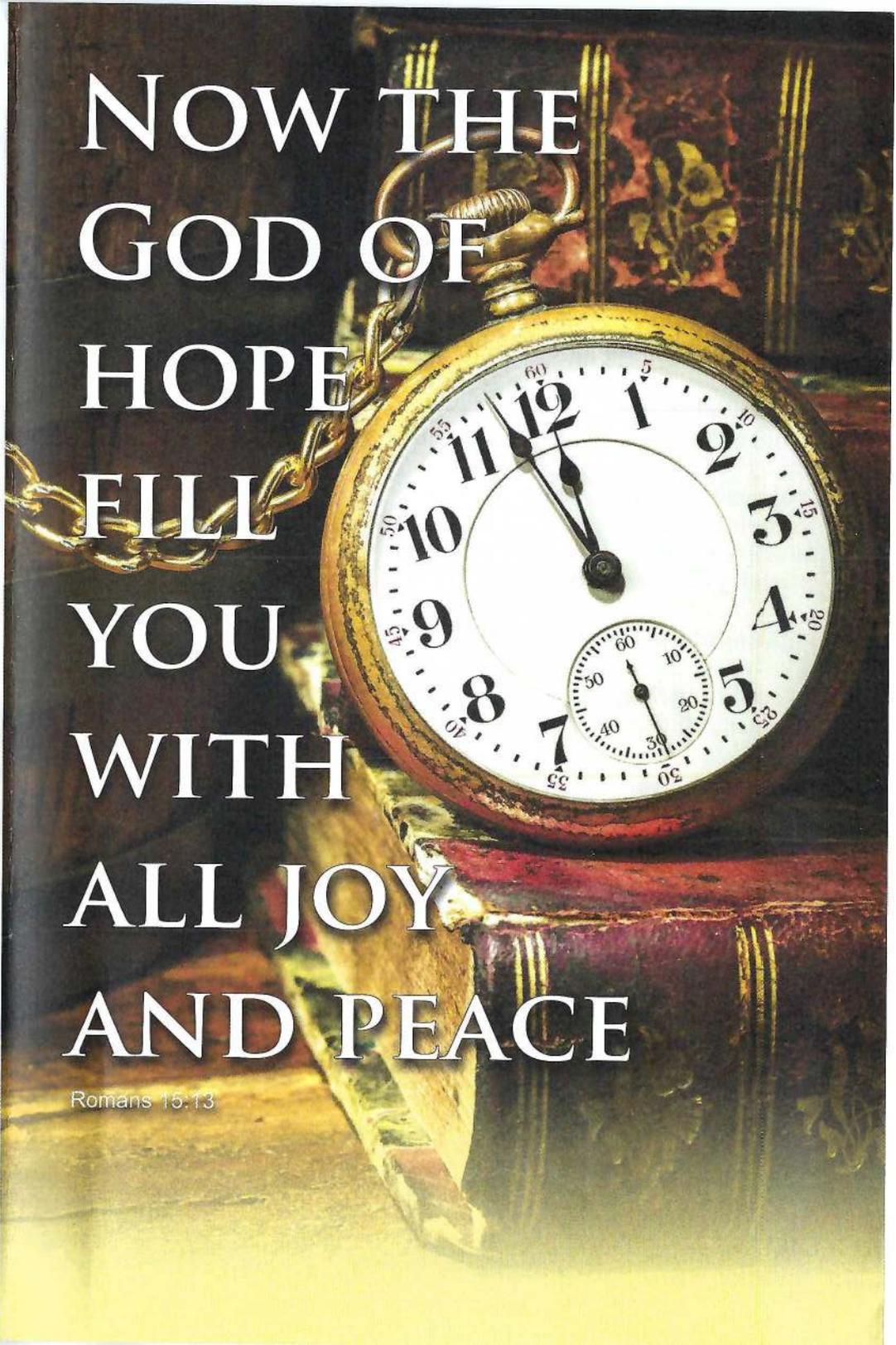
**L** Leannah Loveall was born in Kentucky in 1842. Her parents found it difficult to control their strong-willed daughter and turned her out when she was a teenager. By age 27, she was a widow whose two small children had also died. Consumed with grief, she moved to Kansas City where she opened a brothel under the name “Annie Chambers.” Her mansion was opulent with Italian tile, bright lights, mirrors and many other elaborate decorations. She prided herself on teaching etiquette and modesty to the young women who worked for her, and she bought expensive clothing for them.

By the time Annie was 85, her eyesight was failing and her mansion was falling into disrepair. Still proud and lonely, she supported herself by giving tours to curiosity seekers. One day a few years later, as she sat by her bedroom window, she heard the director of a nearby rescue mission preach a funeral sermon for a baby born to a young woman who could have been one of Annie’s former employees. Tears ran down her face as she heard the message of love and forgiveness. She later said, “It wasn’t the first time I had wept in 75 years. People think women of my sort are hard-hearted, but we have hearts, too, and sometimes they melt in sorrow . . . When they carried the baby out, I could hear that poor mother weeping and I knew her own sorrow because I had two babies of my own that died.”

Eventually, Annie met the preacher’s wife and a friendship was formed. She was assured that God can forgive even a woman like her, and she trusted Christ as her Savior. She began to witness to the women who had worked for her by insisting they read to her from the Bible. “That old book, the Bible, is a great comfort to me,” she noted before her death at the age of 93, “but of all its beautiful texts, the best is the promise, “Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool”” (Isaiah 1:18).

*K.E. Horsley*

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NOW THE  
GOD OF  
HOPE  
FILL  
YOU  
WITH  
ALL JOY  
AND PEACE

Romans 15:13



# Covenant Church

3115 N.W. 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue Gainesville FL 32605

December 26, 2021

## Invocation

*Pastor Don Mauldin*

## Sing Unto the Lord

Hymn #258 Go Tell It on the Mountain

## Welcome and Announcements

### Recognition of Guests

### Mission Moment

### Birthdays and Anniversaries

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

## Worship in Song

Hymn #273 Good Christian men Rejoice

## Offertory Prayer

*Joe Morgan*

## Offertory

*Rose Morgan*

## Special Music

## Sermon:

*Pastor Don Mauldin*

## Hymn of Benediction

Hymn #263 What Can I Give Him?

## *Covenant News*

## *Happy New Year!*

Our ministry for December is Helping Hands. Helping Hands is a group of volunteer health professionals who have provided free healthcare to the poor and/or homeless for over 30 years. The clinic is staffed by social workers, registered nurses, advanced registered nurse practitioners, physicians, and community service volunteers. 140 people in all! Over the years, there have been over 50,000 visits with over 12,000 individuals seeking care. Half of those served are homeless, ranging from months to decades on the streets.

*The YAH group is planning to meet on Tuesday, Jan. 11 at Covenant Church at 10:00 am. We need to get together to discuss the future of our YAH group since we have lost our Beloved leader, Madge Bush. Those of you who belong and those of you who would like to join--PLEASE COME*