



seeking sanctuary

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Welcome and Announcements

Special Music

Rejoice



Scene 1: “What’s up with that?”

Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem UMH 230



Call to Worship

L: We are seeking—

**P: deeper faith, a place to belong,
the feeling that God is here in this room.**

L: We are seeking—

**P: joy that overflows, the movement of the Spirit,
a hand to hold, when alone in the dark.**

L: We are seeking—

**P: the freedom to be, the courage to love,
the conviction to act in the face of injustice.**

L: We are seeking, but here in this space,

P: We are found.

L: Take a deep breath. This is your sanctuary.

All: God is here. We are found. Amen.

Scene 2: “You Try It!”

Hymn: The First Noel UMH 245



Lighting of the Advent Candles: LOVE

Candle Hymn Praise to the Lord, the Almighty Vs. 4 UMH 139

Scene 3: “What’s that noise?”

Hymn: Go, Tell It on the Mountain! UMH 251



Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:39-55

NRSV

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L: The word of God to the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Scene 4: “Talking with Angels”

Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High UMH 238



Sharing Prayer Requests

Offering & *Doxology

Hymn: O Come All Ye Faithful UMH 234



Children’s Time

Reflection

Pastor Kelsey

Scene 5: “Hearts Full of Love”

Hymn: Joy to the World UMH 246

***Benediction**

Postlude



Sermon Series Credits

Graphic Design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman
Original photography by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity
Liturgy by Rev. Sarah Speed
Scripture Commentary by Elder Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri
Poetry by Rev. Sarah Speed
Children's Lesson Guide by Rev. Anna Strickland
| A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org |

Welcome to Parents with Children

*Thank you for what you do when you bring your children to church.
Please know that your family – with all of its noise, struggle, commotion,
and joy – are not simply tolerated: you are a vital part of this community.
We love to have you and your children with us.*

Parents: please ask an usher for worship packs for your children.

Hospitality and Accessibility

- Bathrooms are located next door in the fellowship hall.
- Nursery and changing area are located downstairs.
- Large print materials are available in the narthex
- **Join us for food and fellowship next door after worship!**

Getting Connected

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| To receive church updates | text HopkinsUMC to 84576 or
flocknote.com/HopkinsUMC |
| To give electronically | hopkinsumchurch.org/give |
| To contact the Prayer Team | Bertha Tew at (269) 793-7424 |
| To contact the Church Office | Mitzi Crowe at (269) 793-7323
hopkinsumcni@gmail.com |
| To contact the Pastor | Rev. Kelsey French at (248) 613-0366
PastorKelseyFrench@gmail.com
Office Hours: Tues-Thurs by appointment |

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Announcements December 19, 2021

TODAY - On-the-spot Christmas Pageant during service
Family Christmas Party in HUM Hall after church
Potluck & Cookie Exchange
Passing out Birthday Cakes for Jesus Kits

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve service at HUMC at 11pm

Dec 26 - Combined Worship at SMUMC at 10am

Lessons & Carols service & take-home worship

Family Christmas Party & Potluck

This morning we will share in an on-the-spot pageant to tell the Christmas story together. After worship, we will have a potluck style meal, share in a cookie exchange, games and crafts for kids, and pass out Jesus Birthday Cake Kits.

Christmas Eve 2021

The 11pm service is back! Thanks be to God for all the ways that have made it more safe to gather together inside in-person. We will be getting back to the beloved tradition of the 11pm Christmas Eve Service at HUMC. Come as you are as we join together in celebrating the coming of Christ with worship and song then hit the hay to be ready for Christmas morning!

Dec 26th: Sunday After Christmas

Christmas comes on a Saturday this year, so we know our usual Christmas gathering on Sunday morning should be a little more relaxed. Join us for worship that morning at South Monterey UMC at 10am for a Lessons and Carols style service (sing those favorite Christmas hymns you didn't get enough of throughout the season!) OR take home a worship packet to use at home with your family.

Epiphany Sunday

Epiphany is the day the church remembers and celebrates the coming of the wise men to Jesus after his birth. Epiphany day comes 12 days after Christmas, Jan. 6, but we will be celebrating in worship the Sunday before, January 2nd. We will be back to our usual worship schedule for this Sunday. This Sunday will be the conclusion to our "Close to Home" Worship Series.

Prayer Requests and Thanksgivings

We pray with thanksgiving for... Those who are willing to take part in church leadership; those who work to keep our church buildings and grounds safe and well taken care of; COVID vaccine & booster, the food pantry, those who have gotten jobs.

We pray God's blessing for... The large area & numerous families affected by the tornadoes; Bert & Jim Tew; those dealing with transitions; all caretakers; the many grieving deaths and losses; those without jobs and looking for jobs.

We pray for the church and for the world... Increasing Homeless populations across the US; pandemic continuing and rising in the US; Amelia Green our seminarian; the future of the UMC; Bishop Bard and DS Bagley; Pastor Kelsey and Brennen; immigrants and asylum seekers; all who tend and farm the land; for leadership of our nation; for first responders, health care and essential workers; for teachers, students, and families; for social and racial justice.

Share your requests! Call Pastor Kelsey (248-613-0366) or Bert Tew (269-793-7424)

Worship Volunteers

December Greeters - Juanita Curtis & Mary Howard

December 19

December 26

Children's Message - Mitzi Crowe

Linda Burton-Collier

Liturgist -

Reva Daniel

Liinda Burton-Collier

Coffee Fellowship - **Potluck/Cookie Exchange** Share your leftovers

HUMC Giving

Weekly budget needs: \$1350.00

Last week's offering:

December Loose Change will go to the Methodist Children's Home Society.

Check out what they do at <https://mchsmi.org>.

December Birthdays

13 - Jennifer Tew-Salisbury

26 - Holly DeVries

19 - Kinian Mack

27 - Sandy Ringler

20 - Mary Herrema

29 - Melanie Velderman

December Anniversaries

2 - Dick & Judy Weick

14 - Don & Judy Collier

5 - Jim & Bert Tew

30 - Bill & Mary Howard

12 - Todd & Karen Collier

Response of Confession after Reflection

L: ... in the places and moments we need it most. Let us pray together now...

All: God of safe spaces, we wish we were more like Mary, who in the face of great change, went and sought help. She did not wait for help to find her; she walked to the shelter she needed. Too often we wait silently for the world to change around us instead of speaking up for the things we need. Forgive us for failing to care for ourselves the way you would care for us. Give us the courage to be more like Mary. God of safe places, we wish we were more like Elizabeth, who greeted Mary with laughter and contagious joy. How many people have crossed our doorstep and how many times have we failed to see them? Give us the courage of Mary, and the grace of Elizabeth. Gratefully we pray, amen.

L: ...God is lavish in loving us. Rest in this promise:

All: We are claimed. We are loved. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Are the holidays always a hard time for you?

Or are they feeling particularly weird or hard this year?

You are not alone.

Pastor Kelsey is here to help you talk through it, help you process, or just be a listening ear. She would love to chat with you—in her office, at your house, over the phone, or over coffee. Just email, text, or call her to schedule a visit.

The Blue Christmas service may also be meaningful for you. Find a recording of this year's service on the church Youtube Page:

Hopkins UMC (or ask Pastor Kelsey to send a link).

Advent can also bring up some faith or scripture questions. Pastor Kelsey would also love to discuss those with you.

Luke 1:39-55 NRSV

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42 and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43 And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

46 And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

50 His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

51 He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

53 he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

54 He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."