



Invited Home

Christmas Eve

GATHER

Welcome and Announcements

Moments of Praise O Come, All Ye Faithful UMH 234



Call to Worship

L: An unmarried teenage girl was invited—

P: to carry Christ into this world.

L: An ordinary carpenter was invited—

P: to be a father to a child unlike any other.

L: The shepherds were invited—

P: outcast and isolated, included at the manger.

L: The Magi were invited—

P: foreigners and seekers, included at the manger.

L: And if she was invited, and he was invited, and they were invited—

P: then we can trust that we too are invited.

L: This story is for us.

P: This love is for us.

L: Family of faith, this is our invitation. Welcome home.

All: Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candles: Christ Candle

Candle Hymn Praise to the Lord, the Almighty Vs. 5 UMH 139



WORD

Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

NRSV

Printed on Insert

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Special Music

"Hallelujah Chorus"

Mike Ballard

Sermon

Invited Home

Pastor Kelsey

RESPONSE

Response Song Sing We Now of Christmas UMH 237 Vs.1-3



Prayers of the People

Passing of the Peace

Offering & *Doxology

SEND

*Closing Song

Silent Night

UMH 239

Please take your candle and form a circle around the sanctuary as we sing.

*Please leave the Sanctuary in the quiet stillness.
Gather and chat with others outside or in HUM Hall.*



Merry Christmas!



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 |

Announcements December 24, 2021

Dec 26 - Combined Worship at SMUMC at 10am

Lessons & Carols service & take-home worship

Jan 2 - Epiphany Sunday, 9:30am at SMUMC, 11am at HUMC

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.

New Children's/Family Ministry

Starting in the new year, join us for Worship Wednesdays! Every 4th Wednesday, (starting Jan 26th) at 5:30pm we will share in a short lesson, an activity or game or two, and close with a simple meal together. We hope parents will stick around and take part with their children. Later in December we will share a sign-up sheet for leaders and helpers (you pick which session or theme you would like to help make happen). We will follow the theme of: SUPERHEROES. Sometimes superheroes do great things. Other times it's the little things that make them super. Big and small things add up to a life that honors God and allows us to do some super things for others. Courage, commitment, loyalty, and honor. These are some of the virtues that the heroes of old possessed. By following their example, and putting our trust in God, we can live heroic lives ourselves.

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 26
Children's Message - Linda Burton-Collier
Liturgist - Linda Burton-Collier
Communion Server
Coffee Fellowship - Share your leftovers

January 2
Pastor Kelsey
Vern Kraft
Sandy Ringler
Jim & Sandy Ringler

HUMC Giving

Weekly budget needs: \$1350.00

Last week's offering: \$1198.10

Dec. 19 & Christmas Eve - 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: ... and life-changing love. Let us pray together now . . .

All: Holy God, You throw open the door and invite us into relationship, day in and day out. However, instead of running toward you, we dip our toes in the water of this faith. We hold our breath. We play it safe. We struggle to believe that a love so unfettered, so unfiltered, could be for us. As a result, we often deny this worth for ourselves and others. Forgive us for ignoring your invitation to be the people you call us to be. Forgive us for the ways in which we hold back from deeper connection to you or withhold your radical love from others. Open our ears to not only hear your invitation, but to trust that this good news exists even for us. Gratefully we pray, amen.

L: ...That door never closes. So hear and believe this good news:

All: God invites us into a life of faith. God loves us through every season of life. God forgives us when we lose our way and invites us deeper every step of the way. We are loved, invited, claimed, celebrated, and 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).

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

Luke 2:1-20 NRSV

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 All went to their own towns to be registered. 4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.