

Welcome to our church



THIRD SUNDAY
OF
Advent

United Methodist Church
of
Holyoke, South Hadley & Granby

Pastor Hwang Heo
Liturgist: Ann Felsentreger
Dr. Heather Reichgott, Minister of Music
30 Carew St.
So. Hadley MA 01075

Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2024

CELEBRATE DIVERSITY - All are welcome - loved for who you are, exactly as you are. If this is your first visit, please stay after worship so we can meet and say hello.

If you are able, please stand at the places marked with an asterisk (*). For all other portions of the service, you may remain seated.

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Announcements

Prelude

Welcome

Passing the Peace

Advent Candle Lighting

Call To Worship: responsive reading

L: The journey continues, and this candle will help light our way.

P: We are on our way to more joy.

L: Life can be so complicated and filled with distractions.

P: We are a people who simply want Good News.

L: We need a marker on the journey to tell us to stop and notice the wonder of the moments along the way.

P: God's light goes before us, we are not alone.

***Hymn #2092:** *Like a Child*

Morning Prayer unison

Holy and Living God, we pray for the refocusing of our lives on what really matters. Too often, we allow the complexity of modern life to take

over, and we fail to sense your presence in our everyday lives.

Call us to a simplified joy.

Call us to simply pause in the midst of our scheduled mania and breathe in the possibility that you are asking for our attention.

We pray this in the name of your Son, Jesus, the Christ, the Joy of Our Lives. Amen.

Celebrations & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**Gloria Patri*

UMH #71

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Ministry in Music: *Happy Xmas* by John Lennon

Psalm 126: pg. 847 Response 2

Response: **For the night weeping may tarry;
With the morning light comes joy.**

1. When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.
2. **Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;**
then they said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."
3. **The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.** **R**
4. Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the Negeb!
5. **May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy!**
6. Those who go forth weeping, bearing the seeds for

sowing,

7. **Shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.** **R**

Scripture: Romans 15:12-13 pg. 164 New Testament
12 And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope."^[1]

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Gospel reading: Luke 1:26-38 pg. 56 New Testament
26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,**27** to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **28** The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. **30** But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. **31** You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.**32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, **33** and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called^[a] the Son of God. **36** Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have

a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. **37** For no word from God will ever fail.”

38 “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

***Hymn #198:** *My Soul Gives Glory to My God*

Message: Pastor Hwang Heo

***Hymn #216:** *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

***Offering**

***Doxology** UMH #94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Benediction

Postlude

Offering: Please leave your offering in the plate. The Lord has given us so much, let us remember to return some to His church.

-Prayer List: Carol Brunelle, Beth Dietz, Tim O'Donnell, Kathy Washburn, Lily Marion, Darlene Dout, Heidi Barta, Renata Cournoyer, Kevin McLaughlin, Jerry Rubackin, Jim Anspach's Family - parents, Gene & Rene and Uncles Earl & Tom Anspach, Mark Felsentreger, Anna Dunlap, Scott Shippey, Barbara Granger, Billy Clark, Robert Dout, Family of Tim O'Donnell, Family of Bill Beyer, Pastor Hwang & Family, Sage Marion-Patruno, Scotty Hutton, Our Church

Every Sunday after worship: Join us in Fellowship Hall for coffee and...

Today: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Gathering for Secret Santa, join in picking & wrapping gifts. Feel the Christmas Spirit in action.

11:00 a.m. choir rehearsal

December 19: 6:00 p.m. Bell choir

6:45 p.m. Choir

December 22: 10:00 a.m. Christmas music service

December 24: 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 27: 5:30-8 p.m. Free Movie night, hot dogs & popcorn.

Pastor Hwang Heo

Pastor's office hours by appointment

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Church office 413 532-0500 Leave a message.