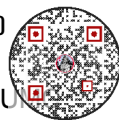




DRAKESTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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www.drakestownchurch.com • Facebook.com/DrakestownU



December 08, 2024 • 10:30 AM Worship



MALACHI 3:1-4 | Luke 1:68-79 | LUKE 3:1-6

Pastor: Rev. Sharon Hoff

Worship Notes:

** You are invited to stand if you are able*

UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal; TFWS = The Faith We Sing

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Zoom worship: <https://zoom.us/join>. Meeting ID: 726 682 3630 Password: 183554.

WE ENTER INTO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

PLEASE STAND AS THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IS BROUGHT INTO OUR MIDST.

WELCOME:

Rev. Sharon

INTROIT:

"The New Christmas Song"
By Lucinda Echols and Camille Uribe

* CALL TO WORSHIP:

Children of God, prepare the way! The Word of God is coming!

We come to listen and receive God's Word among us.

Children of God, the prophets call to us now and from generations past, urging us to prepare and refine our hearts for the coming of the Word of God. Are you listening?

We come to listen and prepare to receive God's Word among us.

Children of God, this is the mark of our preparation: that passion for God's Word would burn within us, cleansing us and renewing us to reflect God's love throughout the world.

May God ignite our passion for God's Word that has come among us as we listen, prepare, and receive all that God has for us today. Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2024.

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

UMH

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES:

Reader One: The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation. "For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness" (Malachi 3:2b-3).

Congregation: In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.

Reader Two: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kin-dom comes on earth as it is in heaven. Light the second candle of the Advent wreath.

CONFESSION & PARDON

INVITATION TO CONFESSION:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(in unison)*

God of Grace, you blow the breath of life into our lungs, you have formed us in your image.

And yet we acknowledge that sometimes we are not who you would have us be.

You challenge us to embrace the refining fire of your love, to meet you on the threshing floor of life, to be washed as with fuller's soap. **But in our heart of hearts, we would rather keep those things that would be removed in such an encounter.** Through your Grace, life-giving God, accept us as we are,

Unrefined, unwashed, the chaff mixed in with the grain.

And help us to move into a new way of being

ASSURANCE OF ASSURANCE:

In the name of Jesus the Christ, you are forgiven. **In the name of Jesus the Christ, you are forgiven. May it be so.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE: *Peace be with you . . . and also with you.*

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: *(in unison)*

Let us pray: **Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Old Testament:

Malachi 3:1-4

Gospel Lesson 1:

Luke 1:68-79

* Gospel Lesson 2:

Luke 3:1-6

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

THE MESSAGE:

Rev. Sharon

* **HYMN OF RESPONSE:**

Have Thine Own Way,

UMH 382

SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS & CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

* **DOXOLOGY:** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH 95

* **OFFERTORY PRAYER:** *(in unison)* (Luke 3:1-6)

Loving God, in this Advent season, we bring our offerings with hearts open to your call. Just as John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, may our gifts help prepare the way for your kingdom. Use these offerings to bring hope, justice, and transformation. Help us to look beyond the surface, to see your work in surprising places and people. Bless our giving, that it may shine with the presence of Emmanuel. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Rev. Sharon

*** SENDING HYMN:**

What Child is This

Video

*** BENEDICTION:**

Rev. Sharon

*** POSTLUDE:**

Here I Am, Lord (refrain)

No. 593

PLEASE REMAIN STANDING WHILE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST PRECEDES US OUT
OF THE SANCTUARY AND INTO THE MISSION FIELD.

Announcements: Week Beginning Dec 08, 2024

God has gathered us here out of all different circumstances. Whether you carry joy or heaviness in your heart, we encourage you to lay it at the feet of Jesus. Give your whole self to God in worship. Welcome to Drakestown UMC.

Joint Church Council • Trustees • SPRC Meeting Dates:

Watch for 2025 Dates

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koi-Koi's Day in our district

Worship Service: **December 11th, 2024 at 7 PM**

Trinity UMC, 213 Main Street, Hackettstown, NJ

Preacher: Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH: The Hospitality Committee of Walnut Valley warmly invites you to a Christmas Brunch on December 15, 2024, 4 Vail Drive, Columbia, NJ at 12:00.

FOOD PANTRY: We are privileged to spread Jesus' love by increasing food security for several families in our area through our food pantry ministry. We are grateful for being able to serve our neighbors in this way and thank all our volunteers who make this ministry possible. The Food Pantry will open on Monday, Nov. 25 between 2 PM and 4 PM. Volunteers are appreciated & welcome!