



Haslett Community Church
United Church of Christ

Sunday, December 17, 2023
10:00 AM

We strive joyfully and prayerfully to warmly welcome all, freely share our blessings, and humbly explore God's love.

haslettcommunitychurch.org

P.O. Box 217 · 1427 Haslett Rd.
Haslett, MI 48840

517.339.8383

hcc1@att.net

We strive to ensure that all are comfortable worshipping with us. Therefore, we:

- Offer three ways to worship: in our Sanctuary, from your car in our south lot (radio to 88.7 FM - turn up your volume) and via livestream (see website for details).
- Provide large print worship bulletins and hearing assist receivers in the sanctuary upon request – an usher would be happy to help you
- Have a building that is barrier free with accessible restrooms. Gender neutral bathrooms are downstairs and are accessible by stairs and elevator.
- Are an Open & Affirming Church which means we welcome and affirm persons of every gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, ability, age, race, nationality, economic status, faith background, marital status, or family structure.

Three Ways to Worship
Sundays at 10:00 am



1. In person
2. Parking lot (car radio on 88.7FM)
3. Remotely (via YouTube)

The church office is open for On-site Office Hours Tuesday & Thursday 10:30am - 1:00pm.

Pastor Betsy is in the office Tue-Fri. Appointments recommended, or come for her drop-in office hours on Wednesdays from 11:30am - 1:00pm.

We love to see you, so please stop by!

Your staff continues to be available to serve you by email and phone outside these on-site hours as well.

We welcome families and households of every size and age and want children to know they are welcome here. Therefore, we:

- Don't mind when children wiggle and make noise in church-your whole family is welcome here! We also have nursery care downstairs staffed by safety-trained volunteers.
- Have preschool through 5th Graders begin each week in worship, and then offer Sunday School following the Children's Moment most weeks
- Have vibrant and active middle and high school youth groups for 6th-12th graders

Our Vision:

*We strive joyfully and prayerfully to warmly welcome all, freely share our blessings,
and humbly explore God's love.*

**Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2023 10:00 am**

*When you see an *, you are invited to stand as you are able. When text is in bold, you are invited to speak aloud.*

For Your Meditation *"I can't reconcile the way that the world is jolted by events that are wonderful and terrible, the gorgeous and the tragic. Except that I am beginning to believe that these opposites do not cancel each other out ... Joy persists somehow and I soak it in." – Kate Bowler*

Gathering Music

Welcome & Announcements

Choral Call To Worship "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" McGee

Lighting the Third Advent Candle

During these weeks of Advent, we prepare gifts. We look forward with joy to the day we will give these gifts.

We rejoice in the abundance that allows us to give gifts of love to those around us.

O God, hear our thankful prayers,

And receive our joyful songs.

Let us light the candle of joy.

- Candles of hope, peace, and joy are lit -

Holy One, may your presence with us be a spark of joy that we carry even through the deepest darkness. And may this joy prompt us to give freely of our abundance.

Let the words of our worship inspire lives of faithful joy and generosity. Amen.

* **Hymn #119**

"My Soul Gives Glory"
(verses 1, 4, & 5)

Winter
MORNING SONG

Prayer of Approach (adapted from a prayer by Sara Miles)

Loving Jesus, whose arrival we look forward to celebrating,
At the center of knowing you is a voice that continues to speak to and transform this world.

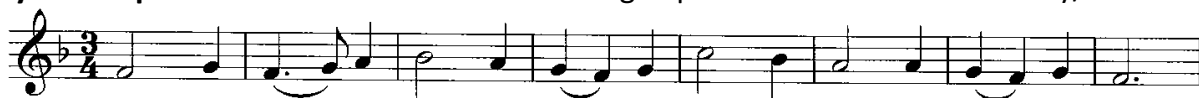
To my surprise and alarm, that voice speaks even to me.
What I heard, and continue to hear,
is a voice that can crack religious and political convictions open,
that advocates for the least qualified,
least official, least likely;
that upsets the established order
and makes a joke of certainty.
It proclaims against reason
that the hungry will be fed,
that those cast down will be raised up,
and that all things,
including my own failures,
are being made new.
It offers food and spiritual nourishment without exception
to the worthy and unworthy,
the sinner and the saint,
and then commands everyone to do the same.
Continue to speak, and may I continue to listen. Amen.

Moment of Quiet Reflection

Hymn Response

“Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Wesley/ HYFRYDOL



9 Come, thou long - ex - pec - ted Je - sus, born to set all peo - ple free:



From our fears and sins re - lease us, grant us your true lib - er - ty.

First Scripture Reading

Luke 1: 39-45

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.”

Anthem

“No Wind at the Window”
(see insert to follow along)

Iona Community
COLUMCILLE

Children’s Moment

Preschool through 5th graders are invited to Sunday School.

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 1: 46-55

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 lowly state 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 indeed, 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 imagination 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 come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Sermon

“Joy”

* Hymn #106

“My Heart Sings Out With Joyful Praise”

para. Duck
MARIAS LOVSÅNG

Invitation to the Offering

Special Music

“O Holy Night”
(Jordon Smith, soloist)

Adam

* Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Christ all creatures here below; One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.

Prayers of The People and the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Choral Benediction

“Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL


* Benediction

Postlude



You are invited to join us for Coffee Fellowship after worship in Friendship Hall.

Advent and Christmas Eve, 2023

 Haslett Community Church, United Church of Christ

Week 3 · Joy · Dec. 17

10 a.m. Worship

Week 4 · Love · Christmas Eve · Dec. 24

10 a.m. Children’s Service · Christmas story for children & some music from our families

7 & 9 p.m. Christmas Eve Services · Choir & Candlelight



Ministry Connections
Reaching Out to Each Other and Our Community
December 17, 2023

CHURCH CALENDAR (December 17 - December 24)

Sunday 12/17/2023	10:00 AM	Worship (S, Online)
	10:00 AM	Sunday School (SS)
	11:00 AM	Coffee Fellowship (Fr)
	11:15 AM	Coffee With Jesus (MM)
	4:00 PM	Christmas Caroling
	Aft.-Evening	Christmas Giving Project Setup
	5:00 - 6:30 PM	YOUTH: MS Youth Group (YR)
	7:00 - 9:00 PM	YOUTH: HS Youth Group (YR)
Monday 12/18/2023	9:00 AM	Christmas Giving Project -CGP: Family Station Setup (FH,Fr,S) Pack Groceries 1 (FH,FR,S) Pack Groceries 2 (FH,FR,S)
	1:30 PM	
	7:00 PM	
Tuesday 12/19/2023	hcc1@att.net	Newsletter Items Due
	10:30 AM - 1PM	Onsite Office Hours (Ofc)
	1:00 PM	CGP-Packing (FH,Fr,S)
	7:00 PM	CGP-Merge Food & Gifts(FH,Fr,S)
	7:00 PM	Safety Team Meets (L)
Wednesday 12/20/2023	9:00 AM	CGP-Stocking assembly (N,DS)
	11:30 AM - 1PM	Pastor Betsy Office Hours (Ofc)
	3:00 PM	CGP-Produce Unload/Sort (K)
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal (CR)
Thursday 12/21/2023	7:30 AM	CGP-Kitchen Crew (K)
	8:30 AM	CGP-Distribution 1 (1st Flr) <i>We still need help - sign up here</i>
	9:00 - 9:45 AM	Sermon Preview Bible Study (Z)
	10:30 AM - 1PM	Onsite Office Hours (Ofc)
	1:00 PM	CGP-Distribution 2 (1st Flr)
	6:00 PM	CGP-Distribution 3 (1st Flr)
	7:30 PM	CGP-Cleanup
Friday 12/22/2023	11:30 AM	VanAtta's delivers poinsettias
Saturday 12/23/2023	9:00 AM	Men's Group Meets (Z)
Sunday 12/24/2023	10:00 AM	Worship (S, Online) <i>Family Christmas</i>
	11:00 AM	Coffee Fellowship (Fr)
	CHRISTMAS 7:00 PM	Candlelight Service 1 (S)
	EVE 9:00 PM	Candlelight Service 2 (S)

Legend: CR=Choir Rm; DS = downstairs; FH= Fellowship Hall;
 Fr = Friendship Hall; K =Kitchen; L=Library; Ofc=HCC Office;
 MM = Mary & Martha Rm DS; N = Nursery DS; S=Sanctuary;
 SS=Sunday School Rooms (downstairs); YR=Youth Rm; Z=Zoom



We heartily welcome all to our service of worship.

May the comfort and challenge of God's loving presence renew and inspire you this morning and throughout the coming week.

Haslett Community Church welcomes You!

If you are visiting, please take a purple dove cup with a sweet treat and helpful information on your way out!

We worship every Sunday at 10:00 am.



HCC Christmas Caroling

Social Committee invites you to Christmas Carol with us **TODAY, Sunday, Dec. 17, at 4:00 pm.**

All are invited - bring the whole family! **We will meet at HCC at 4:00 pm, and then head out from there** to go caroling at homes to spread Christmas cheer to those who aren't able to get out much these days.

Hoping you all join us in helping spread Christmas cheer for the holidays. We look forward to a great time singing Christmas music!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - Information you'd like included in the January 2024 Newsletter is due to Michele no later than **December 19 (THIS TUESDAY)** Please send to: hcc1@att.net

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS !

TODAY is the last day to order the beautiful poinsettia plants that will decorate our Sanctuary on Christmas Eve!

You can order online using the QR code to the right or by filling out the insert in today's bulletin and turning it into the office **TODAY.**



The Staff:

Rev. Betsy Aho	Pastor	aho.betsy@att.net	517.339.8383 x11
Rev. Erin Heisler	Minister for Youth & Children	erin.heisler@att.net	517.339.8383 x19
Barbara Freeman	Church Musician		517.881.9976
Landon Black	Choral Conductor Intern		
Michele Booher	Office Manager	hcc1@att.net	517.339.8383 x10
Sally Sanchez	Custodian		

Our thanks this morning to:

Reader:	Becky Leefers
Greeters:	Bob & Sally Heisler
Ushers:	Cambria Decker-Larkin & Cindy Meteyer
Coffee Hosts:	Laura & Tim Roumpz
Audio/Visual Tech:	Rich Newport
Tellers	Bob Heisler & Cheryl Edwards



To donate Sanctuary flowers for a future Sunday , please sign up on the sheet on the wall outside the HCC office or online [HERE](#).

Permission to reprint music and words from sources other than The New Century Hymnal is granted under CCLI License # 1340749 or by special permission.


Thank you for worshipping with us! If you are visiting, or would like to know more about Haslett Community Church, you are invited to:

- Take a “Purple Dove Cup” for your household on your way out – it has some helpful info and a treat inside.
- Fill out a “Welcome!” card available in the seat in front of you, and drop it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher so that we might be in touch with you in the ways you indicate would be helpful.
- Ask questions if you have them; our Pastors, ushers, and the people sitting around you are great sources of information and are happy to help you feel comfortable here.



No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome at Haslett Community Church where we strive to welcome everyone with the same unconditional hospitality demonstrated by the love of God in Christ for all people.

My Soul Gives Glory to My God


119

*Miriam Therese Winter, 1987**Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Sam. 2:1-10*

1 My soul gives glo - ry to my God. My heart pours out its praise.
2 My God has done great things for me: yes, ho - ly is God's name.
3 From age to age, to all who fear, such mer - cy love im - parts,
4 Love casts the might-y from their thrones, pro-motes the in - se - cure,
5 Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup-ports those in dis - tress,



God lift - ed up my low - li - ness in man - y mar - vel - ous ways.
All peo - ple will de - clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.
dis - pens - ing jus - tice far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.
leaves hun - gry spir - its sat - is - fied, the rich seem sud - den - ly poor.
re - mem - ber - ing past prom - is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.



This New Testament canticle, with its mosaic of liberation motifs that proclaim the justice of God, is known as the "Magnificat," the opening word of its Latin translation.

(Back)

Tune: MORNING SONG C.M.
Melody from Kentucky Harmony, 1816
Harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940

Today's Anthem

No Wind at the Window

Iona
Community

COLUMCILLE

*No wind at the window, no knock on the door;
No light from the lampstand, no foot on the floor;
No dream born of tired-ness, no ghost raised by fear;
Just an angel and a woman, and a voice in her ear.*

*“O Mary, O Mary, don't hide from my face.
Be glad that you're favored and filled with God's grace.
The time for redeeming the world has begun;
And you are requested to mother God's son.”*

*“This child must be born that the kingdom might come:
Salvation for many, destruction for some;
Both end and beginning, both message and sign;
Both victor and victim, both yours and divine.”*

*No payment was promised, no promises made;
No wedding was dated, no blueprint displayed.
Yet Mary, consenting to what none could guess,
Replied with conviction, “Tell God I say yes.”*

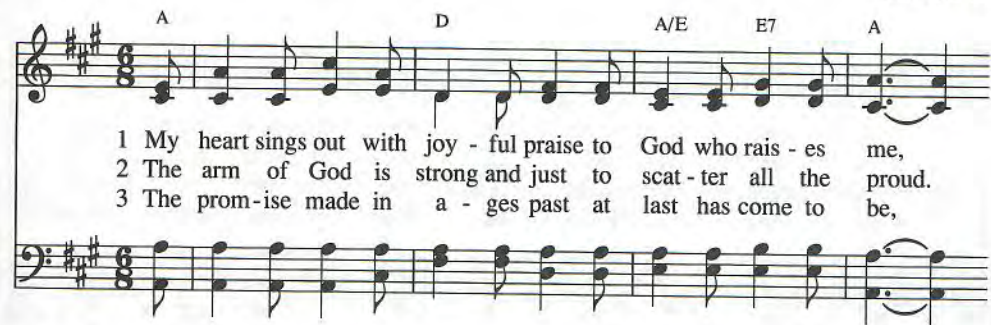
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My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise

106

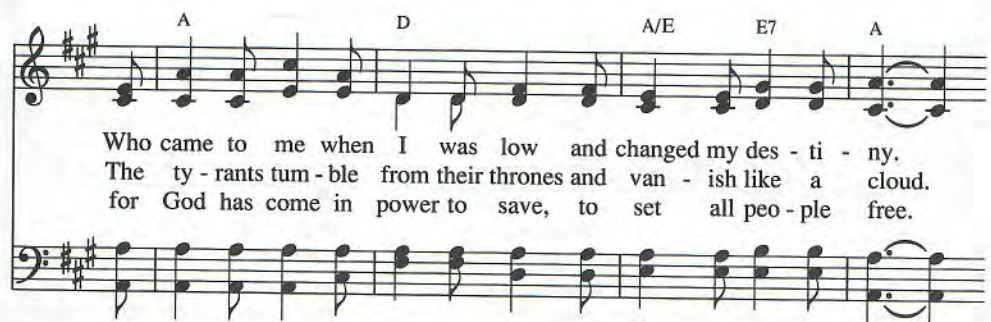
Ruth Duck, 1985

Luke 1:46-55



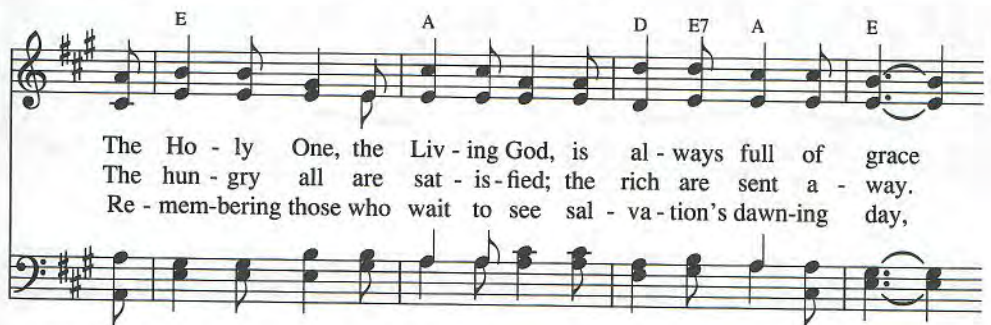
A D A/E E7 A

1 My heart sings out with joy - ful praise to God who rais - es me,
2 The arm of God is strong and just to scat - ter all the proud.
3 The prom - ise made in a - ges past at last has come to be,



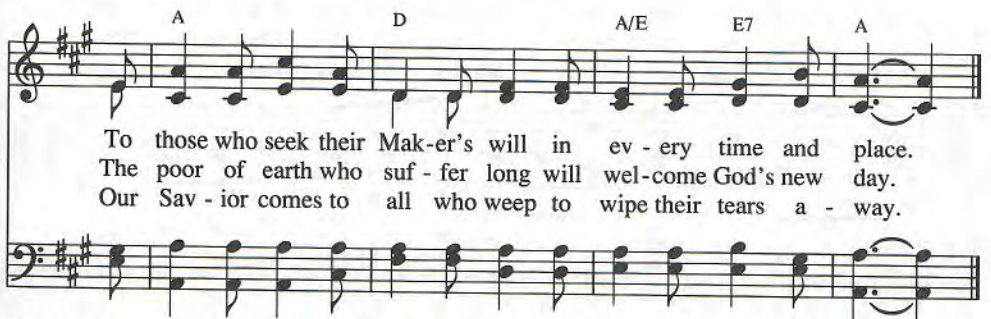
A D A/E E7 A

Who came to me when I was low and changed my des - ti - ny.
The ty - rants tum - ble from their thrones and van - ish like a cloud.
for God has come in power to save, to set all peo - ple free.



E A D E7 A E

The Ho - ly One, the Liv - ing God, is al - ways full of grace
The hun - gry all are sat - is - fied; the rich are sent a - way.
Re - mem - bering those who wait to see sal - va - tion's dawns - ing day,



A D A/E E7 A

To those who seek their Mak - er's will in ev - ery time and place.
The poor of earth who suf - fer long will wel - come God's new day.
Our Sav - ior comes to all who weep to wipe their tears a - way.

The "Magnificat," a traditional text for evening prayer as well as Advent, is paraphrased here by Ruth Duck. She developed it to make the ancient rite of evening prayer available to her own worshipping communities.

Tune: MARIAS LOVSÅNG C.M.D.

Swedish folk melody

Alternate tunes: ELLACOMBE, TALLIS' THIRD

ORDER YOUR 2023 POINSETTIAS NOW!



We plan to decorate our sanctuary with an array of beautiful poinsettias again this year! You can sponsor the 6½" pots of red or white with foil for \$15.00 each, and the larger 8½" pots of red, white, or marbled flowers for \$30. They will be placed around the sanctuary to enhance the joyful atmosphere of the Christmas celebration! The plants you sponsor may be taken home following the last worship service on Christmas Eve, and your dedication will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletins.

Please attach cash or check to this form and **return to the church office by Dec 17.**

Your name: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

6½" pot @ \$15.00 _____ 8½" pot @ \$30.00 _____

Total number of plants _____ Total check _____ Total Cash _____

_____ I will pick up my plant(s) after the last worship service on Christmas Eve

_____ Please donate my plant(s) to our homebound members

[\(Back\)](#)