



Haslett Community Church  
United Church of Christ

Sunday, December 18, 2022  
10:00 AM

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

[haslettcommunitychurch.org](http://haslettcommunitychurch.org)

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**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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders

Our Vision:

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

**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 18, 2022 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.*

**Gathering Music**

“Linus & Lucy”  
(David Jones, on drums)

Guaraldi

**Welcome**

**Prelude**

“Up on the Housetop” and “Jingle Bells”

Sawyer, on piano

**Call to Worship**

The baby is born in Bethlehem. If you are ready to worship together, shout, “Amen!”

**AMEN!**

Angels are singing, the shepherds are rejoicing! If you are ready to sing for joy, stomp your feet!

**(stomping feet)**

Mary & Joseph are happy and blessed. If you are ready to hear good news, clap your hands!

**(clapping hands)**

God has sent Jesus to live among us all! And for that good news we rejoice! Shout rejoice!

**REJOICE!**

**\*Opening Hymn**

“Joy to the World”

Watts/Willis

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King

Let every heart prepare him room,

And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,

And heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns; let all their songs employ;

While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy

Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,

And makes the nations prove

The glories of his righteousness

And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love

And wonders, wonders of his love.

## Lighting the Advent Candle:

The season of Advent reminds us of the hope we have in the humanity of Jesus. God came to us, leaving behind the glory of heaven to be a person feeling pain, joy, loss, and love.

**We light the candle of hope, because in Jesus, heaven came to earth.**

\*Lighting of the first candle.\*

Advent reminds us the Prince of Peace came and lived among us. He felt stress within himself and conflict with other people, yet he chose his path of peace—peace within himself, and peace with humankind.

**We light the candle of peace because Jesus showed us how to live in peace.**

\*Lighting of the second candle.\*

There is joy in the anticipation of the Advent season. Just as Mary waited for the birth of her son, we count the weeks and days to celebrate Christmas. Waiting makes space for imagination and preparation, and joy fills our hearts in that waiting.

**We light the candle of joy because joy is in the promise that the holy one is coming.**

\*Lighting of the third candle.\*

Love is the purpose, the reason, the source. Love is the all-in-all of Advent and Christmas. Without love, Christmas is just a resounding carol, a clanging jingle bell. But love transforms us into joyful participants in the great story of a wondrous birth.

**We light the candle of love because God so loved the world that God sent Jesus.**

\*Lighting of the fourth candle.\*

## Hymn Response

“Rejoice! Rejoice!”

(sing through once)

Re-joyce! Re-joyce! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn response. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests and ties. The piece ends with a double bar line.

### **First Scripture Reading**

**Luke 2: 1-7**

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while [a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

### **Anthem**

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

Brooklyn & Charley, soloists

### **Second Scripture Reading**

**Luke 2: 8-20**

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to 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. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

**Hymn**

**“Go Tell it on the Mountain”**

Afr. Amer. Spiritual

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.  
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.  
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.  
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

**Children's Moment**

**“’Twas the Evening of Christmas”**

**by Glenys Nellist**

*(children are invited to come forward)*

**Invitation to Share Our Offering & Joyful Offering**

**Offertory**

Holiday Medley

Brooklyn & Charley, on piano & cello

**Offertory Response** (to the tune of the Doxology)

Praise God with songs that never cease  
Praise God who fills the earth with peace  
Praise God for love & joy within  
The Holy Child is born again. Amen.

**Affirmation of Love:**

Beloved, on this the fourth Sunday of Advent, let us remember and give thanks for the gift of God's love by proclaiming the love of our faith: What is the greatest commandment in the law?

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.**

What is the second greatest commandment in the law?

**The second is like the first: Love your neighbor as yourself.**

What is the essence of Christlike love?

**Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.**

It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs;

**It does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.**

It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

**Love never ends. And now faith, hope, and love remain.**

And the greatest of these is love.

**This is the love of our faith.**

## **Announcements**

### **Hymn**

### **“Silent Night”**

Mohr/Gruber

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild.  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

### **\*Benediction**


### **Postlude**

### **“Song of Joy”**

Calvin, on piano

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

**Ministry Connections**  
**Reaching Out to Each Other and Our Community**  
**December 18, 2022**

 **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST** 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.



Follow us on Facebook  
 Haslett Community Church



**CHURCH CALENDAR (December 18 - December 25)**

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO help sponsor the poinsettias that will decorate our Sanctuary for Christmas this year by filling out the attached order form or ordering online [HERE](#) by Dec. 18.

<b>Sunday</b> 12/18/2022	10:00 AM 11:00 AM 11:15 AM ---- 4:00-6:00PM 7:00 - 9:00 PM	Worship (S, PL, Online) Coffee Fellowship (Fr) Coffee with Jesus (MMBB) Christmas Giving Project Set Up Christmas Caroling ALUMNI Youth Group (YR)
<b>Monday</b> 12/19/2022	-----	Christmas Giving Project continues
<b>Tuesday</b> 12/20/2022	10:30 AM - 1PM -----	Onsite Office Hours (Ofc) Christmas Giving Project
<b>Wednesday</b> 12/21/2022	11:30 AM - 1PM ----- 7:00 PM	Betsy Office Hours (Ofc) Christmas Giving Project Choir Rehearsal (S)
<b>Thursday</b> 12/22/2022	9:00 AM 10:30 AM ----- 6pm	Sermon Preview Grp (Z) HCC Onsite Office Hours (Ofc) Christmas Giving Project <b>DISTRIBUTION DAY!</b> Alumni Reunion at Mayfair!
<b>Saturday</b> 12/24/2022 <b>Christmas Eve</b>	5pm 7pm 9pm	Parking Lot Service Worship (S, PL, Online) Worship (S, PL, Online)
<b>Sunday</b> 12/25/2022 <b>Christmas</b>	10:00 AM	Fireside Worship (S, PL, Online) (no Sunday School, no nursery care, no youth groups)



Join us on Christmas Eve at 5pm for our parking lot, drive-in service. Or at 7pm and 9pm for our traditional candlelight services.

Thank you for continuing to support Haslett Community Church as you are able. We receive your gifts with gratitude. We have some no-touch options to help make your giving easy and safe:

- Use your phone camera to scan the QR code below to access our Online Giving.
- Text GIVE to our secure giving number:  
517-200-3995
- PayPal us at:  
HCCgenerosity@gmail.com



We are so grateful for your generosity!

**Legend:** FH= Fellowship Hall; FP= Food Pantry; Fr = Friendship Hall; L=Library; MM= Mary & Marth's; Ofc=HCC Office; PL=Parking Lot ; S=Sanctuary; SS=Sunday School Rooms (downstairs); YR=Youth Rm; Z=Zoom



**The Staff:**

Rev. Betsy Aho	Pastor	<a href="mailto:aho.betsy@att.net">aho.betsy@att.net</a>	517.339.8383 x11
Rev. Erin Heisler	Minister for Youth & Children	<a href="mailto:erin.heisler@att.net">erin.heisler@att.net</a>	517.339.8383 x19
Barbara Freeman	Church Musician		517.881.9976
Michele Booher	Office Manager	<a href="mailto:hcc1@att.net">hcc1@att.net</a>	517.339.8383 x10
Sally Sanchez	Custodian		

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## **Our thanks to our Happy Heart Crew for serving this morning and to our candle lighters, soloists and guest musicians!**

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

Worship liturgy components (call to worship, Advent Candle lighting, and Affirmation of Love) from Illustrated Ministry.



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### **Thank you for worshiping 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.