

# December 24, 2023, 10:30 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent

First United Methodist Church of Newton 111 Ryerson Avenue, Newton NJ

Order of Worship

(\*Please rise in body or in spirit.)

PRELUDE		Christie Spriggs		
GREETING		Rev. Todd Lattig		
LIGHTING OF	THE ADVENT CANDLE (Love)	Debbie Seebeck		
<ul> <li>*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive) Kathleen Meredith In the midst of our circumstances God offers reassurance.</li> <li><b>Do not be afraid.</b></li> <li>But just because it's good news, doesn't mean it's easy to hear.</li> <li><b>God offers us hope.</b></li> <li>There is enough, you are beloved, all our welcome here.</li> <li><b>May we be strengthened and emboldened by these promises</b> to us!</li> </ul>				
*HYMN	"What Child is This"	UMH 219		
*OPENING PRAYER (unison) Kathleen Meredith Grant us courage, Lord, to say yes when you call. Like Mary's 'yes,' may it be grounded in trust. And bolstered by hope. Yes, Lord. Yes. Amen.				
Grant us co Mary's 'yes	ourage, Lord, to say yes when you a s,' may it be grounded in trust. An	call. Like		
Grant us co Mary's 'yes	ourage, Lord, to say yes when you a s,' may it be grounded in trust. An	call. Like d bolstered by		
Grant us co Mary's 'yes hope. Yes, I	ourage, Lord, to say yes when you s,' may it be grounded in trust. An Lord. Yes. Amen. "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" Melinda McCoy-Miller, flute	call. Like d bolstered by		
Grant us co Mary's 'yes hope. Yes, l ANTHEM	ourage, Lord, to say yes when you s,' may it be grounded in trust. An Lord. Yes. Amen. "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" Melinda McCoy-Miller, flute IENT	call. Like d bolstered by Chancel Choir		
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Grant us co Mary's 'yes hope. Yes, I ANTHEM MISSION MOM COMMUNITY I CHORAL RESP	<ul> <li>burage, Lord, to say yes when you s,' may it be grounded in trust. An Lord. Yes. Amen.</li> <li>"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" Melinda McCoy-Miller, flute</li> <li>IENT</li> <li>PRAYER</li> <li>ONSE TO PRAYER</li> <li>HILDREN'S SERMON</li> </ul>	call. Like d bolstered by Chancel Choir Rev. Lattig Rev. Lattig Chancel Choir		

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. <sup>28</sup> Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!"

descendant of King David. <sup>28</sup> Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup> Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. <sup>30</sup> "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup> And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

<sup>34</sup> Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin."

<sup>35</sup> The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For the word of God will never fail." <sup>38</sup> Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you

have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.

This is the Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God for this Word.

SERMON	PREPARE: "Be Courageous"	Rev. Lattig
OFFERTORY	"Be Born in Me"	Praise Band
	p the center aisle to place your offering	
scan one of the	e QR codes on the back of this bulletin to	o make your

offering electronically using PayPal or Tithe.ly.

### \*DOXOLOGY

Kathleen Meredith \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison) Lord, we trust you with our gifts today because you are the God of love. By grounding us in love, you move us beyond fear into courage, and so we ask not only that you bless our gifts today, but also that you give us the courage to use them to fulfill your vision. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN	"Go, Tell It On the Mountain"	UMH 251
*BENEDICTION		Rev. Lattig
POSTLUDE		Christie Spriggs

### **UMH 95**

## Join us tonight at 7:00 p.m. for our Christmas Eve Candlelight and Carols Service



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## **Today's Worship Leaders**

Pastor Music Coordinator/Joy Fellowship Advent Candle Liturgist Liturgist Greeter Camera Operator Soundboard Operator Rev. Todd Lattig Christie Spriggs Debbie Seebeck Kathleen Meredith Evelyn Cornwell Jen Phlegar Jay Morrison