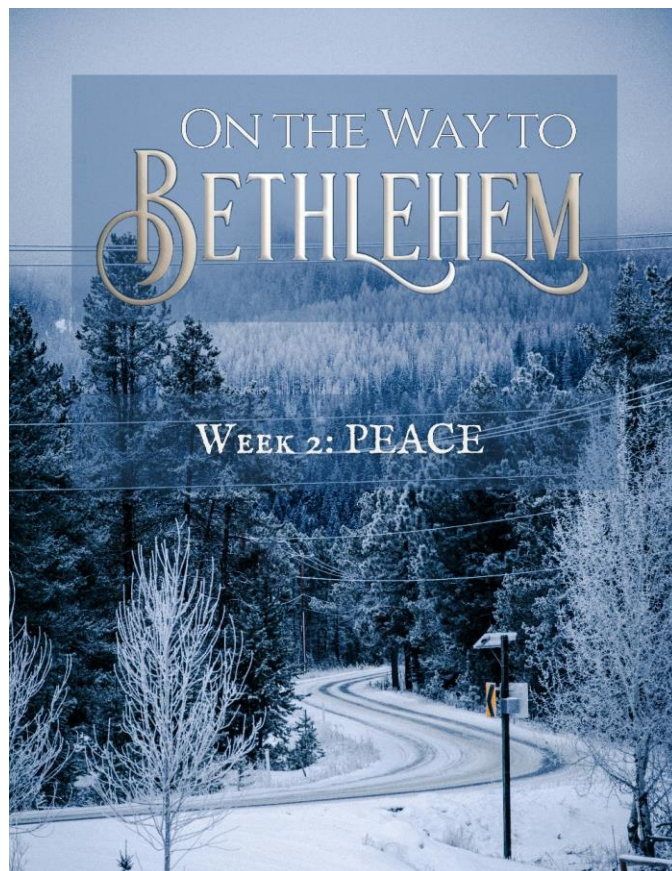


Leominster

United Methodist Church

2nd Sunday in Advent

December 8, 2024 | 9:30am



*Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.*

77 Hall Street | Leominster, MA | lumcoffice1@gmail.com

978-537-1356 | www.leominsterumc.org

Rev. Michelle Ashley, Pastor

Order of Worship

*Indicates standing as able.

BOLD TYPE indicates words spoken in unison by the congregation.

UMH = *United Methodist Hymnal* | TFWS = *The Faith We Sing*

WE SET OFF (GATHERING)

Prelude “Come, All Ye Marcia Bisson
 Shepherds”
 E. Butler

Greeting & Call to Worship Pastor Michelle

*Opening “O Come, O Come UMH #211
Hymn Emmanuel” (v.1-7)

Opening Words Pastor Michelle
 Roy Mwangi

Light for the Journey Elizabeth Garside &
 Eddie Zambrano

O little town of Bethlehem,

how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep

the silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth [light candle here]

*the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.*

*We're on our way (x2)
Dream of the day
When [peace] holds sway
With all the earth
In all our hearts
We're on our way
This is the day.*

Reader(s):

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

We are on our way to more peace.

Life is full of expectations and waiting for the right time, the right answer, the right opportunity.

We are a people who wait for Good News.

It is hard to wait, but there are milestone moments when we get a glimpse of what true peace feels like.

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

"We're on our way" reprise is sung as readers go back to their seats.

Opening Prayer

Roy Mwangi

*The Peace The peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you!

**THE PLACE AND ITS MESSAGE
(PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS)**

Children's Message

Bob Harrison
Malie Marino

“Little Donkey” is sung as the children come forward

*Little donkey, little donkey
On the dusty road
Got to keep on plodding onwards
With your precious load.
Been a long time, little donkey
Through the winter's night
Don't give up now, little donkey
Bethlehem's in sight.*

First Scripture
Lesson

Romans 12:9-18

Roy Mwangi

*Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:5-17

Pastor Michelle

For the Word of God in scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us,
Thank be to God!

*Gloria Patri

UMH # 70

Sermon

Pastor Michelle

**WHAT WE SEE CHANGES US
(RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS)**

Anthem

“Cool Night,
Quiet Night”
R. C. Lau

Senior Choir

Invitation to Giving

Roy Mwangi

Gifts Along the Way
(Offertory)

Marcia Bisson

*Commitment Cards, Prayer Cards, and Visitor
Information Cards may be placed in the offering plates
along with monetary gifts. See instructions for online
giving on reverse*

*Doxology

Senior Choir

*Sung to the tune of “Away in a Manger”:
Praise God for these gifts that we offer today
and bless them for good in the world, this we pray.
Praise Jesus, the Christ-child, our Hope and our
Stay,
The Spirit, our Keeper, our Guide on the Way.*

*Prayer of Dedication

Roy Mwangi

Prayers of the People

Pastor Michelle

The Lord's Prayer

UMH #895

**MOVING ON
(SENDING FORTH)**

The Life of LUMC

Pastor Michelle

*Recessional
Hymn

“We Wait the
Peaceful
Kingdom”
K.R. Moore and
H.H. Hopson

Senior Choir

*Benediction

Pastor Michelle

Postlude

“Once, Long
Ago”

Marcia Bisson

“On the Way to Bethlehem” worship series is based on the book by the same title by Rev. Rob Fuquay. The worship series is from Worship Design Studio by Rev. Marcia McFee. “Little Donkey” is written by Eric Boswell. “We’re On Our Way” is written by Rev. Marcia McFee and Chuck Bell.



All are cordially invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service for a Retirement Celebration for our beloved Director of Music, Marcia Bisson.



Pastor Michelle is available for pastoral care throughout the week. You can often find her in the church office during office hours (Tu-F, 9-2), but if you wish to speak with her, it is best to make an appointment in advance to ensure she is available. She would love to hear from you by email at pastormichelleashley@gmail.com. Please keep in mind that Pastor Michelle honors Monday as her Sabbath day.

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

WITH OUR PASTOR



Please Pray For...

Church Members

Dennis Grammont, cancer & Parkinson's disease

James Stephen

Malie Marino, chronic health issues

Nancy Dougherty, dementia

Continued prayers for Joyce Barclay for medical issues

Praise for Becky's pregnancy (Diana Hamilton-Rousseau)

Nancy Erb on hospice

Mark Kauffman with difficult decisions

Steve Dinsmore (& family) praise for good days and strength
& hope for continued healing

Mel & Don Hutchins to get well quickly

*Sam Warner prayers for health issues

Family and Friends of Church Members

Rebecca Parent (daughter of Maryann Kane)

Leslie, ALS (Edith's niece)

Melissa, cancer (Diana)

Dawnne's mother in law Liz dealing with depression

Yvonne battling pancreatic cancer

Phineas Funk, that he may find his way (The Funk & Gabriel families)

Linda Gilpatrick for reoccurrence of cancer (Sam)

Sara and Ellie Kaufmann for healing. (Lynn Ayars)

Tristan to find his way to improvement (Dawn Prince)

Healing for Carol, Belinda's daughter in law

Healing for Carol with liver cancer (Mel)

Carol P. to find suitable senior housing (Mel)

Praise for Bob O'Neill, Cancer free (Edith)

Donna for upcoming heart surgery (Don Hutchins)

Prayer for Anna & April to be strong during 1st holiday without my dad (Dawn Prince)

Michelle, continued healing and total recovery after her breast cancer surgery (Karen)

Damon for recovery from addiction & mental health issues

Dan that his knee heals (Bruce Shaheen)

Commica who was hospitalized with a mild stroke

*Vikki's grandmother that she doesn't suffer as she makes her journey to the Lord

*Lesley for good health

*Cary II

*Karen with breast cancer

Those who are grieving

Family of Bob Barclay

Family of Marjorie Leach (Mel)

Comfort & strength for the family of Dulcie (Mahen)

Our World

All Nations & people affected by war

All affected by natural disasters

All affected by violence in its many forms

Victims of recent hurricanes

Our Leaders

Bishop Bickerton, D.S. Megan Stowe, Pastor Michelle
All of our civic leaders & elected officials



Give Online



www.leominsterumc.org/give

Give Via Venmo



@lumc-077



Romans 12:9-18 NSRVUE

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly;^[a] do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Luke 1:5-17 NSRVUE

⁵ In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. ⁸ Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. ¹⁰ Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹ Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴ You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

This Week at LUMC

Sunday, December 8

- 9:30 am Worship & Sunday School
- 10:45 am Marcia Bisson's Retirement Celebration
- 5:30 pm Youth Group
- 7:00 pm Advent Bible Study

Wednesday, December 11

- 2:00 pm Bible Study – Book of Matthew
- 7:00 pm Bible Study – Book of Matthew

Thursday, December 12

- 7:00 pm Finance Meeting

Friday, December 13

- 6:00 pm Praise Team Practice
- 7:00 pm Senior Choir Practice

Sunday, December 15

- 9:30 am Worship & Sunday School
- 10:45 am Coffee Hour
- 11:00 am Advent Bible Study
- 2:00 pm Christmas Caroling
- 7:00 pm Advent Bible Study