

**Kingston Springs United Methodist Church**

December 19, 2021

**Greeting and Announcements** Rev. Kelli Hamilton

**Prelude** Rock-a-bye, My Dear Little Boy  
Sue Clark, Rheatta Petty, Julia RichAnita Van Melle

**Introit** Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus Choir

**Call to Worship** Teresa Hargis

We are seeking—

**deeper faith, a place to belong,  
the feeling that God is here in this room.**

We are seeking—

**joy that overflows, the movement of the Spirit,  
a hand to hold, when alone in the dark.**

We are seeking—

**the freedom to be, the courage to love,  
the conviction to act in the face of injustice.**

We are seeking, but here in this space,

**We are found.**

Take a deep breath. This is your sanctuary.

**God is here. We are found. Amen.**

**Hymn** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel UMH 211

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain:*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
And order all things far and nigh;  
to us the path of knowledge show  
and cause us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

O come, thou root of Jesse's tree,  
an ensign of thy people be;  
before thee rulers silent fall;  
all peoples on thy mercy call. *Refrain*

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thy justice here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

**Advent Candle Lighting** Teresa Hargis

**Anthem** How Quietly Choir

**Prayers of the People:** Joys and Concerns  
Leader: Lord, in your mercy, People: **Hear our prayers.**

**Children's Message** Rev. Kelli Hamilton

**Scripture Reading** Luke 1:39-55 Teresa Hargis

**Sermon** Seeking Sanctuary Rev. Kelli Hamilton

**Offertory Prayer** Teresa Hargis

**Offertory** Mary Had a Baby Choir

**Doxology** UMH 95

**Prayer of Confession**

**God of safe spaces, we wish we were more like Mary,  
who in the face of great change, went and sought help.**

**She did not wait for help to find her; she walked to the shelter she needed. Too often we wait silently for the world to change around us instead of speaking up for the things we need. Forgive us for failing to care for ourselves the way you would care for us. Give us the courage to be more like Mary.**

**God of safe places, we wish we were more like Elizabeth, who greeted Mary with laughter and contagious joy. How many people have crossed our doorstep and how many times have we failed to see them? Give us the courage of Mary, and the grace of Elizabeth. Gratefully we pray, Amen.**

### **Words of Assurance**

Family of faith, even if we miss the person standing on our doorstep, even if we fail to care for ourselves the way God would care for us, even if we forget and ignore, turn away and shut down, God still loves us. There is nothing we can do to lose God's love.

### **Rest in this promise:**

If we get lost, **we will be found.**

If we mess up, **we are forgiven.**

If we withhold love, **God is lavish in loving us.**

We are claimed. We are loved. We are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

UMH 15

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere...

and so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ...

...as we proclaim the mystery of death:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here...

...all honor and glory is yours, now and forever. Amen

### **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.**

### **Prayer after Receiving**

### **Commission and Blessing**

Rev. Kelli Hamilton

### **Benedictory Response**

Day by day, day by day,

O dear Lord, three things I pray:

To see Thee more clearly,

Love Thee more dearly,

Follow Thee more nearly,

Day by day (repeat)

(End) Day by day—day by day by day by day by day.

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Call to Worship, Advent Candle Lighting, Offering Prayer, Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance are written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed from A Sanctified Art LLC, [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org).

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:** In person and online at 7p.

**LESSONS & CAROLS:** Sunday, Dec. 26.

### **NURSERY CARE VOLUNTEERS**

We need volunteers to provide nursery care on Sundays from 10-11:30a. Volunteers will bring our nursery kids to worship at 10:30, take them to the nursery following Children's Message, and bring them back for Communion.

### **MONTHLY GIVING**

Through November, it takes \$168,500 to run the church and its programs.

Through November, the church has received \$137,100 from all sources.

### **Kingston Springs UMC Staff**

**Rev. Kelli Hamilton**, [kelli.hamilton@tnumc.com](mailto:kelli.hamilton@tnumc.com), 615-347-9847

**Julia Rich** - Director of Music

**Kristy Finney** - Custodian