

# Today's Scripture Reading



Luke 1<sup>5-24</sup>

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."



## Welcome to Worship!

December 3, 2023

The people of Colby United Methodist Church are called to reflect Christ in Colby and beyond.



### STAY CONNECTED



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### DIGITAL CONNECTIONS



Colby United Methodist Church



Colby United Methodist Church

# Order of Worship

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

Prelude		Pianist/Organist
Welcome & Announcements		Liturgist
Opening Song	“Lo, How a Rose er Blooming”	Pianist/Organist
✝Lighting the Advent Wreath		Barnett Family
Opening Hymn	“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”	UMH #196
✝Opening Prayer		Liturgist
✝Lifting Joys & Concerns in Prayer		Pastor Rodgers
Prayer Song	“Cares Chorus”	TFWS #2215
Lord’s Prayer		UMH# 895
Scripture Reading	Luke 1 <sup>5-24</sup>	Liturgist
Children’s Message		Pastor Rodgers
✝Special Music	“Emmanuel Expected Jesus”	Chancel Choir
Message		Pastor Rodgers
Communion		All
Doxology & Offertory Prayer		#94/Liturgist
✝Closing Hymn	“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (vs. 1,2)	UMH #211
✝Closing Prayer & Benediction		Pastor Rodgers
Postlude		Pianist/Organist

Liturgist:	Melany Wilks
Organist/Pianist:	Jo Kraus
Special Music:	Chancel Choir directed by Dr. Philip Shuman

## Lighting the Advent Wreath

**Reader 1:** In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out:  
O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. (Isaiah 64<sup>1-3</sup>)

**Reader 2:** In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, “Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come” (Mark 13<sup>35</sup>).

**Congregation:** **We wait as people are surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kingdom all around us.**

**Reader 1:** We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to God’s activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. Amen.

*Light the first candle of the Advent wreath.*

### Weekly Colby UMC Activities

Sun @ 9:00 am	Sunday School
Sun @ 9:15 am	Choir Practice
Wed @ 11:30 & 4	Helping Paws
Thurs @ 8:00 am	Men’s Breakfast (Moka’s)
Thurs @ 12:00pm	SOAP study (zoom)
Thurs @ 1:00 pm	SOAP Bible Study
Thurs @ 9:00 am	Quilting Group

### Pastor’s Schedule

**Day Off:** Monday  
**Office Hrs.:** Tues–Fri: 9–12pm  
Afternoons – Pastoral Visitation  
**Saturday:** Requested Visitation

### Last Sunday

Attendance last week: 80  
General Offering: \$2,542  
Weekly need: \$6,501

### Capital Campaign Funds

Raised to date: \$192,700  
Funds available: \$55,089  
Goal: \$300,000

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