

# Service of Worship

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2019 10:15 AM

\*Please rise as able

## -- Ready for the Word --

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude arranged by Thompson

**“Were You There on That Christmas Night?”**

Musical Beginning by Peterson & McCartha

**“As We Prepare for Jesus’ Birth”**

*As the star shone brightly on that Christmas night,  
as the angels sang to all the earth; may the light of these Advent candles  
set our hearts aglow as we prepare for Jesus’ birth.*

*He brings hope to those in despair, peace to those in turmoil,  
joy beyond all measure and God’s great love to people everywhere.*

*As a fresh snow glimmered under soft moonlight, as the shepherds  
warmed around the fire; may these candles glowing lighten any gloom of night  
as we wait for God’s holy child.*

The Light of God Enters

Advent Candle Lighting – *The Green Family*

Reader 1: This Advent season, we remember the adventures of Joseph, Zechariah, Simeon, and Mary, passed down from long ago in Holy Scripture. These narratives are signs that God shall always care for us. May they remind us of God’s love for God’s people.

Reader 2: These stories proclaim the truth of God’s faithfulness in and through Jesus Christ. This morning, we light all four candles, including the Blue candle for Mary. Traditionally, a blue advent candle symbolizes hope and waiting. Mary’s hope was placed in God as she waited upon the Lord for deliverance for God’s people through the child.

*Light all four candles*

Reader 2: Mary embraced faith, and chose to believe in God’s promise rather than fear.

*Place the Nativity figure*

**People: God, Mary’s soul magnified your love and faithfulness for your people. May we see your faithfulness in every moment of our lives.**

\*Hymn

Hymnal No. 99

**“My Soul Gives Glory to My God”**

*Song of Mary verses 1-4*

Prayer of Confession

**God, our lives don’t always go as we plan. We try our best to set things up in the ways that seem right, but sometimes there are roadblocks on our path. Often, instead of praying about where you are in the midst of the upheaval, we will stubbornly keep going on the same path. May we take Mary’s life as an example, and be filled with faith, love, and trust. May we see each and every moment, expected or unexpected, as an opportunity to demonstrate your love and care.**

We Offer Our Own Confessions in Silence

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: The same son who Mary brought into this world is the Son of God who forgives us and makes us free.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

\*Response – *verse 5*

Hymnal No. 99

**Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress, remembering past promises with present faithfulness.**

\*Passing of the Peace

## -- Receiving the Word --

Children’s Sermon

\*Hymn

Hymnal No. 115

**“Away in a Manger”**

Prayer for Understanding

Old Testament Lesson (OT Page 640)

Isaiah 11:1-6

New Testament Lesson (NT Page 56)

Luke 1:26-38

Sermon

**“Greetings, Favored One”**

Musical Offering

by Lowery

**“Mary, Did You Know?”**

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?  
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?  
This child that you’ve delivered, will soon deliver you.  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand?*

*Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?*

*When you kiss your little baby, you kiss the face of God*

*Mary, did you know...*

*The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again.*

*The lame will leap, the dumb will speak, the praises of the lamb.*

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?*

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day rule the nations?*

*Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect lamb?*

*That sleeping child you're holding is the great I am.*

*Mary did you know...*

**-- Responding to the Word --**

\*Apostle's Creed Hymnal Pg. 35

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer (*debts/debtors*)

Hymnal Pg. 35

Giving of Our Tithes, Offerings, and Selves

Offertory arranged by Curry

**"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"**

\*Offertory Response Insert

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn Hymnal No. 113

**"Angels We Have Heard on High"**

\*Blessing

Choral Benediction by Page

**"Advent Benediction"**

*Bless us, Father, as we pray, help us seek you day by day.*

*Bind us all in heart and mind. Bid all quarrels cease.*

*Fill the world with heaven's peace. Bid all war and hunger cease.*

*Oh, come, Holy Savior, come. Amen.*

The Light of God Goes with Us into the World

Postlude arranged by Byers

**"Joy to the World"**

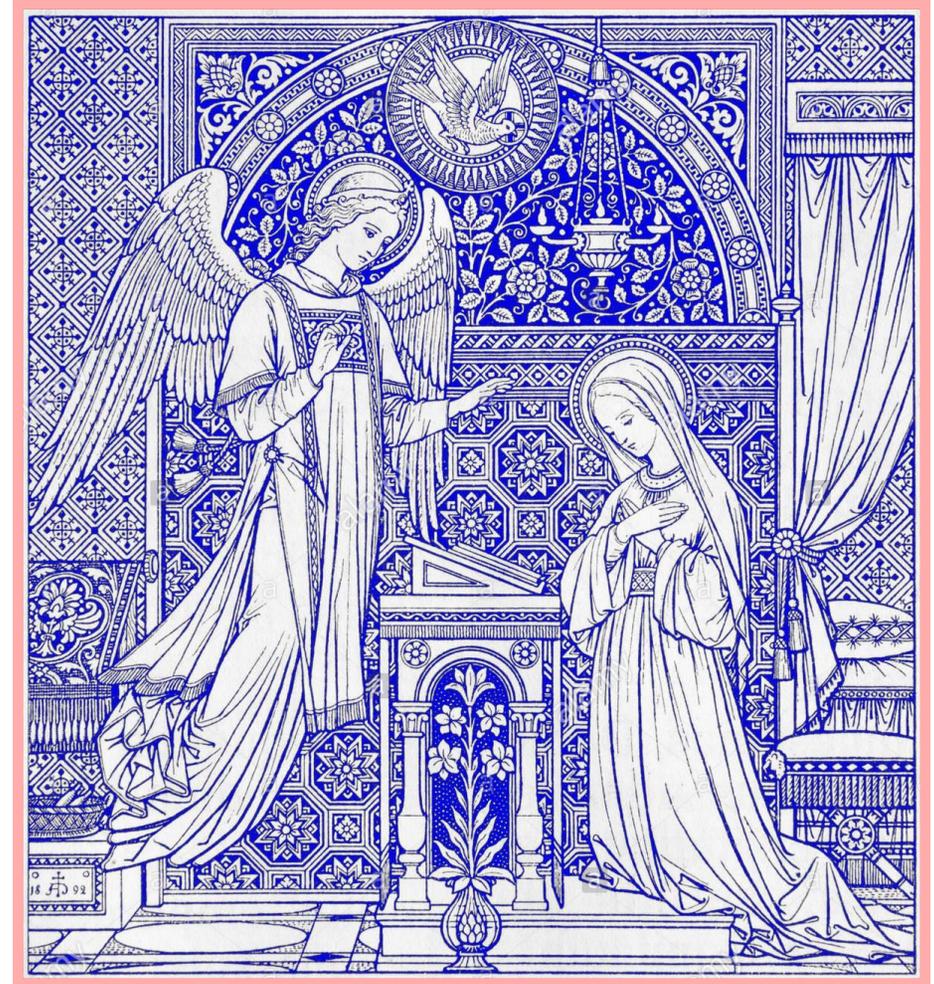
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Participants in today's service: Bell Choir (prelude), Elizabeth Henning (worship leader), Sydney and Charlotte Hackenberg (acolytes), Senior Choir (musical beginning and benediction), Rev. Jason Clapper (children's sermon), Rich Tobin (musical offering), Justin Gaspar (postlude), Scott Lawvere (pianist), Gary Christian and Mitch Welliver (Deacons), Scott Lawvere (pianist), Joy Christian (organist), Rev. Jason Clapper (pastor). Next week's sermon: Rev. Doug Orbaker, *"The Christmas Story No One Wants to Hear"*



*Gabriel Visits Mary: artist unknown*

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