

My Soul Gives Glory to My God 198

1. My soul gives glo - ry to my God. My
2. My God has done great things for me: yes,
3. From age to age, to all who fear, such
4. Love casts the might - y from their thrones, pro -
5. Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup -

heart pours out its praise. God lift - ed up my
ho - ly is this name. All peo - ple will de -
mer - cy love im - parts, dis - pens - ing jus - tice
motes the in - se - cure, leaves hun - gry spir - its
ports those in dis - tress, re - mem - ber - ing past

low - li - ness in man - y mar - ve - lous ways.
clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.
far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.
sat - is - fied, the rich seem sud - den - ly poor.
prom - is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

WORDS: Miriam Therese Winter, 1987 (Lk. 1:46b-55)
MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813;
harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1988

MORNING SONG
CM

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Mr. Kevin Crone

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING (Based on 2 Samuel 7:1-11.)

Pastor: We continue lighting candles on the Advent wreath. This morning, we light the Love candle.

The HOPE, PEACE, JOY and Love Candles are lit.

Pastor: We light the LOVE candle to illuminate those moments where we've experienced love – an authentic acceptance and a true appreciation for “who we are” or “who others are as a child of God. Turn to a church neighbor, sitting in front, behind, or beside you and tell them about a moment of LOVE you've recently experienced or seen in your daily life or in the news.

Sharing Visions of Love

Pastor: May your spirits be lifted in the sharing of your stories with one another, about love. Let us now call ourselves into worship. Stand, as you are comfortable.

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Isaiah 7:14)

Pastor: Long ago the people were given a sign of God's presence.

Congregation: **“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God with us.”**

Pastor: God's promise to us remains sure and true: God's anointed Son will soon walk among us, to lighten our darkness, to restore the joy of our salvation, to save us from sin.

Congregation: **God—the God of all love—is with us. Praise the Lord!**

HYMN

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling Blue Chalice Hymnal, #511

CALL to CONFESSION

Pastor: Every notion we have about power, success, wealth, and achievement, God takes and tosses out the window. More importantly, God comes to us, to upset our notion that we have to save ourselves.

In Jesus, God comes to us,
removing our sin, our failures, our expectations,
so we might have new life.
Please join me to confess...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All people: *O Lord, we watch for packages to arrive and Christmas cards to be delivered, but we do not keep our eyes open for your coming, Approaching God. We expect our Christmas 'wish list' to be filled, and for the pile under the tree to grow and grow, but we hope you do not expect to transform our lives. We notice where to find the best bargains, and what decorations our neighbors have put on their houses, but we do not notice the little, the least, the lost, the last walking down our streets.*

Forgive us, Saving God, for our misplaced priorities. May we watch for your coming; may we reach out to those in need; may we wait for hope to come, even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, arrives to live in our hearts. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Hear the Good News God speaks to you:
I love you;
I forgive you;
I restore you to new life.

Congregation: **This is the good news for all people.
Christ Jesus was born to save us from our sins.**

All people: *Amen.*

PRAISE HYMN *Gloria Patri* **Red Hymnal, #493**

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

(The congregation may be seated, as the children & youth come forward)

JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"

HYMN *My Soul Gives Glory* **Bulletin, Page 4**

GOSPEL READING – Luke 1:26-38, 47-55

SERMON **Rev. Laura Baker**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

All people: *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; forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.*

SPECIAL MUSIC *Antioch* **Chancel Choir**

(An Offering Collection Box is located on the table in the back of sanctuary, by the exit door)

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: God has abundantly poured gifts of love, peace, hope, and joy into our lives, let us receive the morning's offering as tokens of our gratitude for all these blessings and dedicate them with a song of praise and a prayer.

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

DOXOLOGY *We Give Thee But Thine Own* (Verse 1, only) **Red Hymnal, #258**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All people: *May these gifts be signs of the "YES!" we would say to you, not only in this season, but in all the days to come. May they bring hope to those who have always had doors slammed in their faces and NO! pounded in their ears, so they will know your love and grace are gifts for them as well. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

HYMN *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* **Blue Chalice Hymnal, #150**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Be people of love.
Let the love of Christ live in your heart and share it with all you meet.
Share love by loving those you see regularly.
Start by loving your community.
Share love by loving those you do not know.
How do your actions affect the rest of God's creation?
Share love by praying for our world.

Congregation: **In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share love.**
Pastor: As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share love, joy, peace, and hope with those you meet.

All people: *Amen.*

POSTLUDE