

First Sunday of Advent
November 27, 2022
Service of Word and Sacrament

PREWORSHIP MUSIC

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*¹
*All the Earth is Waiting*²
*Quem Pastores*³

PRELUDE

Mr. Cody Eckenrode, Organ
Acolyte

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IS CARRIED INTO THE SANCTUARY

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Mighty God, pour out your Holy Spirit on all of us gathered here.

Congregation: As we follow in our ancestor's faithful footsteps, open our hearts, that we might be filled with your goodness and your love.

Pastor: As we follow in the footsteps of the ancient Israelites, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, live in us, that we might bear the Christ light for all to see.

Congregation: Overshadow us with your presence, that we might truly be blessed and offer your blessing of hope and love to the world.

All: Amen.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING⁴

Liturgist: Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE."

THE CANDLE IS LIT.

Liturgist: Psalm 33:20 reads, "We wait in hope for the Lord, for God is our help and our shield."

All: *Eternal God, as we await the coming of our Savior, give us the courage to hope. Give us grace to see your plans of redemption for our lives, for this community, and for the world. Through Jesus Christ, the source of our redeeming salvation and hope. Amen.*

PROCESSIONAL

Mary, Woman of Promise

Bulletin, Last Page

PRAYER OF CONFESSION⁵

All: *God, we confess that we are an impatient, stubborn, and oft-selfish people. When you offer us the promise of a new future, we fret about "how this can be" and complain that you don't get us "there" fast enough. When you provide for our needs, we grumble that it still isn't enough. And when our bad attitudes and negative outlooks cause us to stumble, we blame you or others, instead of taking a good, hard look at ourselves. Holy God, forgive our sinful ways. Teach us to be patient. Instruct us to be grateful. Guide us to be responsible and humble. As we repent, as we turn ourselves around and look towards the manger and beyond - to the cross and empty tomb - let us experience your grace, hope growing within us, and may new life be birthed through us. In the name of Christ our Savior, we pray. Amen.*

¹ Used with Permission. Robertson, Kim. *Of the Father's Love Begotten*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nK0fyVdf4Ms>

² Used with Permission. Kim, Haewook. *All the Earth is Waiting*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dhvzz-Z6tcl>. 2:20

³ Used with Permission. Fey, Paul. *Christmas PRELUDE on "Quem Pastores"* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LlFjXK2G1aY>

⁴ Kozlowski, Rev. Matthew. *Advent Wreath Liturgy*. Original source unknown. Rev. Baker had a hard copy of the liturgy in her Advent files.

⁵ Loving, Amy Loving. (Adapted) Posted on *The Worship Closet: The Place for Creative Worship Ideas*. <http://worshipcloset.com/baptism-of-the-lord-sunday-year-b-words-for-worship/>.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS⁶

Pastor: Sisters and brothers in Christ, there is hope!

Congregation: Sister in Christ, we are at peace, for we are forgiven and can begin anew!

Pastor: Nothing is impossible with God, when we allow our lives to be disrupted by the Holy Spirit - who calls us to enlarge our vision and stretches our capacity to participate in God's Kingdom work!

Congregation: Amen to that!

Pastor: Starview United Church of Christ, people of God, YOU are blessed because God's image resides deep within each of you.

Congregation: We are blessed! God's overshadowing Spirit leads us forward, as we say, "YES!" to God's call in this time and place in history...even if we feel what is being asked of us at times, seems "impossible!"

All: "We are the Lord's servants. May God's word to us be fulfilled."

SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Rev. Laura C. Baker

HYMN

O, How Shall I Receive Thee

Hymnal, #100

HEBREW READING

Numbers 9:15-23

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:26-38

SERMON

Rev. Laura C. Baker

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: As people of hope, we understand this moment in worship, as a privilege! We see this moment in worship as an opportunity to participate in the seemingly impossible task of bringing hope, peace, joy, and love to a hurting world. Let us take seriously what we do in this moment and offer our generous tithes and offerings by singing the Doxology and offering a prayer.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymnal, #550

OFFERTORY PRAYER

All: Great God of Heaven and Earth, you call us to leave behind our fears and preoccupations and to follow you into the future. Sometimes we find your call challenging. We are comfortable, maybe even complacent, in our present. May this act of giving be a gesture of our willingness to follow where you lead. In Jesus' name, we continue to pray: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And, lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: The hope and peace of God be with you.

Congregation: And also, with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Congregation: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: Loving God, in many and various ways you have visited and redeemed your people.

Congregation: You sent prophets and messengers with promising messages of peace and justice.

⁶ Baker, Rev. Laura. Based on Luke 1:26-38 and Numbers 9:15-23.

Pastor: Then, you came to a young woman named Mary and laid out the promise in a new way.
Congregation: **You promised her a son who would change the world forever. You told her to name him Jesus. We thank you, Lord, for sending him to us: As one of us he came, at first a tender infant, then a toddler, a youth, and an adult.**

Pastor: Yet, even as we prepare to celebrate his birth, we remember the life that this baby would live.
Congregation: **We remember how he rejoiced with those who rejoiced, how he wept with those who wept.**

Pastor: We remember how he broke the bonds of human tradition and ate, openly, with the despised and the outcast of his world.
Congregation: **To the despairing, he spoke words of hope; to the sick, he gave healing; to the rejected, he was a friend.**

Pastor: We remember how he was betrayed and nailed to a cross. We proclaim the good news about how you lifted him from the grave and restored him to life, so he might be with us and, we, with him – alive – forevermore.
All people: ***Therefore, with all the prophets, martyrs, and saints, and all the company of heaven, we glorify you in the song of the angels:***

SERAPHIC HYMN

Hymnal, #522

Pastor: So it is, O Lord, as we gather in praise and thanksgiving, we also remember one very special meal that he ate with his closest friends.
Congregation: **They gathered to share the story of deliverance from slavery. Yet, he prepared them for liberation of a different kind – freedom from sin and death.**

Pastor: At the end of the meal, he took bread, blessed and broke it, then passed it to them, saying:
Congregation: **“Take and eat. This is my body broken for you.”**

Pastor: When supper had ended, he took the cup, blessed it, and passed it to them, saying:
Congregation: **“Take this, all of you, and drink from it. This cup is the sign of the New Covenant. Whenever you drink it, remember me, for I shall not eat or drink of it again until the time of the heavenly banquet.”**

Pastor: Remembering the birth of the child in a Bethlehem stable, we remember also his life, his death, and his resurrection.
Congregation: **We remember how he poured his love out for all he met and look forward to his return and the coming reign of peace, love, and justice.**

Pastor: Mighty God, you poured your Spirit upon Mary and she sang words of hope. Pour out your Spirit upon this bread and this wine, and all who have gathered here. As we eat this holy meal, may we find strength for your advent, our time of waiting, and our journey home with you.
Pastor: Through the broken bread –
Congregation: **We participate in the Body of Christ.**

Pastor: Through the cup of blessing –
Congregation: **We participate in the promise of new life that Christ brings.**

Pastor: These are the gifts of God, for the people of God. Christ's feast is now ready.

DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS

Both grape juice and wine are offered. Grape juice is clear. Wine is red. Commune as you feel called.

PRAYER OF RESPONSE AND PRAISE

All people: ***God and Father of Jesus Christ may the eating and drinking of this holy meal, fill us with hope in a world of despair. Through this meal, grant us a hunger for peace and justice, that we might be beacons of hope in our communities and around the world. Amen.***

HYMN

Comfort, Comfort, ye My People

Hymnal, #90

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Biblical hope is not wishful thinking. It is a confident expectation based on the promises of God. The Apostle Paul reminds us that God is our constant source and supplier of hope. God is able to fill us with hope, joy and peace, even in difficult times, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Our role is to simply place our belief and trust in God and God's ability to do as promised. For today's benediction, let us affirm, what we believe, by reciting together, the words recorded in Romans 15:13...

All: "May the God of hope fill [us] with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit [we] may abound in hope."

Pastor: May it be so. Amen.

All: Amen.

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IS CARRIED INTO THE WORLD

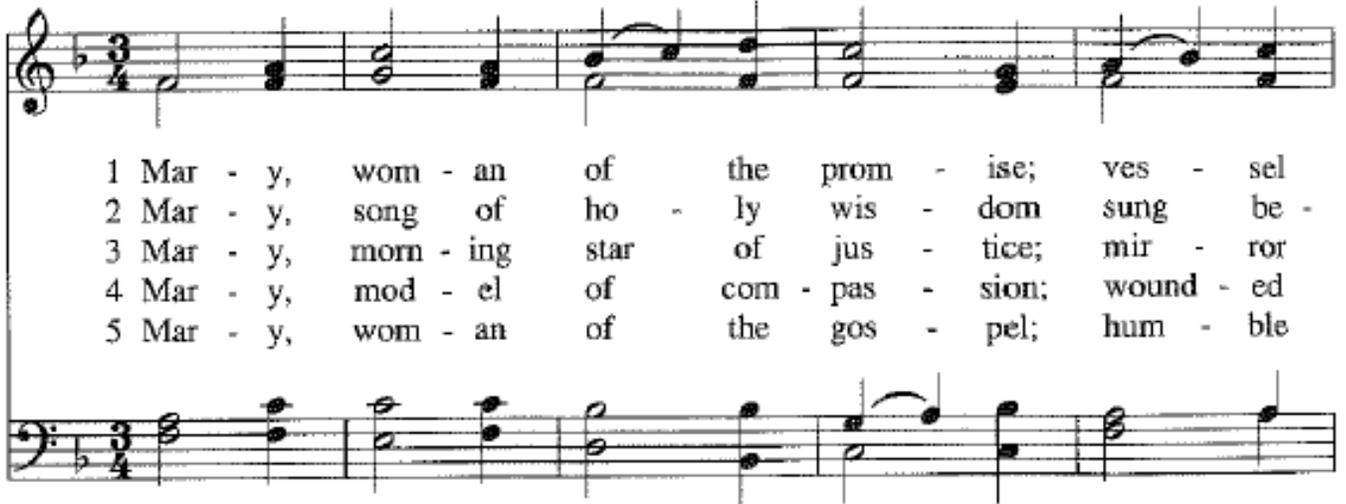
Acolyte & All people

POSTLUDE

MARY, WOMAN OF THE PROMISE

Luke 1:39-55

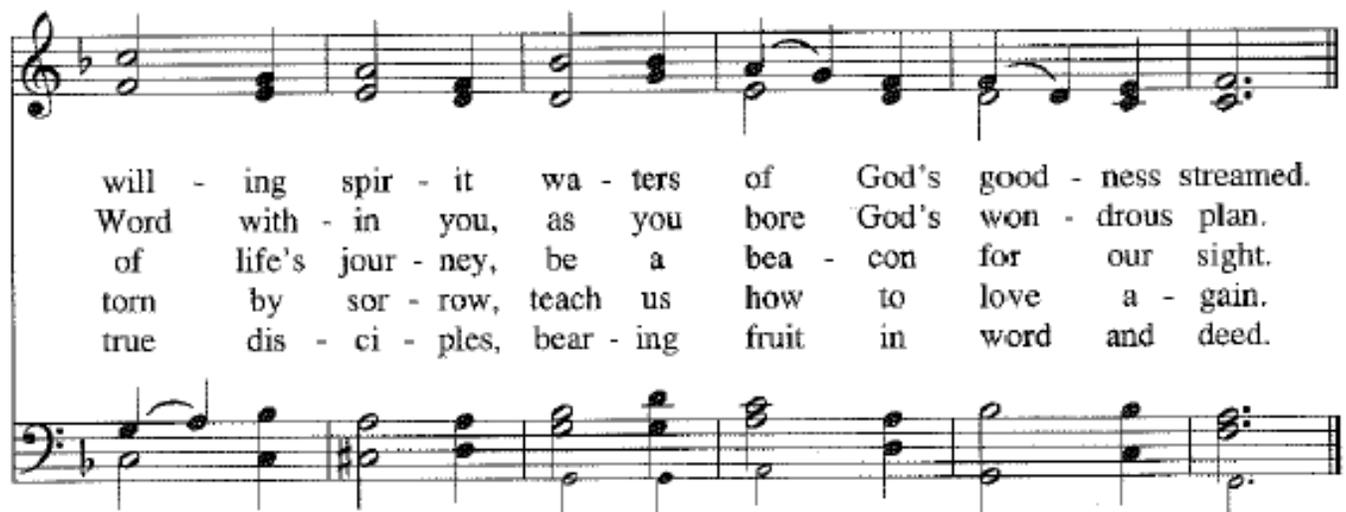
Mary Frances Fleischaker, 1988



1 Mar - y, wom - an of the prom - ise; ves - sel
2 Mar - y, song of ho - ly wis - dom sung be -
3 Mar - y, morn - ing star of jus - tice; mir - ror
4 Mar - y, mod - el of com - pas - sion; wound - ed
5 Mar - y, wom - an of the gos - pel; hum - ble



of your peo - ple's dreams: Through your o - pen,
fore the world be - gan: Faith - ful to the
of the Ra - diant Light: In the shad - ows
by your off - spring's pain: When our hearts are
home for trea - sured seed: Help us to be



will - ing spir - it wa - ters of God's good - ness streamed.
Word with - in you, as you bore God's won - drous plan.
of life's jour - ney, be a bea - con for our sight.
torn by sor - row, teach us how to love a - gain.
true dis - ci - ples, bear - ing fruit in word and deed.