



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

share hope

Service of Worship December 12, 2021 9:30am
The Third Sunday of Advent

Gathering

PRELUDE

“Symphonic Variations on ‘In Dulci Jubilo’”

GCPC Orchestra – Pam Kelly, director

In sweet rejoicing now sing and be joyful.

Our heart’s delight lies in the manger, and shines like the sun in his mother’s lap.

Thou art Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

by Claude T. Smith

arr. Dr. Joseph Earp

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Sue Trigger

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: The story begins with hope for a child -

ALL: A child, born of woman, like us;

ONE: A child who will lead us,

ALL: A child who will inspire us.

ONE: A child who will be our living hope.

ALL: We give thanks for the coming child, Jesus.

ONE: Let us worship God.

*HYMN

“Mary Gladly Told Her Cousin”

IRBY

Stanza 1 Men ... Stanza 2 Ladies & Children ... Stanza 3 ALL

**Mary gladly told her cousin, "Praise the Lord! My spirit sings!"
Young and humble, she'd been chosen! God was surely changing things!
God of love, her words ring true as we sing her prayer to you:**

**"Now my soul is gladly singing at the greatness of the Lord.
I rejoice, for God is bringing His salvation to the world.
All who live will say I'm blest even in my lowliness.**

**"God has filled the poor and hungry, and he's sent the rich away.
God is active here in history, in a real and wondrous way.
God has promised, and I'm blessed, for I know God's faithfulness."**

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THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Barbara Douglas and Liz Chandler

SUNG RESPONSE, *stanza 3 soloist* “Live into Hope”

Text by Jane Parker Huber

TRURO

TIME WITH STEWART

PRAAYER OF THE DAY

ONE: The Advent story of hope and mystery, anticipation, preparation, a kingdom of this world and the next, and a king appearing when we least expect. Heaven touching earth, the footsteps of the divine walking dusty roads as once they did in Eden, and a people, searching for a Savior, and walking past the stable.

Open eyes and hearts, that this might be an Advent of hope to the world.

Show us your ways, O Lord! Lead us in your truth, and teach us.

ALL: Open our eyes, minds and hearts to know your will and to follow it.

ONE: Reveal your vision for us, and keep us focused and faithful to what you would have us do.

ALL: Bring us together to worship and work for your purpose, and move us forward into your future. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE & SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you and all others!

Equipping

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 2:1-12 (CEB)

When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" — he said to the paralytic — "I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home." And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

PRAYER IN MUSIC

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

by Claude T. Smith

GCPC Orchestra – Pam Kelly, director

arr. Dr. Joseph Earp

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:39-49 (CEB)

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said,

 "My soul magnifies you, Lord,
 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
 he who is mighty has done great things for me.
 His mercy flows from generation to generation;
 Holy is his name.
 In his strength he will scatter the proud.
He will bring down the mighty and exalt the humble.
 From his abundance he will fill the hungry.
 In his mercy he will save us.
 My soul magnifies you, Almighty God."

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Share Hope”

Rev. Sue Trigger

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sending

*HYMN

“Mary Heard the Angel’s Message”

BEECHER

**Mary heard the angel's message: "Greetings, Mary, favored one!
Do not fear, for God is with you; you will one day bear God's Son."
Filled with questions, filled with wonder, she proclaimed her faith in God:
"May it be as you have spoken; I'm the servant of the Lord!"**

**Mary heard the shepherds' story, words she treasured with delight.
Then an angel gave the warning: "Flee with Jesus in the night!"
Mary wondered in her anguish, what would be the pain he'd know?
Fleeing then, she held him closely... One day she would let him go.**

**When they learned the Lord had risen, Christ's disciples met to pray.
Mary was among the faithful, bound in love, on Jesus' Way.
God, we see her, Christ's disciple, loving, learning, serving, too.
Like her, may we hear and answer, "We, your servants, live for you."**

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*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

‘Finale’ from “Rhapsody on Christmas Carols”
GCPC Orchestra – Pam Kelly, director

by Claude T. Smith
arr. Dr. Joseph Earp

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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Thank you to the GCPC Orchestra's leadership in worship today.

Pam Kelly, *director*

Chris Lindsay, Edwin Fukunaga, *violins*

Ky Townsend, *cello*

Gay Lee Ludwig-Bonney, *bass*

Katie Hearn, *flute*

Bob Dover, Lauren Bond, Robin Thompson, *clarinet*

Lisa England, *bassoon*

Phil Holmes, Russ Thompson, Madeline Mahoney, *trumpet*

Jim Kelly, Ellin Schoenfeld, Diane Paris, *horn*

David Roth, David England, *trombone*

Trey Bures, *tuba*

Ken Eberhart, Daniel Cole, *percussion*