

*HYMN SING *A time to sing a stanza of your favorite songs of the season*

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

(Children ages 4 through 1st grade may go to Awakening to Worship, our child-friendly worship time. Greeters at the back of the Sanctuary will go with children to Room 12 downstairs where parents may pick up their children following worship. Our Nursery welcomes young children and our ushers can assist families to the nursery located in the children's wing. Worship bags are available for children who stay in worship.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

It is never easy for us to confess our sins, Waiting God. There are the hurts we have caused to our families and friends, which we would like to forget. There are those we believe are impossible to love, and so we don't try. There are people who live on the edge of our society, and we ignore their cries for help.

Forgive us, God who comes near to us. When we have lost our way, show us yours. Lead us in humility down the streets of your kingdom. Teach us your truth, so we might be able to keep your word, revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. 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!

*HYMN 103, *Stanza 2* "Come Now, O Prince of Peace" O-SO-SO

Come now, O God of love; make us one bod-y.

Come, O Lord Je – sus; rec-on-cile all peo-ple.

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1: 30–38 (NRSVUE)

Lara Schesser

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be holy; he will be

called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

ANTHEM

“Keep Your Lamps”

Traditional Spiritual

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

arr. André Thomas

Cindy Schendel, soloist – Miles McDonald, djembe

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

Children don't get weary 'till your work is done.

Christian journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1: 39–55 (NRSVUE)

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 the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“A Song of Love”

Rev. Sue Trigger

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

“Song of Mary”

from Celebrate Life by Buryl Red

Rebecca Prater, soprano

Katie Hearn, flute & Bob Dover, clarinet

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Together)

God of love, you love us with an eternal love. We give you our offerings as an expression of our love for you. We pray our gifts will be used to extend your kingdom in our land. Make us holy, strong, and filled with peace through Jesus Christ, our redeemer. Amen.

Sending

*HYMN #99

“My Soul Gives Glory to My God”

MORNING SONG

Stanzas 1 & 2 High Voices ... Stanzas 3 & 4 Low Voices ... Stanza 5 All

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

My Soul Gives Glory to My God 99

Song of Mary

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 God's 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 - vel - ous 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.

This 20th-century paraphrase is based on the Song of Mary (Luke 1:46-55), commonly known by its opening Latin word, *Magnificat*. This song of praise offers clear reminders that God's purposes often lead to the reversal of human values, exalting the poor and dethroning the mighty.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Masters in This Hall”
Linda Dover, organist

arr. Lani Smith

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH