



FIRSTCHURCH

UNITED METHODIST

Order of Worship
December 4, 2022
Advent II

Prelude "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" arr. Lee Burswold
David Schripsema, violin ; Margaret Lucke, piano

Words of Welcome/Call to Worship Rev. Dr. Susan Patterson-Sumwalt

Processional Hymn "To a Maid Engaged to Joseph" UMH 215

To a maid engaged to Joseph, (To a maid whose name was Mary)
the angel Gabriel came.
"Fear not," the angel told her,
"I come to bring good news,
Good news I come to tell you,
good news, I say, good news."

"For you are highly favored
by God the Lord of all,
who even now is with you.
You are on earth most blest,
you are most blest, most blessed,
God chose you, you are blest!"

But Mary was most troubled
to hear the angel's word.
What was the angel saying?
It troubled her to hear,
To hear the angel's message,
It troubled her to hear.

"Fear not, for God is with you,
and you shall bear a child.
His name shall be called Jesus,
God's offspring from on high.
And he shall reign forever,
Forever reign on high."

"How shall this be?" said Mary,
"I am not yet a wife."

The angel answered quickly,
"The pow'r of the Most High
will come upon you shortly,
your child will be God's child."

As Mary heard the angel
she wondered at his words.
"Behold, I am your handmaid,"
she said unto her God,
"So be it, I am ready
according to your Word."

Gracia Grindel, 1983

Rusty Edwards, 1983

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Lighting of the Advent Candles

(8) Helen Dahl and Geoff VanRemmen
(10:30) Jessica and Todd DeBoer,
Rebecca and Cecilia

Reader: "And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness 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.'" *(Luke 1:46-49)*

Reader: Today we remember Mary, innocent and powerful, sacred and scared, worried and waiting as the Savior of all grows in her womb. She sings boldly when she might be meek; she bears her role in history with the confidence of a warrior; she is the beginning of a mighty revolution as the proud are brought down and the lowly lifted up.

People: Today we give thanks for the Mary's among us, who step out of the roles society has planned; unintended pioneers determined to do as God asks; fearless and fearfully stepping out in faith, and beckoning us to do the same.

Reader: On this second Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of Mary, bearer of the Way.

Reader: Let us pray. As we reflect upon Mary's pondering of the angel Gabriel's message, may we be open to the new things that God wants to do in the world through us. Amen.

Children's Moment

Prayers

Offering

Anthem

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

Paul Manz

Chancel Choir

Todd DeBoer, director

Scripture

Luke 1.26-38

Pamela Garside-Meyers

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 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.

Canticle of Mary

199 UMH

Response The glory of the Lord shall be revealed; all flesh shall see it together.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
who has looked with favor on me, a lowly servant.

From this day all generations shall call me blessed:

the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is the name of the Lord,
whose mercy is on those who fear God
from generation to generation.

The arm of the Lord is strong,
and has scattered the proud in their conceit.

God has cast down the mighty from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly.

God has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich empty away.

God has come to the aid of Israel, the chosen servant,

**remembering the promise of mercy,
the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children for ever.** Response

Message "Let It Be: Gabriel and Mary" Rev. Dr. Susan Patterson-Sumwalt

Sacrament of Holy Communion

"Sweet Was the Song the Virgin Sung" arr. Lee Burswold
David Schripsema, violin; Margaret Lucke, piano

Hymn "In the Bleak Midwinter" UMH221

1 In the bleak midwinter
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone:
snow had fallen,
snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter,
long ago.

2 Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter
a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

3 Enough for him whom cherubim
worship night and day,
a breastful of milk
and a mangerful of hay:
enough for him
whom angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel
which adore.

4 Angels and archangels
may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim
thronged the air,

but only his mother,
in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the Beloved
with a kiss.

5 What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb,
if I were a wise man
I would do my part,
yet what I can I give him,
give my heart.

Benediction

Postlude