



Sunday, December 10, 2023

Second Sunday in Advent

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

- *CONNECTING YOU WITH CHRIST AND COMMUNITY* -

Greeters: Dianna Bock, Shelby & Jack Snyder, Betty & Bob Rishel, Phyllis Thompson

Ushers: Randy Heller, Bill Sherriff, Gary & Sandy Cross, Bev Campbell, Trixi Ray

The white rose recognizes and bears witness to the life and memory of Sylvia Seymour

The Chancel Flowers are Presented By:

Lynn Dawson, in memory of her parents Ann and Bob

Harry & Eileen Flick, in memory of their parents

The Ray family, in memory of Blanche Z. Ray ("Mom Mom")

Leigh & Kathleen Shuman, in memory of their parents

Gathering in God's Name

Chimes

Bell Prelude

"O Come Little Children "

arr. Patricia S. Cota

Welcome & Ministry Highlights

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Please sign and pass the "Friendship Pad" down the pew.

At the end of the row, pass it back so that we can greet one another by name after the service.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Highland Quilters

* Call to Worship

Will Massey

Welcome to worship. I am glad you're here.

Surely God is in this place.

I see the image of God in you.

Let us worship together.

* Opening Hymn #12

"People, Look East"

Proclaiming God's Word

Call to Confession

Will Massey

Family of faith, one of the ways we find joy in a weary world is through connection. The prayer of confession is a place of connection with God. In the prayer of confession we get to come before God with our full, messy, honest selves. And in the midst of that mess, God tells us that we are loved, claimed, and forgiven. There is no greater joy than that. So join me in the prayer of confession, not because you have to, but because you can. Let us connect with our merciful God.

Prayer of Confession

Will Massey

Leader: God, we confess that we often doubt good news.

People: We move through this world waiting for life to fall apart, waiting for our humanity to get the best of us.

Leader: Instead of leaning into joy, we lean into scarcity.

People: We lean into fear. we lean into isolation.

Leader: Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared.

People: Heal the wounds we have from past hurts, and teach us how to throw open our doors like Elizabeth. Show us how to find joy in connection. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison 572

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon

Will Massey

Leader: Family of Faith, I imagine that when we come before God with the truth of our lives,
God meets us like Elizabeth meets Mary in our scripture today. The door is thrown open.
There is laughter. There is joy. There is embracing—and it is holy. So trust this; believe this:
You are claimed. You are loved. You are forgiven. And you are sent to serve. Let us find joy in
that. Amen!

Passing of the Peace

Will Massey

Leader: As we are forgiven and reconciled to God through Christ Jesus, let us be reconciled to one
another. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

* Gloria Patri 579

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

*At this time, children through 4th grade are invited to attend Sunday School. Teachers are stationed at the main
doors of the sanctuary and will walk the children to the children's classrooms in the Narthex.
Parents/Guardians may pick up their children after the service in the classroom.*

Bell Choir Anthem “une Jeune Pucelle (Twas in the Moon of Wintertime)” arr. Cathy Moglebust

Scripture Reading Luke 1:26-45 Rev. Dr. Bob Burns

Message “We Find Joy in Connection” Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Responding to God's Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving, Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

**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.**

Invitation to the Offering

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Wooden offering boxes are located in the narthex

Going in God's Name

* Closing Hymn #386 “O for a World”

* Charge and Benediction Rev. Allison Beaulieu

* Choral Response

**O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine Advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Postlude

*PLEASE STAND IN BODY OR SPIRIT

MUSIC: DR. PAUL THORLAKSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
JONATHAN LEFEVER, ORGANIST
DANIEL DROZ, BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR
A/V: MARK ANDERSON, JERRY ROTHACKER

A description of the stained Chancel window can be found in the front of the hymnal.
FM sound devices are available. Please ask an usher for your own personal receiver.

Cell Phones should be silenced during the worship service.

Video Recordings of the service can be found on the Highland website at www.HighlandPC.org

In the event of an emergency, please refer to the card in the pew racks for evacuation and re-assembly information.