Gifts of God: Joy!

December 20, 2020

**Chimes**

**Greeting**

L: Welcome, dear people, God has blessed our gathering.

**P: We come again on this journey, following the light.**

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Sharing the Life of the Church**

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**\*Invitation to Worship**

L: Light the lamps, prepare the room, God is coming to us!

**P: Make our hearts and spirits ready to receive God’s most gracious gift, God’s Son, Jesus Christ.**

L: Push the darkness away. The light is truly coming!

**P: May God’s light shine on us, in us and through us that God’s glory may be seen. AMEN.**

**\*Opening Hymn** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. UMH #211 (1,2,6,7)

**\*Opening Prayer**

In the rush of preparation for holiday celebration, we gather from our homes to be fed by God. We need the peace, hope, love and joy that this season represents. We need to listen again with wonder at the magnificent words of Mary as she proclaims her faithful participation in God’s most miraculous gift. Open our hearts this day, Lord, to receive the words and the blessings, to be fed and then to be those who will share with others as you have shared with us. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. AMEN.

**Children’s Moments**

**Special Music**

**Scripture Luke 1:26-38**

26In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. 28And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” 29But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32He 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. 33He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” 34Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” 35The 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. 36And 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. 37For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38Then 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. [[1]](#footnote-1)

**Response:**

L: The word of God for the people of God.

**P: Thanks be to God!**

**Message** Gifts of God: Joy!

**\*Response** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing UMH #240 (1-3)

**Prayer Time**

* *Sharing Joys and Concerns*
* *Prayer Song Emmanuel UMH #204*
* *Pastoral Prayer*
* *Lord’s Prayer:* ***Our Father, which 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.***

**Offering**

* *Offertory Sentence:*

*The God of Abundance lays the bounty of all creation before us, strengthens us when we are weak, and fills us when we are hungry. Let us share deeply and joyfully, that all may come to the table of God’s heavenly feast.*

* *Offertory*
* *Doxology:* ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise, God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***
* *Offertory Prayer:*

*God only Wise, accept these offerings, the fruit of our labor and lives, in obedience of our faith, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever!* ***Amen.***

**\*Closing Hymn** He Is Born UMH#228 (1-3)

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

1. [*The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version*](https://ref.ly/logosres/nrsv?ref=BibleNRSV.Lk1.26&off=28&ctx=h+of+Jesus+Foretold%0a~26%C2%A0%E2%80%A2In+the+sixth+mon). (1989). (Lk 1:26–38). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)