



**Nantucket**  
**United Methodist Church**  
**Sunday December 20, 2020**  
**10:00am**  
**Rev. Dr. Thomas M. Richard**  
**Pastor**

**NantucketUMC.org**



www.nantucketumc.org  
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### **Call to Worship**

Leader: Blessed be God who has come to dwell among us

**Congregation: Blessed be God who gives us hope**

Leader: Blessed be our Lord Jesus who shared God's love with the world

**Congregation: Blessed be the Holy Spirit who empowers us to be the goodness of God in our world**

Leader: Blessings, honor, and glory to God

### **Opening Hymn**

**"Angels We Have Heard On High" No. 238**

### **Invocation (in unison)**

**Lord of life and light, help us not to fall in love with the shadows, that so often separate us from each other and you, but continue to be wide-eyed big-hearted, and open-minded. May we come to this hour, eager to share your dream for us and humanity.**

**Amen**

### **This Morning's Scriptural Texts**

#### **Samuel 7:1-11**

After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent." Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you." But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying: "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" "Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says:

I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house”

### **Luke 1:26-38**

In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> 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.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God  
**Congregation: Thanks be to God**

**A Hymn**

**“What Child Is This...” No. 219**

**The Sermon “A Dream Becomes A Reality”** Dr. Richard

**The Morning Prayers**

Prayer Requests

Silent Meditation

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

**Call To Offering**

**Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessing flow*

*Praise him, all creatures here below*

*Praise Him above ye heavenly host*

*Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost Amen*

**Dedication of Our Gifts and Offerings**

**\*Closing Hymn**

**“Go Tell It On The Mountain” No.251**

**\*The Blessing**

**\*Choral Benediction**

*God be with you til we meet again*

*By his counsels guide, uphold you*

*With his sheep securely fold you*

*God be with you til we meet again*

**\*Amen (and the people all said....Amen!)**

## **Welcome**

Today we hear of the unfolding of the long-awaited dream, which becomes a reality, and we come to be witnesses of that reality in our world. How wonderful that you are with us this morning! Welcome!

## **Advent Stories and Prayer**

Join us via Zoom for a short time of prayer and reflection on Advent stories. 7pm Wednesdays

## **Christmas Eve Service**

Our Christmas Eve Service is at 5pm Thursday via zoom. You will get an invite. **To prepare for this special night, be sure to have candles to light, at the end of the service.** If you know of friends who would like or need the comfort and hope of this special service of carols, readings, and candle lighting, please forward the connecting instructions to them.

## **Are You A Visitor?**

If you have joined us by zoom as a visitor, we would like to send you a personal note of welcome. Please send us your contact information by calling 508-228-1882 and leaving a message, or by e-mailing [drtmrichard@gmail.com](mailto:drtmrichard@gmail.com)

## **Your Financial Support is Important**

We are a small congregation and so appreciate those who are moved to support our ministry. This is your opportunity not only to support this local ministry, but the Methodist Church's national and international presence in places of great need. Using your iPhone you can download and use the app "Tithe.ly" (please note how it is spelled, so that you download the correct app). Or you can go to our website [www.NantucketUMC.org](http://www.NantucketUMC.org) and donate.

## **From My Heart To Yours...**

Dear Friends,

The Christmas narratives are about impossibilities becoming possible. Consider the impossibilities Mary faced in this story: We are told she is having a child while she is a virgin. Impossible! Joseph follows through with his commitment to marry her. Impossible! Mary must avoid being stoned to death when the neighbors hear the news. Impossible!

And then there is the story of Elizabeth. She was well past the childbearing age, and yet God says she is going to conceive and bear a child. This impossible news left old Zechariah speechless. Impossible!

But, what are the impossibilities in our own world? What would you label "impossible" right now? Peace in our world? A more unified country? People treating every race with dignity? Our church reaching the community of Nantucket in profound ways? Restoring relationships that are broken? Breaking addictions? They all may seem impossible, right?

We find ourselves with the same troubled mind as Mary, worrying over what seems impossible. And we often are asking the same question she did. "How will this be?" To us it seems impossible! No way! Won't happen! But the real question for people today is "How can the impossible become possible?"

And you and I know the answer. We believe that with God all things are possible, and we have a part in making these things a reality

Grace and Peace,

Tom

## Directory

Accompanist Mollie Glazer & Isaiah Williams  
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NantucketUMC.org

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Option 1 – From your computer, tablet or smart phone, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82150456279>

Option 2 –Join Zoom for audio only by dialing an access number listed below and then entering the Meeting ID which is [821 5045 6279](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82150456279):

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