

FRIENDLY REMINDER

Our Sunday service is live-streamed, and microphones pick up sound throughout the sanctuary.

Recording begins at least 15 minutes before the service to include announcements.

Livestream Notice: Our worship service is live-streamed and recorded. By attending, you consent to being included in the broadcast. Thank you for joining us!



Prelude

Pastor Eduardo
Carrillo

Lessons and Carols

December 28th, 2025

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WELCOME,
ANNOUNCEMENTS,
and
CELEBRATIONS

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CALL to WORSHIP

Leader: Come, people of God, bring your
grief and your longing.

People: **We come, seeking sanctuary in
the presence of Christ.**

CALL to WORSHIP

Leader: When the world feels unsafe, God provides refuge.

People: **When the powerful deny sanctuary, God makes a way.**

CALL to WORSHIP

Leader: Here, we gather as a people of
peace, hope, and love.

All: **O Come, O come, Emmanuel,
our refuge and our strength.**

OPENING PRAYER

**God of refuge, you know
the fears that haunt our
world. You see the pain of
the vulnerable and hear
the cries of the grieving.
Make us a sanctuary of
safety, compassion, and
justice.**



OPENING PRAYER

**Give us courage to
protect, mercy to comfort,
and wisdom to act as your
people of peace. Fill us
with your
Spirit, and send us to be a
refuge for all who seek
your care.**



OPENING PRAYER

**It is in the name of the
One who is our shelter,
we pray. Amen.**



Genesis 3: 8-15, 17-19

NRSVUE

⁸ They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

10 He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

11 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

12 The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate."

13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."

14 The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

15 I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

17 And to the man he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of
your wife and have eaten of the tree about
which I commanded you ‘You shall not eat of
it,’ cursed is the ground because of you;
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your
life;

18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.

19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” UMH 196

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744 MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” UMH 196

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744 MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Genesis 22:15-18

NRSVUE



15 The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven

16 and said, “By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son,

17 I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies,

18 and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

17 I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies,

18 and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” UMH 211

WORDS: 9th century Latin MUSIC: 15th century French

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” UMH 211

WORDS: 9th century Latin MUSIC: 15th century French

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show
and cause us in her ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” UMH 211

WORDS: 9th century Latin MUSIC: 15th century French

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree,
an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers silent fall;
all peoples on thy mercy call.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.

Isaiah 9: 2, 6 - 7

NRSVUE



² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Great will be his authority,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 213


WORDS: Georg Weissel, 17th cent.; trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1855 (Ps. 24)

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold, the
King of glory waits; the King of kings is drawing
near;
the Savior of the world is here!

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 213

WORDS: Georg Weissel, 17th cent.; trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1855 (Ps. 24)

3. Redeemer, come, with us abide;
our hearts to thee we open wide; let us thy inner
presence feel; thy grace and love in us reveal.



Micah 5: 2 -5a

NRSVUE

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the
time
when she who is in labor has brought
forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the
strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of
the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall
be great
to the ends of the earth,

⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

If the Assyrians come into our land
and tread upon our soil,
we will raise against them seven shepherds
and eight rulers.

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” UMH 230

WORDS: Phillips Brooks, 1868 MUSIC: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.


O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” UMH 230

WORDS: Phillips Brooks, 1868 MUSIC: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

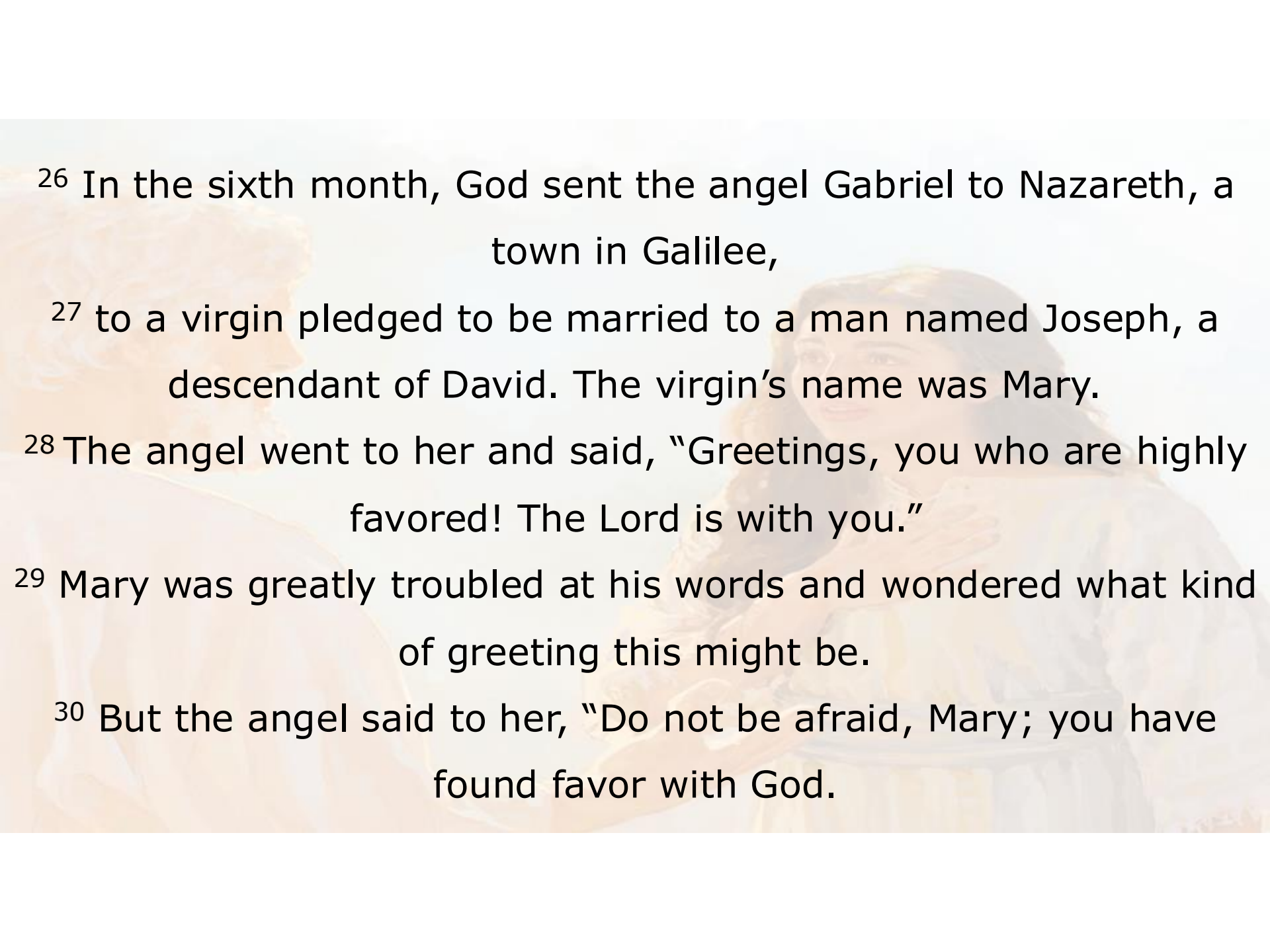
Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

The background of the slide features a soft, painterly illustration of the Annunciation. On the left, the Angel Gabriel is depicted in profile, facing right, with curly hair and a beard, wearing a light-colored robe. On the right, the Virgin Mary is shown from the waist up, looking towards the angel with a serene expression. She has long, dark, wavy hair and is wearing a light-colored, flowing robe with a dark sash. The background is a hazy, mountainous landscape under a pale sky.

Luke 1: 26 -35, 38

The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to a ruler whose reign shall never end.

A faint, artistic background image depicting the Annunciation. On the left, the Angel Gabriel is shown in profile, wearing a white robe and a blue mantle. On the right, the Virgin Mary is seated, looking towards Gabriel with a serene expression. She is wearing a blue mantle over a red robe. The background is a soft, hazy landscape.

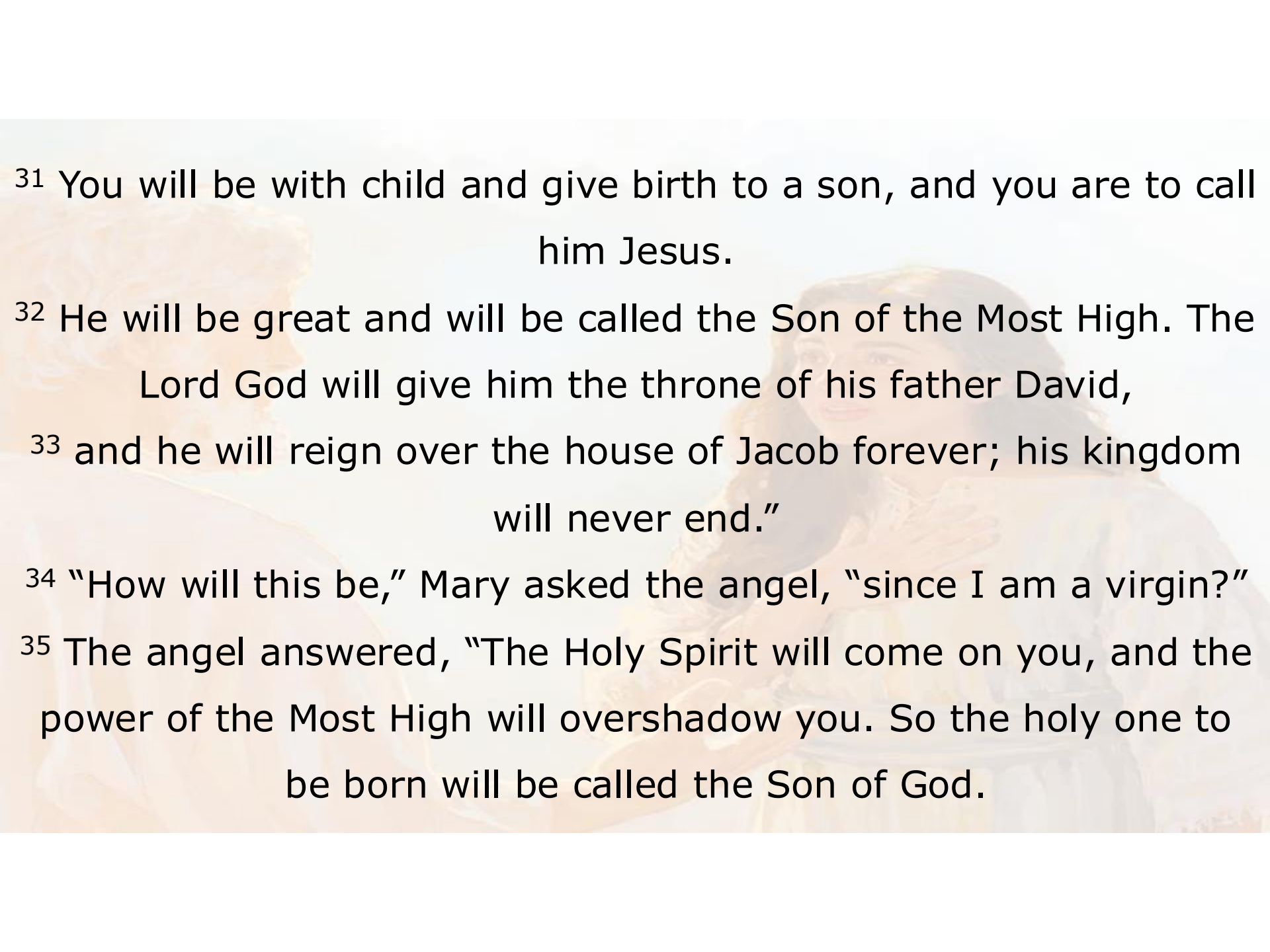
²⁶ In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,

²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.



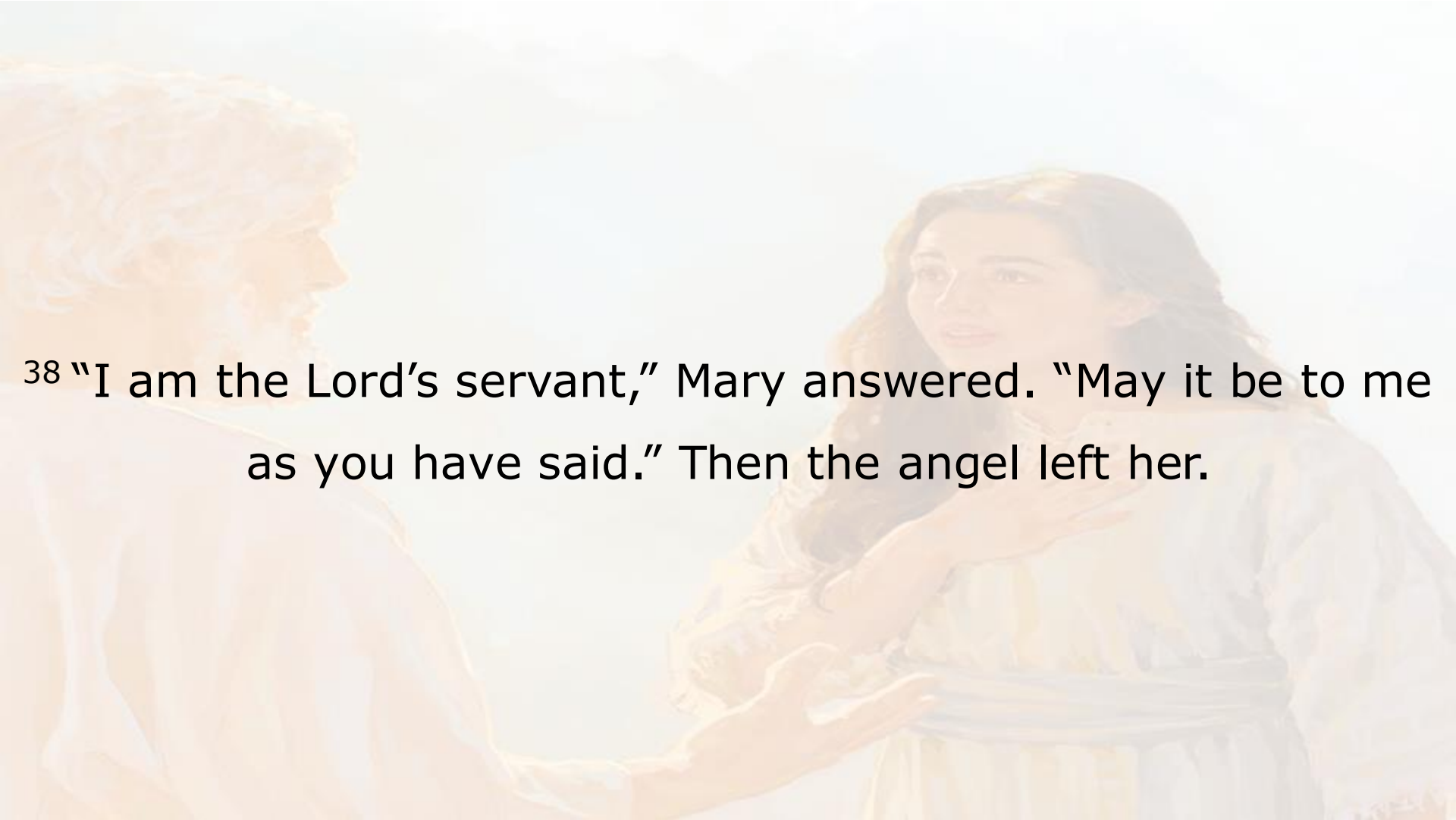
³¹ You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

³² 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,

³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

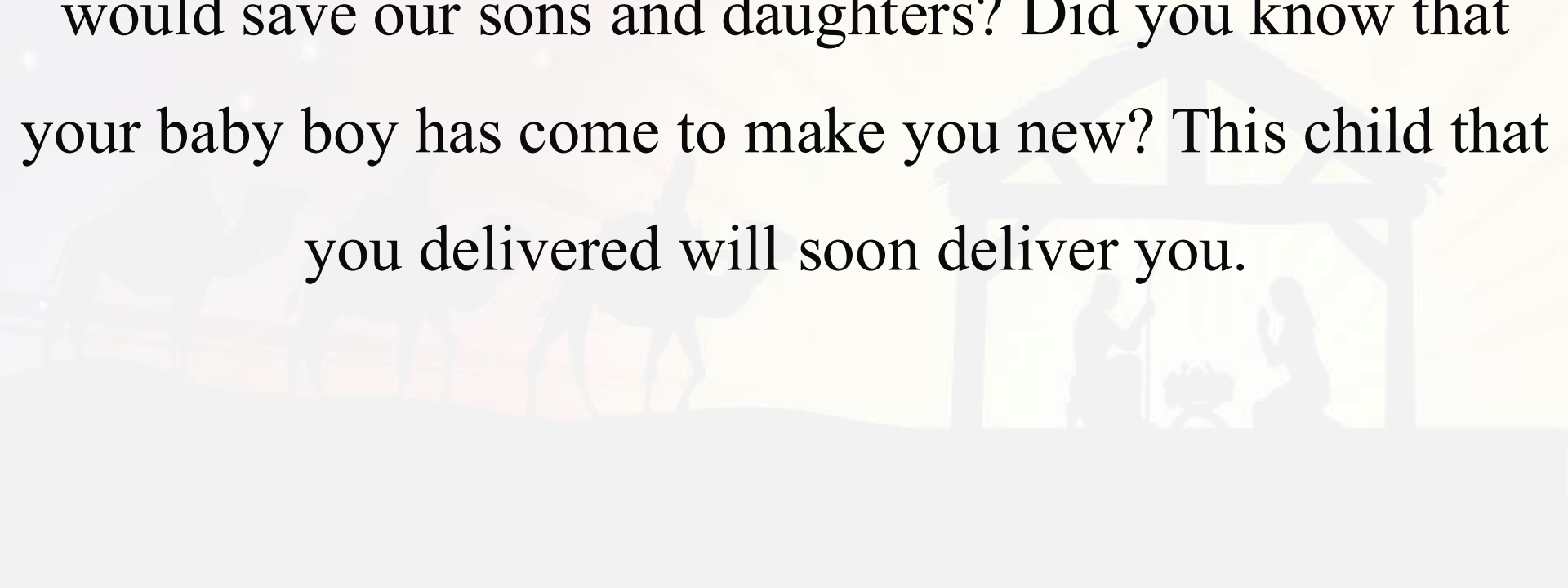
³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.



³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

Mary Did You Know?

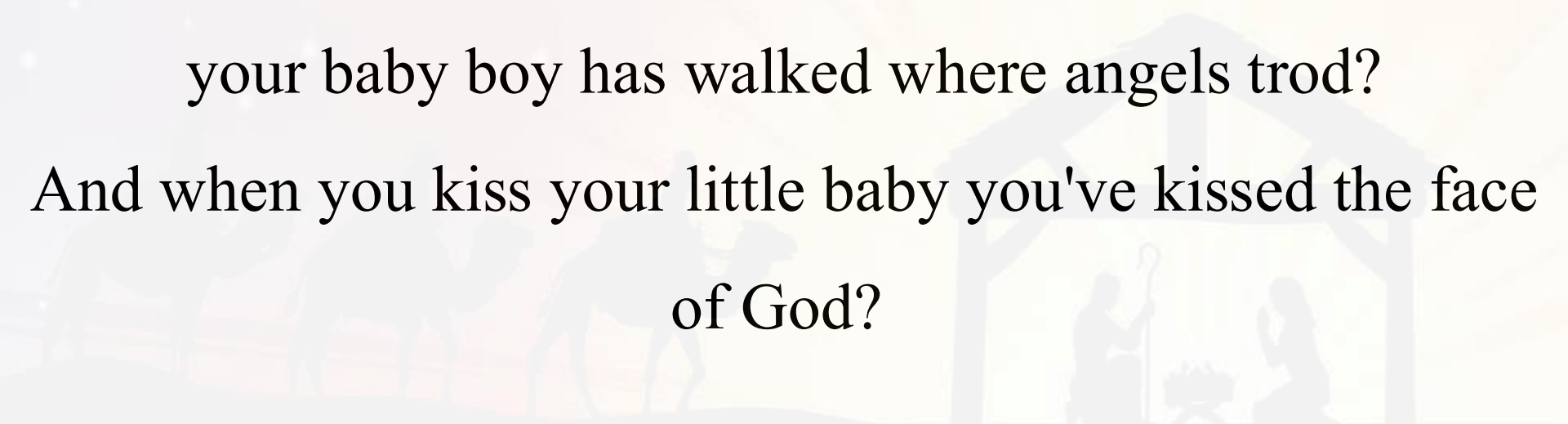
1. Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water? Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters? Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new? This child that you delivered will soon deliver you.

A faint, light-colored silhouette of a nativity scene is visible in the background. It includes a stable with a manger, a woman (Mary) kneeling, a baby (Jesus) in the manger, and several figures, including a man on a donkey, likely representing the journey to Bethlehem.

Mary Did You Know?

2. Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man? Mary, did you know that your baby boy would calm a storm with His hand? Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?

And when you kiss your little baby you've kissed the face of God?





Luke 2: 1 -7

NRSVUE



¹ In those days a decree went out from
Caesar Augustus that all the world
should be registered.

² This was the first registration and was
taken while Quirinius was governor of
Syria

³ All went to their own towns to be registered.

⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

“Away in a Manger” UMH 217

WORDS: Anonymous MUSIC: James R. Murray, 1887

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Away in a manger,
no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus
laid down his sweet head.

The stars in the sky
looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus,
asleep on the hay.

“Away in a Manger” UMH 217

WORDS: Anonymous MUSIC: James R. Murray, 1887

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Be near me, Lord Jesus,
I ask thee to stay
close by me forever,
and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children
in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven
to live with thee there.



Luke 2: 8 – 16

NRSVUE



⁸ Now in that same region there were
shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch
over their flock by night.

9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

11 to you is born this day in the city of David a
Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a
child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a
manger."

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a
multitude of the heavenly host, praising God
and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he
favors!”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone
into heaven, the shepherds said to one
another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and
see this thing that has taken place, which the
Lord has made known to us.”

16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.

“The First Noel” UMH 245

WORDS and MUSIC: Traditional English carol; harmonies from *Christmas Carols*, 1871

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

“The First Noel” UMH 245

WORDS and MUSIC: Traditional English carol; harmonies from *Christmas Carols*, 1871

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east,
beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

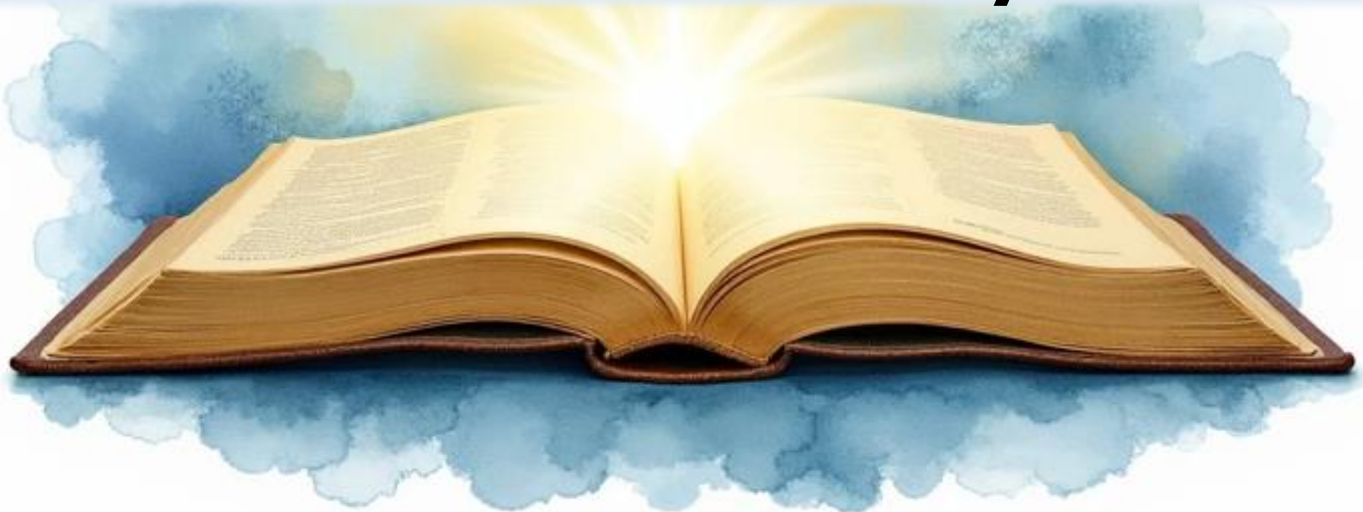


Prayers of the People

Lord,
hear our prayers
as we lift up to
you, our joys
and concerns.



Pastoral Prayer



The Lord's Prayer

UMH 895



Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be
done

on earth as it is in heaven.

The Lord's Prayer

UMH 895



Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as
we forgive those who trespass
against us.

The Lord's Prayer

UMH 895



And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power,

and the glory,

forever.

Amen

A gift box wrapped in patterned paper with a large red bow is centered in the image. The background is a soft-focus bokeh of warm, golden-yellow lights, creating a festive and celebratory atmosphere. The text is overlaid on a white, rounded rectangular background.

Tithes and Offerings

Worship through giving

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH 94

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted by Gilbert H. Viera, 1978

MUSIC: Geistliche Kirchengesange, 1623; harmonized by Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

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!

A gift box wrapped in patterned paper with a large red bow is centered in the image. The background is a soft-focus bokeh of warm, golden-yellow lights, creating a festive and celebratory atmosphere. The gift box is slightly tilted, and the bow is prominently displayed on top.

Offertory Prayer

A small, dark-colored church with a white cross on its roof and a white door is nestled in a snowy landscape. The church is surrounded by tall, snow-covered evergreen trees. The ground is covered in a thick layer of snow, and the sky is a pale, hazy blue. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

Benediction

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION



Love. Grow. Serve.

This service has ended, and now
your service in the world begins!

Rectortown United Methodist Church

**serving God with
Prayer, Action, and Love
through Service.**