



Moving with Mary's Song

**YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME HERE AT
PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Fourth Sunday of Advent December 19, 2021**

***Please stand in body and/or spirit as you are able.**

**PRELUDE
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***GATHERING MUSIC** Soon and Very Soon

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE:** Joy

One: *In a world where so many are sorrowful,
God lights a candle of joy in our hearts.*

*We wait together for a Saviour,
who will be Immanuel, Christ the Lord.*

Many: **"The Root of Jesse will spring up,
one who will arise to rule over the nations;
the Gentiles will hope in him."**

(Romans 15:12)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: *We love large things, God;*

Many: **grand entrances, huge fanfares, big events, giant heroes and
heroines.**

One: *And it seems, God, that you love small things;*

Many: **timid teenagers, desert hermit, tiny towns and obscure stables.**

One: *It seems that in the small, your light shines most brightly,*

Many: **And so we gather in thanks and praise, O God, for small,
life-changing, things.**

***OPENING PRAYER** (in unison)

**Advent God, like a mother lullabying a baby, you sing over us; like a
father picking up his kids after school, you bring us home. May we
draw near and drink deeply of your living waters, so we might be
restored to wholeness. God in Community, in the midst of us, in this
holy time and sacred space, may we sing with Mary, rejoicing as you
make your way into the world. Amen.**

***HYMN**

#135 O Come, All You Faithful

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PSALTER READING: Psalm 80,
SUNG PSALTER RESPONSE

page 672 New Century Hymnal
#110 Now Bless the God of Israel

JOYS AND CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYERS, INTERCESSORY PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

BIBLICAL TESTIMONY: Luke 1:39-56

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

CONTEMPORARY TESTIMONY: Getting Ready for the Unexpected
by Walter Brueggemann

The Bible is relentless in its conviction that God will side, eventually, with the little ones. Out of that faith, Mary sings! Empire must have told...Mary that such hope is absurd in the world of real power. But Mary, trusting the angel, believes that nothing will be impossible for God. And so she sings! She sings about "the hungry," the ones cut out of the food chain and denied access to the world's great granaries. Mary knew what...Israel always knew, and what the church knows in Advent. The weak and vulnerable will be "lifted up." The
(see insert)

poetry and the song invite us to move out beyond the world given us by "the hard men," and into a new, different world. We may, in anticipation, already act in and for that new age. Already now in such anticipation folk in Bethlehem can lean back in confidence. Folk around Mary can hope and sing. And the rest of us, while we wait, may be alongside the hungry and lowly who will be honored by the new reality of the Christ-child.

SERMON

Mothering God

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY- *DOXOLOGY

***DEDICATION OF GIFTS**

As people of faith, we wait in hope at the promise that Jesus will be among us. May these gifts be used to bring hope to the many who are in need of them. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

***HYMN**

#154 Go Tell It on the Mountain

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Patricia Miller and David Shipley, piano duo, will present "THE BENCHWARMERS, BACK ON THE BENCH WITH THE HISTORY OF THE CHRISTMAS CAROL" today, Sunday, December 19th at 3:00pm in the Raymond Whitwer Tilden Public Library Lied Auditorium. Refreshments will follow. A freewill donation for the maintenance of the library piano will be taken.

COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP TIME BEFORE CHURCH. Beginning at 9:30.

PASTOR MELANIE'S OFFICE HOURS are on Sundays, 1:30-3:30. Call or text if you'd like to meet with her. She can be reached at (402) 841-1450 or revdocmel@gmail.com

CONFIRMATION meets following worship.

MELANIE IS LOOKING FOR FOLK TO READ DURING THE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS ON CHRISTMAS EVE. If you're interested, talk to her following worship, call or text. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE, 7:30. All are welcome.

The special offering: **CHRISTMAS FUND** will be collected today, December 19th. Please use the envelope in the bulletin for this offering.

**Diann Larson's address is: Antelope Memorial Hospital
Diann Larson Room 231
102 West 9th St
Neligh, NE 68756**

PASTOR MELANIE'S OFFICE HOURS are now Sundays 1:30-3:30. Call or text if you'd like to meet with her. She can be reached at (402)841-1450 or (402)500-3412 or revdocmel@gmail.com

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NURSING CENTER/HOMEBOUND PRAYER LIST:

Deloris Ashburn Clara Ritter

CONCERNS

Hatred In America

Mass Shootings at schools and public places

Members of Tilden Church of Christ

Graham Sayers, infant son of Lisa (Henseleit) and Jay Sayers

Family and Friends of Gerald McNally

Kelli Koepke and Family

Diann Larson

Ciera Nygren

Bill Rittscher

Clara Ritter

Gene Fields

Jesse Johnson

Dustin Meyer

Eric Heithoff

McCoy Backer

Laura Rutjens

Fr. Pat Niels

Deloris Mozer

Michelle Dittmer

Kandi Hart

Deloris Ashburn

Dave Carstens

Carter Brown

John Johnson

Holli Perez

Theresa Sullivan Meyer

JOYS

Baptism of Blair Elizabeth Mozer, daughter of Brea and Joel