



Greeting Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

One: There are many kinds of love in this world:

**Many: Between parents and children, with extended family,
for friends we have known all our lives,**

One: romance pressured by the season, and the selfless kindness of strangers.

Many: We're all looking for love.

One: The angel called on Mary to bring God-with-us into the world, to love and nurture Jesus.

Many: The conversation started with, "Do not be afraid!"

One: O, make us brave to say it!

Many: Love requires courage.

(Light the first, second, third, and fourth candles.)

One: "Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her." (Luke 1:45, CEB)

Many: Our in-breaking God is love.

Centering Words

Psalm 113

1 Praise the Lord!

**Praise, O servants of the Lord;
praise the name of the Lord.**

2 Blessed be the name of the Lord
from this time on and forevermore.

**3 From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

4 The Lord is high above all nations
and his glory above the heavens.

**5 Who is like the Lord our God,
who is seated on high,**

6 who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth?

**7 He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,**

8 to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people.

**9 He gives the barren woman a home,
making her the joyous mother of children.**

Praise the Lord!

Opening Prayer

Father God, there is no miracle as grand as birth. As we prepare for the coming of your son, Jesus, create in us new life. Transform us so that we may reflect the light of your son, and become beacons of goodness, kindness, compassion, generosity, honesty, patience, and peace, in a word ... love, for the sake of the one whose name brings deliverance and life to all the world, Jesus Christ, infant king. Amen.

***Opening Praise**

**Hark! the Herald Angels Sing #240
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming #216**

Scripture

Luke 1:26-45

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

Mary Visits Elizabeth

39 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 Spirit 42 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 [e] a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

Leader - “This is God’s Word for all People”

People - “Thanks be to God

Children’s Message

Choir Anthem

A Great Light

Message

Belief in God Fulfilling God’s Promise

Gospel Praise

To a Maid Engaged to Joseph #215

***Peace**

***Offertory Response**

Come and See the Glory of the Lord

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Loving God, you have blesse us time and time again throughout our lives. We, like Mary, can magnify you by proclaiming, “our spirit rejoices in God my Savior!” We place these gifts on your altar as we seek to change people’s lives – to empower social justice, to feed the hungry, to offer mercy to the outcast, to lift up the lowly. In the name of the Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the World

We are people who journey as vessels containing wellsprings of hope; sharing, replacing, and adding new waters of proclamation, power, prophecy, and prayer to the containers of our life and faith. We pause and reflect on the movement of the tide in this journey, as it washes upon our shores, cleansing and calling us back to ministry and faith.

O Creator God, let the waters of your womb heal.

Let us pray for our global community ... (silence)

O Creator God, let the waters of your womb heal.

Let us pray for the bent-overness of our lives and world ... (silence)

O Creator God, let the waters of your womb heal.

Let us pray for those living in the midst of violence ... (silence)

O Creator God, let the waters of your womb heal.

Let us pray for those living in poverty ... (silence)

O Creator God, let the waters of your womb heal.

Let us pray for the effort of peace ... (silence)

O Creator God, let the waters of your womb heal.

Let us pray to trust the validity of our experience ... (silence)

O Creator God, let the waters of your womb heal.

Let us pray for the call within by the One who creates in us
wellsprings of hope ... (silence)

O Creator God, let the waters of your womb heal.

**O Creator God, may the waters that covered us at our birth
once again remind us of our creation in you. Remind us that we
are vessels of the waters of hope and that your outpourings
have power to heal and make whole our bruised world. Let the
living waters of creation, womb, baptism, and Spirit encircle
us that we may remember we are yours and be thankful.**

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

***Closing Praise**

Love Came Down at Christmas #242

***Sending**

Postlude

*You are invited to stand as you are able or willing.

Prayer List

Jon Hickey, Pat Sankey, Kurt Behers, Barbara Gotwalt, Barrie Kintner, The family of Carrie Wyten, Regina Reichard, Mary Heltman, Hurricane relief, The Yarnell Family, Mary Jane Johnson, Dennis Swimley Family, Joann Voigt



December 22 UMCOR U.S. Disasters

UMCOR responds to natural or civil disasters of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own. Through UMCOR, United Methodists extend loving care to people within the United States. When disaster strikes, it is local churches that provide the first response to their communities. This basic understanding—that disaster response is local—forms the foundation for UMCOR's US disaster training and response. When responding to a disaster in the United States, UMCOR provides training, financial assistance, expertise, community collaboration to churches and partners making them more resilient to disasters.

Announcements

Christmas Eve Focus Mission

The Christmas Eve focus mission will be for UMCOR.

Special Envelopes - UMCOR

There are special envelopes to give donations to UMCOR that will go to help victims of the recent hurricanes. The envelopes are located in the pews and at the back of the Sanctuary beside the donation bucket. If giving by Check please write on the memo line "UMCOR."

Church Family Christmas Brunch

Join your church family for a Christmas brunch following the worship service. Bring your favorite dish to share with others like salads, main dishes, side dishes, desserts. Drink and place settings will be provided. Hope to see you there.

Calendar

December 22-28

Sunday

Friendship Class	8:30am	Boardroom
Worship	9:30am	Sanctuary
Children's Sunday School	9:30am	S/C Ed. Rm
Donuts + fellowship	10:30am	FLC
Longest Night Service	7pm	Sanctuary

Monday

Pastor Hours	9-11am	Pastor's Office
Soccer	5:30-7pm	FLC

Tuesday

Office Closed		
Family Christmas Eve Service	5pm	Sanctuary
Traditional Christmas Eve Service	7pm	Sanctuary

Wednesday

Office Closed Merry Christmas