

## WORSHIP HANDOUT

December 20, 2020

A Person of Hope



### OPENING OF WORSHIP

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Bible Study via Zoom on Monday evenings.  
Still some Advent Take Home Kits if you want one. Let PA know.  
Help us Decorate for Advent

### PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing praises to God on high, for glorious are God's works.  
Sing praises to the ends of the earth.  
Shout and sing for joy, O people of God,  
for great is the Holy One in our midst,  
blessed is the One who comes to dwell among us.

written by Harry Disher, Grand Bend/Greenway P.C., Etobicoke, Ont. Published in *Gathering, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2004–2005*, produced by the United Church of Canada. Please credit the author. <https://www.united-church.ca/worship>

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH – Peace

### HYMN

Blessed Be the God of Israel

UMH #209

### TIME OF PRAYER

#### UNISON PRAYER

When our spirits despair and we deny our blessedness,  
Forgive us, O God.  
When we ignore the mighty things you have done,  
When we doubt your mercy,  
Forgive us, O God.

When we are proud  
in the thoughts of our hearts,  
When our power rests on the oppression of others,  
When our wealth causes others to go hungry,  
*forgive us, O God.*

*[silence]*

Help us, your servants,  
according to the promises you have made. Amen.

written by Joanna Harader and posted on **Spacious Faith**. <https://spaciousfaith.com/>

## SILENT AND PASTORAL PRAYER (MUSIC)

### LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who 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. And  
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For  
thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory now and  
forever. Amen.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

LESSON 1      CEB

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

**When the king was settled in his palace, and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup> the king said to the prophet Nathan, "Look! I'm living in a cedar palace, but God's chest is housed in a tent!"**

**<sup>3</sup> Nathan said to the king, "Go ahead and do whatever you are thinking, because the Lord is with you."**

**<sup>4</sup> But that very night the Lord's word came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup> Go to my servant David and tell him: This is what the Lord says: You are not the one to build the temple for me to live in. <sup>6</sup> In fact, I haven't lived in a temple from the day I brought Israel out of**

**Egypt until now. Instead, I have been traveling around in a tent and in a dwelling. <sup>7</sup> Throughout my traveling around with the Israelites, did I ever ask any of Israel's tribal leaders I appointed to shepherd my people: Why haven't you built me a cedar temple?**

**<sup>8</sup> So then, say this to my servant David: This is what the Lord of heavenly forces says: I took you from the pasture, from following the flock, to be leader over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup> I've been with you wherever you've gone, and I've eliminated all your enemies before you. Now I will make your name great—like the name of the greatest people on earth. <sup>10</sup> I'm going to provide a place for my people Israel, and plant them so that they may live there and no longer be disturbed. Cruel people will no longer trouble them, as they had been earlier, <sup>11</sup> when I appointed leaders over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. And the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make a dynasty for you. Your dynasty and your kingdom will be secured forever before me. Your throne will be established forever.**

**LESSON 2**

**CEB**

**Luke 1:26-38**

**When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup> She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. <sup>31</sup> Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. <sup>33</sup> He**

will rule over Jacob's house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom."

<sup>34</sup> Then Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen since I haven't had sexual relations with a man?"

<sup>35</sup> The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God's Son. <sup>36</sup> Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled 'unable to conceive' is now six months pregnant. <sup>37</sup> Nothing is impossible for God."

<sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said." Then the angel left her.

L: This is the Word of God for all people.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE "The Peace that Stills"

HYMN

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

UMH #218

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY

UMH #95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.

Let us pray.

**O God,  
who desires good for all creatures,**

**satisfy our hunger not just for food,  
but for freedom, truth, justice and love.**

**O Risen Christ,  
you revealed yourself to us  
as one who gives to the poor and cares for all people.  
We dedicate our lives and our offerings to your service.**

**O Holy Spirit,  
bless these gifts and abide in our hearts  
so that our gifts and our actions  
may live out our faith,  
glorify God,  
and bring forth a fruitful harvest for the kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

—from [A Service for the Eve of Thanksgiving](#) written by the Rev. Thomas L. Weitzel, a pastor of the ELCA, and posted on [Liturgy by TLW](#).

**BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE**

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel**

**UMH #204**

**POSTLUDE**