

## WORSHIP HANDOUT

Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup>

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sanctified Art: How Does a Weary World Rejoice



### OPENING OF WORSHIP

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “Advent Meditation” Douglas E. Wagner (OneLic)  
United Handbell Choir

\*SONG OF WELCOME I Come with Joy vs. I-4 (OneL) UMH 617

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

How does a weary world rejoice?

**We sing songs of hope.**

**We allow hope to change us, to strengthen us.**

**We tell the stories of what could be.**

**We listen for God’s word.**

**We resist the temptation to give up or give in.**

**We remember Mary’s song.**

**We gather for worship.**

**We hope.**

**We hope.**

**Against all odds, we hope.**

Friends, this is the day that the Lord is still making.

Let us worship holy God.

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

SONG AS CHILDREN GATHER Advent Is a Time to Wait (tune:  
Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star)

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ANTHEM "Come, Emmanuel" Nancy Price and Don Besig (OneLic)

## CALL TO CONFESSION (PA)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (liturgist/unison)

**Holy God,**

**More days than not, hope feels like the rain.**

**We try to hold onto it with cupped hands,  
but eventually, it slips right on through.**

**Forgive us for holding hope so loosely.**

**Forgive us for allowing the realities of today to define  
tomorrow.**

**We know that this world needs people of hope, so today we  
pray:**

**turn us into those people.**

**Teach us how to sing Mary's song of hope for the world.**

**With open hearts we pray, amen.**

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (liturgist)

Body of Christ, no matter how many times we let hope slip through  
our fingers, we still belong

to God. So hear and repeat these words after me:

I am God's beloved.

**I am God's beloved.**

I am forgiven.

**I am forgiven.**

I am blessed and sent to serve.

**I am blessed and sent to serve.**

This is the good news of the Gospel. This is a hope we can hang our  
hats on. Thanks be to God for God's unending love. Amen.

\*HYMN My Soul Gives Glory to My God (OneL) UMH 198

LESSON 1      **Luke 1:46-55**

<sup>46</sup> **Mary said,**

**“With all my heart I glorify the Lord!**

<sup>47</sup> **In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior.**

<sup>48</sup> **He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant.**

**Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored**

<sup>49</sup> **because the mighty one has done great things for me.**

**Holy is his name.**

<sup>50</sup> **He shows mercy to everyone,  
from one generation to the next,  
who honors him as God.**

<sup>51</sup> **He has shown strength with his arm.**

**He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations.**

<sup>52</sup> **He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones  
and lifted up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup> **He has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty-handed.**

<sup>54</sup> **He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,  
remembering his mercy,**

<sup>55</sup> **just as he promised to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to Abraham’s descendants forever.”**

**May God add a Blessing to this reading.**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

LESSON 2:      **Luke 1:67-80**

**67 John’s father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied,**

**68 “Bless the Lord God of Israel**  
because he has come to help and has delivered his people.  
**69 He has raised up a mighty savior for us in his servant**  
**David’s house,**  
**70 just as he said through the mouths of his holy prophets**  
**long ago.**  
**71 He has brought salvation from our enemies**  
and from the power of all those who hate us.  
**72 He has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,**  
and remembered his holy covenant,  
**73 the solemn pledge he made to our ancestor Abraham.**  
**He has granted 74 that we would be rescued**  
from the power of our enemies  
so that we could serve him without fear,  
**75 in holiness and righteousness in God’s eyes,**  
for as long as we live.  
**76 You, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High,**  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way.  
**77 You will tell his people how to be saved**  
through the forgiveness of their sins.  
**78 Because of our God’s deep compassion,**  
the dawn from heaven will break upon us,  
**79 to give light to those who are sitting in darkness**  
and in the shadow of death,  
to guide us on the path of peace.”  
**80 The child grew up, becoming strong in character. He was in**  
the wilderness until he began his public ministry to Israel.

This is the Word of God for all people.  
**Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE      We sing stories of hope

\*HYMN                    “Lullaby of Praise” (used by permission, Sanctified Art)

## SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

### TIME OF PRAYER

Prayers/Names of the People

PASTORAL AND SILENT 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.**

### OFFERTORY

#### \*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

#### \*UNISON PRAYER

Almighty God,  
giver of every good and perfect gift,  
teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are,  
that we may praise you not with our words only,  
but with our whole lives. Amen.

#### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe**

that hope can change the world.  
**We believe**  
that **God** uses ordinary people,  
like an unwed teenage mother,  
for extraordinary good.  
**And we believe**  
that each of these ordinary people  
can make a difference.  
**We know** that grief, fear, and suffering abound.  
**We know** that suffering quells joy and makes it harder to  
hope.  
**But we choose hope anyway.**  
**In the face of hardship,**  
**we hope together.**  
**We hope with God.**  
**We hope for a better world.**  
**This is our song.**  
**We believe; help our unbelief.**  
**In Christ's name we pray, amen.**

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION – SERVING

\*BENEDICTION and RESPONSE

I Come with Joy vs. 5 (OneLicense) UMH 617

POSTLUDE