

Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 20, 2020

(If you are home read the prayers and scripture readings and recite the Creed aloud, even if you are by yourself, in order to hear with the ears each one. Sing or read the final hymn aloud. If you are worshipping in person, please follow along silently.)

Prepare for worship: Sit in silence or with soft music for a few moments

Call to Worship: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* v.1
O come, O come, Emanuel, 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.
From The United Methodist Hymnal Copyright 1989 The United Methodist
Publishing House, (211)

Centering Words:
O my soul, magnify the Lord. God is worthy to be praised.
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(273)

Lighting the Advent Candle:

Read Isaiah 9:6-7

We light this candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace. May the visitation of your Holy Spirit, O God, make us ready for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy, O come, O come, Emmanuel.
From The United Methodist Book of Worship. Copyright 1992 The United Methodist Publishing House. (262)

Prayer of the Day:
Holy God, the mystery of your eternal Word took flesh among us in Jesus Christ. At the message of an angel, the virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your will. Filled with the light of your Spirit, she became the temple of your Word. Strengthen us by the example of her humility, that we may always be ready to do your will, and welcome into our lives Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray:
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The 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, forever. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of Illumination:
Open our ears that we may hear and our hearts and minds that we may receive your word O Lord our rock and redeemer.

(After each reading take two to three minutes to reflect upon the meaning of the passage to you today.)

Old Testament Reading	2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16
Epistle Reading	Romans 16:25-27
The Magnificat	Luke 1: 46b-55
Special Music	
Gospel Reading:	Luke 1: 26-38
Sermon	<i>She Said Yes!</i>

Hymn: *Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly*

1. Sing of Mary, pure and lowly, maiden mother, wise and mild.
Sing of God's own Son most holy, who became her little child.
Fairest child of fairest mother, God the Lord who came to earth,
Word made flesh, our very brother, takes our nature by his birth.
2. Sing of Jesus, son of Mary, in the home at Nazareth.
Toil and labor cannot weary love enduring unto death.
Constant was the love he gave her, though it drove him from her side,
forth to preach, and heal, and suffer, till on Calvary he died.
3. Joyful mother, full of gladness, in thine arms thy Lord was borne.
Mournful mother, full of sadness, all thy heart with pain was torn.
Glorious mother, now rewarded with a crown at Jesus' hand.
age to age thy name recorded shall be blest in every land.
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Benediction:

Here we are, servants of the Lord; let it be with us according to God’s word. Amen.

Response: *God Be with You till We Meet Again*

God be with you till we meet again;
by his counsels guide, uphold you,
with his sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

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Leading in Worship Today

Pastor: *John D. Jordan* AV Assistant: *K. C. Warble*
Church Musician: *Christopher A. McCroskey*

“AS MEMBERS OF THIS CONGREGATION, WE WILL FAITHFULLY PARTICIPATE IN ITS MINISTRIES BY OUR PRAYERS...

Francis Hipp Steve Aiello Patsy Shuler John Ballentine Oren Edwards
Jimmy Grahl Steve White Esther Carter Latson Lewis Ellen Matthews
George Taylor

Shut-Ins: Shirley Butler; Sara Efron; Carolyn Hardee; Francis & Gillett Hipp; June Hutto; Georgeann Pace; Shirley Padgett; Jean Raynor; Grover Shuler; Claudia Sineath; Wayne Tallon; Irvin Wells

Family and Friends: **Kelly Knapp** (wife of Laurie Knapp’s nephew); **Paul Kidney** (son-in-law of Charles & Jackie McNeill); **Ruby Pennington** (friend of Laurie Knapp); **Rick Baldwin** (nephew of Tommy Johnson); **Iris Turlington** (aunt of John Zeigler); **Billy & Betty Jean Newton** (brother and sister-in-law of Mary Kamoroff); **Ellen Smith** (sister-in-law of Dee Senn); **Jimmy Brooks** (Brother-in-law of Boots Morgan); **Tonya Spires** (friend of the Derricks); **J. B. & Stephanie Martindale** (cousins of Christopher McCroskey); **Linda Hargett** (stepmom of Christopher McCroskey); **Ollie Shelly** (friend of the Derricks); **Brenlee Carnes**; **Danielle Spotts** (co-worker of Kathy White); **Vickie Edwards** (neighbor of Kathy White); **Vicki Beatty, Connie Mason, Brenda Grier** (friends of Lynn Martin); **Allen & Lisa Fort** (cousins of the Jordans); **David Price & Family, Ty Moore, Julie Stroud, Fran Huck, George Dorn** (friends of Kay Jordan); **Teddy Derrick** (uncle of Arvan Derrick); **Haidee Baehr** (friends of Ruth Frady); **Dianne Schmotzer** (sister-in-law of Gale Frady); **Denise Paul** (cousin of Gale Frady); **Billy Johnson, Max Johnson, Beth Branham** (friends of Gale Frady); **Ray Culbreth’s Group House; Nellie Gantt** (mother of friend of Ray Culbreth); **Amelia Zinski** (great-niece of Linda Maloch); **Wayne Blair** (son of Dot Johnson); **Xavier Crane** (grandnephew of John Ballentine); **Janet Beck** (friend of Jo Ann Heiting); **Charles & Vera Von Glahn** (brother & sister-in-law of Jo Ann Heiting); **Michael Carter** (son of Esther Carter); **Adam Lavender** (son of Phil Lavender)

OUR PRESENCE ...

In-Person Attendance 12/13 Worship: 18

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 12/13 \$ 6,910.00

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS.”



Ministers
Pastor **John D. Jordan**
Resident Bishop **Jonathan Holston**
District Superintendent **Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson**

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our vision is to Connect, Nurture, Inspire and Transform



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She Said Yes!

12/20/2020

Luke 1:26-38

Mary, the Mother of Jesus, is the most venerated woman in Christendom. She is probably the most pictured and sculpted woman in history. In the Western Church she is called the Madonna. In the Eastern Church she is known as the Theotokos, the God bearer.

At the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth there are depictions of the Madonna from nearly every country on earth. She is portrayed as the people of that country envision her. So, she is a woman that is depicted as all races and colors. We have all seen Mary depicted in different ways in art.

What made Mary so special? What about her led God to choose her to be the mother of the Son of God?

It must have been her lineage. We know that the Messiah was to be born from the house of David, so she must have royal lineage. Well, if we look at the two genealogies of Jesus in Matthew and Luke, we see that both go through Joseph's lineage. Ancient Israel was a patriarchal society, so lineage would be traced through the father not the mother.

If she was not from royal lineage maybe she was from a priestly family. There is no evidence that Mary was from a priestly family. The closest we can see is that she had a relative, Elizabeth, who was married to a priest, Zechariah. This is really all we know about Mary's family. We don't even know the names of Mary's parents. It was not her lineage that made her special.

Perhaps it was to whom she was betrothed. The man she was to marry must have been somebody important. The genealogies from Matthew and Luke do indicate that Joseph was from the line of David. If so his was a branch that was just hanging onto the tree. Though we traditionally call Joseph a carpenter, he was probably more a general builder, working with wood and stone to build houses or whatever people needed. Joseph was an ordinary craftsman in the

town. There wasn't anything particularly special about him so he did not make Mary any more special.

Considering that she was betrothed to a builder, her family's economic status means they were not wealthy. Normally you would marry your daughter to someone of slightly higher economic status. The sense is that Mary's family members were common peasants, making a subsistence living as were most people in Roman Palestine. Wealth did not make her special. She was a common, ordinary, peasant girl.

Maybe it was where she was from. Maybe there was something special about the town of Nazareth. Nazareth is some 70 miles north of Jerusalem in the hill country of Galilee. It was not near the seat of political or religious power. Plus, you had to go through Samaria to get there. It was 15-20 miles from the Sea of Galilee, so there was no commerce from fishing. Nor was it a resort town like Tiberias. It was a town that was derided. Remember Nathaniel's response when Phillip told him that Jesus of Nazareth was the one the prophets spoke about? It was, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" It was not her hometown that made Mary special.

Well, Mary must have been more pious. Gabriel said she was favored so that means she must have been a really good girl. She must have kept every jot and tittle of the law. She never broke any of the commandments. She always went to synagogue and maybe even taught the children as is depicted in the movie *The Nativity*. This may be so; we really don't know. There may have been more girls in Nazareth, Galilee or Judea who were just as pious, or maybe even more, as Mary.

If it wasn't her piety, or her birthplace, or her family ties, both conjugal and parental, what made Mary so special that God chose her?

What made Mary so special was not who she was, or who she was to marry, or where she was born, or even how "good" she was. What made Mary special was

her response. She said yes.

She said yes. There may have been other young women that God offered the chance to be the mother of the divine son. There may have been those that said, “no way”. There may have been those that said, “Let me think about it.” There may have been those that said, “I will if...” There may have been those that said, “What’s in it for me?”

Let’s face it, these are often some of the responses we give when asked to do something. We may want to know how we are going to benefit. We may want to put conditions on our agreement. We may want to put it off and hope that maybe someone else will be asked. We may outright say no. Or we may say yes.

Mary’s yes was immediate. Oh, she had her questions about the strangeness of the situation and about the logistics, how this was going to happen. I think any of us would wonder about that. She immediately gave herself, recognizing that she was a servant of the Lord. Look at the positivity of her yes, “let it be with me according to your word.” Let it happen to me as you say, Gabriel. Let it happen for I am the Lord’s servant. Wow, that’s a yes if there ever was a yes.

There was no delay. There was no what’s in it for me. There were no conditions. It was an emphatic YES! She said yes!

She became the mother of the divine child. She became the mother of God incarnate. She became the most venerated woman in human history. She was a simple peasant girl from a no count town in a backwater province, but she said yes. The Savior of the world came into being because she said yes.

What might happen if each of us said yes to God? What if we unflinchingly, unhesitatingly, unconditionally, and emphatically, said yes to whatever God was asking us to do. How might we be able to change the world?

Saying yes did not lead Mary to an easy life. She was not insulated from pain and suffering. She had to endure the long journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem while pregnant, walking or riding on a donkey. She had to give birth, including the

usual labor pangs, in a cave stall for cattle. She had to endure a flight to Egypt to save the life of her child. She had to raise the child along with her other children from Joseph. Could you imagine the sibling rivalry? She had to suffer the pain of watching her firstborn be executed on a Roman cross for trumped up charges. But through her saying yes, the world changed. God became human and walked on the earth. The rule of God became known to humanity through the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus because Mary said yes. God’s restoration of creation revealed through the life of Jesus began when Mary said yes.

We can change the world by saying yes to God. Saying yes as Mary said yes, recognizing that we are servants of God and allowing our lives to be according to God’s word. By responding positively to God, we can make positive changes in the world. We say yes to all that God may ask us to do. We say yes when God’s call for us is life changing, like choosing a career. We say yes when God’s call is a simple act of kindness or hospitality such as sending a card to a shut-in or inviting a new neighbor to church.

We may not give birth to a savior but we may change our little corner of the world, and if every little corner of the world is changed because Christians everywhere say yes to God, then God can change the world through us.

Let us say yes to God as Mary said yes to God.



*Trinity United Methodist Church
Christmas 2020*

A Gift in Lieu of Poinsettias is given to the glory of God and in honor of:

Tom Geddens by John & Patsy Zeigler.

COVID Front Line Workers by Jo Ann Heiting.

Their Grandchildren, with love by E.

Their Children, with love by Annie Heiting.

Bonnie Ramsey by Annie Heiting.

Mary Kamoroff by Annie Heiting.

Trinity Choir by Annie Heiting.

Tom Geddens, for all he does for Trinity, by Patsy & Claire Boggs.

A Gift in Lieu of Poinsettias is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of:

Their son, Altie Hooker, by Wayne & Charlie Hooker.

Their daughter, Ann Zeigler Derrick by John & Patsy Zeigler.

Their parents, Grady & Lucile Chavis and Johnnie & Margurite Zeigler, by John & Patsy Zeigler.

Her brother, Billy Chavis, by John & Patsy Zeigler.

Arnold Heiting by his Annie Heiting.

Ben & Amanda Heiting by Annie Heiting.

Charles & Josephine Von Glahn by their daughter, Jo Ann Heiting.

Those who lost their battle to COVID by Jo Ann Heiting.

Her mother, Janet Knapp by Laurie Knapp.

Her father, Hugh Knapp by Laurie Knapp.

Tommy Johnson by Marty Johnson.

Her sister and Claire's aunt, Mandy Meek Snow, by Patsy & Claire Boggs.

Her father and Claire's grandfather, Ebbie Meek, by Patsy & Claire Boggs.

All Trinity Members who have passed away, by Patsy & Claire Boggs.

Their sister-in-law, Altha Percy, by English & Jewel Percy.

His parents, Wink & Louise Frady, by Ray and Gale Frady.

Her parents, Charles & Ruby Schmotzer, by Ray and Gale Frady.