

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent – December 24, 2017

Emanuel Church, Hales Corners, UCC

### Worshipping at Home

#### CALL TO WORSHIP *(One/All)*

My soul magnifies the Lord. My spirit rejoices in God my savior. For the Mighty One has done great things, and holy is God's name.

#### PRAYER *(One/All)*

Mighty God, your faithfulness is magnified in the coming of your Son, in the long-awaited birth of the promised Messiah. May I, like Mary, proclaim your greatness as we rejoice in our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### CHILDRENS TIME

*(If you have children who will be included, there is a Children's Bulletin with for most ages included in this bulletin)*

#### SCRIPTURE READING – Luke 1:26-38 *(One, perhaps take turns)*

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

#### MESSAGE IN MEDITATION *(Silent or shared reflection)*

What do you imagine Nazareth was like?

Have Angels ever visited you? Did they bring startling news?

Where do you pray for God be born in your life? In the world?

Has the Holy Spirit ever come to you? When? Where? How?

What might it mean for you to say "Here I am" or "Let it be" this Christmas season?

#### SING/READ THE LYRICS TO

"Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates" *(organ, flute and words)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QnVbJxf5MaQ>

#### PRAYER *(One/All)*

Expectant God, Mary sings because she has new life in her, the promise of your salvation. Fill me with hope this day as I lift my life to you and seek to do your will. Look with favor on our world and all who are in need, that your love may be magnified as I follow humbly in your way. Amen.

#### OFFERING *(One)*

Has this time of worship encouraged me to offer anything of myself? How might I live more genuinely before God and all living creatures? How might I present all of myself, as Mary did, saying "Here I am," to God?

#### SING A FAVORITE CHRISTMAS CAROL OR TWO

#### BENEDICTION *(One)*

Magnify the Lord and rejoice, for nothing is impossible with God. And the blessing of God, who creates, redeems and restores be with you now and always. Amen.



***There is no Worship on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am!***