

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

10 A.M.

December 20, 2020

*Welcome! Advent is our season of waiting; and today we focus on Mary's reaction to the angel's announcement that she would bear a child and thus fulfill God's promise to send the long-awaited Messiah.*

### We Are Gathered by God

Prelude: "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

arr. Larry Shackley . . . . . Dan Chien, Organist

Call to Worship —*based on Psalm 126* . . . . . Rev. Alisha Riepma

Leader: The Lord has done great things for us!

**People: And we are filled with joy!**

Leader: Our God has turned our weeping into singing,

**People: our tears into songs of joy!**

Leader: O Christ of God, come anew in our hearts this day,

**People: and remain in us forever.**

\* Hymn "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

\* Prayer of Invocation

Our Prayer of Confession - *based on Isaiah 12*

L: If we look at our own lives,

**P: we must confess the mixture of giving and selfishness,  
our waiting on the Lord turned to an endless rush,  
our missing the mark of Advent.**

L: Lord, forgive our frantic ways and misplaced efforts.

But we can also trust in God,

**P: who still brings us salvation,  
who still supplies us strength,  
who hears our songs of gratitude,  
who accepts our joyful praise.**

L: Let us all draw water from the wells of salvation.

Let us shout it in church and in town:

**P: The Lord's great name will still be praised.  
His saving deeds support our lives.  
His greatness still astounds us.**

**The Holy One of Israel is among us.**

**Praise the Lord and sing for joy.**

*(silent prayer), Amen.*

Response: **"Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay,  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with Thee there."**

Words of Assurance

Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy . . . . . Logan Ballard & Family

Anthem: "Creation Will Be At Peace" . . . . . Anna Laura Page

### We Hear God in Word

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38 . . . . . Laura O'Brien, Reader

Sermon: 4th Week in Advent: Love

### We Respond to God

Offertory: "While by the Sheep We Watched at Night"

. . . . . arr. Emily Lund

\* Prayer of Dedication & Doxology

Prayers of Intercession

\* Hymn # 1028 "O Holy Night"

\* Benediction

Postlude: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" . . arr. by Joel Raney

*(\* Please stand if able)*

### Announcements

**Christmas Eve is planned as a short 7 p.m. Candle Lighting service outdoors on the lawn of the church.** This will depend on the weather, so please watch your emails on Dec. 24 to watch for changes to this plan. We will post by 5 p.m. a Christmas Eve service of carols and readings of the Christmas story for those unable to attend the service in person!

<https://gouldchurch.org/podcasts/services-sermons>