

**Rejoice!**

December 23, 2018

Prelude

Gathering Hymns of the Season

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” - CCS 394

“Angels We Have Heard on High” - CCS 427

(Advent Moment?)

Bethlehem’s Joy (Micah 5:2-5a – adapted)

“But you, Bethlehem, David’s country, from you will come the leaders who will shepherd Israel. He will be no upstart, no pretender. His family tree is ancient and distinguished.

He will stand tall in his shepherd-rule by God’s strength, centered in the majesty of God-Revealed. And the people will have a good and safe home, for the whole world will hold him in respect—Peacemaker of the world!

Prayer for Peace (*Light the peace candle—and the Advent candle if not already lit.*)

Prayer

“Light of the World, May the joy, the hope, the peace, and the love represented by the Child of Bethlehem fill our lives and become part of all we say and do during the remaining days of Christmas.

Help us remember the birth of the Christ child, to share in the singing of the angels and the gladness of the shepherds. Show us what we can do to move toward the day of universal peace around the globe. Peace in our homes, peace in our churches, and peace in our hearts.

Help us stay focused on your message instead of the distractions the commercial holidays bring. Now we begin the work of Christmas: to bring peace among all peoples. Amen.”

Welcome

Call to Worship

—Mosiah 1:102, adapted

“...he shall be called Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of heaven and earth, the Creator of all things, from the beginning; and his mother shall be called Mary.” Let us worship and rejoice!

\*Hymn – CCS423 – “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

\*Prayer of Rejoicing

\*Response

## Disciples' Generous Response

Offertory Scripture (from Doctrine and Covenants 163:9):

"Faithful disciples respond to an increasing awareness of the abundant generosity of God by sharing according to the desires of their hearts; not by commandment or constraint. Break free of the shackles of conventional culture that mainly promote self-serving interests. Give generously according to your true capacity."

Offertory Statement: The Journey Continues

'We learn from one another how to more fully receive God's gifts so we can, in turn, respond as generous disciples. We cannot become what God created us to be on our own. We need one another and we need God because "for God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27).

The joy of responding to God's generosity is a journey of the heart that takes us home. To make it our heart's desire to imitate God's generosity is to return to where we started. We always begin and end our journey as faithful disciples by experiencing Christ as the author of our lives.

Remember, generosity is not a measure of what we give in response to how much we have. Rather it is a response to God's boundless grace in us. We give because God gives. Whether we are considering whole-life stewardship for the first time or are recommitting to a time-honored practice in our continuing discipleship, God will bless our response."

—Stassi Cramm

Blessing of Our Offerings  
Receiving of Our Offerings

## Ministry of Music

Scripture Enactment: Luke 1:39–55

**Narrator:** In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

**(Mary calls out a greeting to Elizabeth and they exchange hugs.)**

**Narrator:** When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb, And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

**Elizabeth:** "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

**Mary:** "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

"His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Hymn of Response – CCS 404 "Canticle of the Turning"

The Message

\*Hymn of Sending Forth - CCS 408 - "Joy to the World!"

\*Benediction

\*Response

\*Postlude