

Welcome to worship!

Where there is text in **bold type**, you are invited to speak the words printed there just as we do with responsive readings in church.

Advent Devotion

01:04

please see last page

First Bible Reading

02:10

Luke 1:47-56

With all my heart I glorify the Lord!

In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior.

He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant.

Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored
because the mighty one has done great things for me.

Holy is his name.

He shows mercy to everyone,
from one generation to the next,
who honors him as God.

He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts
and proud inclinations.

He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty-handed.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,
remembering his mercy,
just as he promised to our ancestors,
to Abraham and Abraham's descendants forever.

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” (UM hymnal #216)

Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten-der stem hath sprung!

Of Jes-se's lin-eage com-ing, as those of old have sung.

It came a flower-et bright,

a-mid the cold of win-ter, when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;

with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.

To show God's love a right,

she bore to us a Savior, when half-spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fra-grance ten-der with sweet-ness fills the air,

dis-pel in glo-rious splen-dor the dark-ness ev-ery-where.

True man yet ver-y God,

from sin and death now save us, and share our ev-ery load.

Second Bible Reading**Luke 1:68-79**

Bless the Lord God of Israel because he has come to help
and has delivered his people.

He has raised up a mighty savior for us in his servant David's house,
just as he said through the mouths of his holy prophets long ago.

He has brought salvation from our enemies
and from the power of all those who hate us.

He has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and remembered his holy covenant,
the solemn pledge he made to our ancestor Abraham.

He has granted that we would be rescued
from the power of our enemies
so that we could serve him without fear,
in holiness and righteousness in God's eyes,
for as long as we live.

You, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way.

You will tell his people how to be saved
through the forgiveness of their sins.

Because of our God's deep compassion,
the dawn from heaven will break upon us,
to give light to those who are sitting in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide us on the path of peace.

Message

06:20

Notes:

Music

17:56

“Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light” (UM Hymnal #233)

Break forth, O beau-teous heaven-ly light, and ush-er in the morn-ing;
O shep-herds, shrink not with af-fright, but hear the an-gel's warn-ing.

This child, now weak in in-fan-cy, our con-fi-dence and joy shall be,
the power of Sa-tan break-ing, our peace e-ter-nal mak-ing.

This night of won-der, night of joy, was born the Christ, our bro-ther;
he comes, not might-y to de-stroy, to bid us love each oth-er.

How could he quit his king-ly state for such a world of greed and hate?

What deep hu-mil-i-a-tion se-cured the world's sal-va-tion!

Come, dear-est child, in-to our hearts, and leave your crib be-hind you!

Let this be where the new life starts for all who seek and find you.

To you the hon-or, thanks, and praise, for all your gifts this time of grace;
come, con-quer and de-liv-er this world, and us, for-ev-er.

Notes (joys, concerns, for self & others):

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who is in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

Forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

Announcements

Christmas Eve – Due to the continued prevalence of COVID-19 in our area, we will not be meeting in our sanctuary on Christmas Eve. There will be a Christmas Eve service podcast available late Thursday (12/24) afternoon. It will include music recorded in our sanctuary, including a reprise of The Schnitzel Trio.

Services by Phone – If you know someone who does not have internet access and cannot listen to the worship podcasts linked to our website, they can call **517-208-0087** to listen to the latest one.

Sunday School and Coffee Hour – Join us through Zoom. Copy and paste the following into your browser (or just click on it):

<https://zoom.us/j/91288425021?pwd=cTVVa0txU0dBUIXOTZxdGJlZnJiQT09>

Meeting ID: 912 8842 5021 Passcode: 160555 Dial-up phone #: 312 626 6799

If you are having technical difficulty with Zoom, contact Pastor Mark.

Advent Project - Build a Manger Scene the Animals - all Creation celebrates



Advent themes.

The photo below is of the complete scene. Each of the drawings were printed on paper then glued to index cards and trimmed leaving a tab at the bottom to bend back and use to stand the drawing upright.



Jesus was born in a part of the home where animals were kept and laid in a manger. Although there is little, if any, theology related to the animals that must have been present, we can consider them as representing the natural, created world, which, in the grand plan of God's salvation, is also redeemed through Christ. It's no wonder then that there were representative animals present at the birth.

Fanciful and not quite historical, but why not birthday cats?!?