

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – November 29, 2020
First Sunday of Advent
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Opening Music "Canticle of the Turning" Glory to God Hymnal #100

Greeting

Hymn "While We Are Waiting, Come" Glory to God Hymnal #92

Call to Worship and Lighting the Advent Candle [*responsive*]

In sorrow and in anticipation,

We will walk with God.

In peace and in danger,

We will walk with God.

In living and dying,

We will walk with God.

We will live in God's light.

We will walk in God's ways.

As we walk with God into this season of Advent, we walk toward God's gift of hope. In this bleak season of the year, and in this especially painful year, we light the first candle as a sign of God's hope, shining for us in this world. Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let all creation sing for joy at the coming of the Lord.

Let all creation sing for joy at the coming of the Lord. (Psalm 80)

Let us prepare for the coming of the Light of the world.

Opening Prayer

Call to Confession

As we confess our sins, both secret and public,
the door to God's heart is open, and we enter into grace and mercy.

Prayer of Confession [*together*]

Mighty God, you call us to wait, to watch, to be ready.

But we are so easily distracted, busily doing other things.

We grow drowsy and complacent.

Give us wisdom, as we prepare for your coming.

Forgive our foolishness and our impatience, we pray.

Restore us by your grace.

Look upon us with your favor, that we might know your presence.

[*Silence for Personal Prayer*]

Assurance of Pardon *[responsive]*

Our souls magnify the Lord.
Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.
God's mercy is ever near, from generation to generation.
God's strength scatters the proud, but lifts the humble of heart.
God's grace has called us here, strengthening our lives of faith.
By grace, we are forgiven and made new.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Amen.

Music for Reflection

“Open the Eyes of My Heart”
Katie Musick, voice

BY PAUL BALOCHE

We Listen to God's Word

Children's Message

Carolyn Hayes

Scripture

Isaiah 64:1–9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
² as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴ From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵ You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷ There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸ Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Luke 1:26–45

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, '**Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.**' ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, '**Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.**' ³¹**And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.** ³²**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.** ³³**He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'**

³⁴Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵The 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.**' ³⁶**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.** ³⁷**For nothing will be impossible with God.'** ³⁸Then 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.

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

Leader: This is the Witness to God's Word. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Holding Hope

Rev. Mary Austin

We Respond to God's Grace

Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Glory to God Hymnal #88, v.1, 6

Invitation to Generosity

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer *[together]*

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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

We Depart for Service

Announcements and Passing the Peace

Greeting: "The peace of Christ be with you."

Response: "And also with you."

Closing Blessing

Closing Music

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" BY RICK FOUNDS
Produced by Claudio Ferreira

Participating in the service:

Ms. Allison Howlett, Worship Leader
Mrs. Carolyn Hayes, Director of Children and Young Families
Mr. Wade Meyers, Director of Music and Worship Arts
Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence and Rev. Mary Austin

The Call to Worship is from the worship resources of the Iona Community, and the Prayer of Confession is adapted from the *Abingdon Worship Annual*.