



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

*with UCC Westerly
on the
3rd Sunday of Advent*

December 12, 2021 @ 9:45am
In-person &
Broadcast live from our sanctuary
CCLI Streaming License #21022154

Gathering Music A selection by Doug Brummund. [WORDS & MUSIC: Doug Brummund, ©2020 B.R. Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission.]

PASTOR'S WELCOME

PRELUDE – "On a Bethlehem Hill"

by Gerald Peterson, based on a traditional American melody, ©2001 Lorenz Publishing Company, CCLI# 3710870. Used by Permission. CCLI Copyright License 21022161.

DEACON'S WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP -- *The Lighting of the Mary's Candle on the Advent Wreath*

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One: "And Mary said, '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.'" (Luke 1:46-49)

Today we remember Mary, innocent and powerful, sacred and scared, worried and waiting as the Savior of all grows in her womb. She sings boldly when she might be meek; she bears her role in history with the confidence of a warrior; she is the beginning of a mighty revolution as the proud are brought down and the lowly lifted up.

All: **Today we give thanks for the Marys among us, who step out of the roles society has planned; unintended pioneers determined to do as God asks; fearlessly and fearfully stepping out in faith, and beckoning us to do the same.**

One: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of Mary, mother of God, bearer of the Way. [Light the 3rd candle.]

OPENING SONG -- *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates*

W&R#176, v. 1-3

[WORDS: George Weissel & MUSIC: Thomas Williams. © Public Domain]

UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION

[adapted from *Calling on God*, Bankson & Sokolove, Eds., ©2014, Skylight Paths Publishing. Page 131]

O God of joy and hope, since the days of the prophets you have sent your wise messengers to bring a vision of your realm, already close at hand. And so we wait

with growing expectation, yearning for your coming in this time and place. God of all salvation, we pray that you will fill our hearts, open our eyes, clean out our ears, and loosen our tongues, for we gather in the, Spirit of the very one for whom we wait, the redeemer of all Creation, who is Jesus the Christ. Amen.

THE MORNING MESSAGE –

Scripture Reading: Mark 6:1-6a

Message – *Amazed by Unbelief*

Rev. Ruth

Meditation Music: "Savior of the Nations, Come"

MUSIC origin *Enchiridia*, 1524, ©Public Domain.

A TIME OF PRAYER

Pastoral Prayers & Silent Prayer

The Lord's Prayer in whatever words are most comfortable for you.

Musical Response

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM -- "In the Bleak Midwinter" Performed by the Tone Chimes Choir

MUSIC by Gustav T. Holst, ©Public Domain.

Acknowledgement of Gifts & Offerings*

Doxology: [©Public Domain]

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter; One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen."

CLOSING SONG -- *What Child Is This?*

W&R#184, v.1-3

[WORDS: William C. Dix & MUSIC: English melody. ©Public Domain]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION— *A Scottish Benediction, Anonymous*

May the light of God surround you; the love of God enfold you; the power of God protect you, and the presence of God watch over you; this day and forever more. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE – "A Song of Praise"

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## **Mark 6:1-6a**

He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching.