

Peace



Youth and Family Worship
December 20, 2020

Call to Worship

L: Welcome, dear people, God has blessed our gathering.

P: We come again on this journey, following the light.

L: God's light shines for us today, bringing peace and comfort.

P: May we, like Mary, respond to God's presence and love, with confident joy. **AMEN.**



Opening Prayer

In the rush of preparation for holiday celebration, we come to this place to be fed by God. We need the peace, hope, love and joy that this season represents. We need to listen again with wonder at the magnificent words of Mary as she proclaims her faithful participation in God's most miraculous gift. Open our hearts this day, Lord, to receive the words and the blessings, to be fed and then to be those who will share with others as you have shared with us.

In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.



Opening Worship Song Prince of Peace

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pnlg3zfTXZE&ab_channel=MonicaScottMusic



Children's Bible Story

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrYvuYwPAvU&ab_channel=BrotherFrancisOnline.com



Children's Bible Lesson

In these verses, Mary is confused about why God has chosen her and what the angel's message might mean. Mary might have felt too young or unimportant for such a special task. Tell us about a time you thought you were too young to have something special happen to you.

God uses ordinary people, and his choices are often surprising. People may judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." Discuss or journal about:

- **What are some extraordinary ways God can use you in your ordinary life?** *(God can have me invite non-Christian friends to church; I can encourage people when they're feeling down.)*
- **What is it like knowing that God can use you in amazing ways?** *(It surprises me; it feels good to know that God is powerful enough to use me.)*
- **What are some big things God might be preparing you to do for him in the future?** *(I might become a pastor; God might be preparing me to go to another country to share about Jesus; God might want me to help people.*

Children's Worship Song

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7it5W1FVtTs&ab_channel=ListenerKids



Reading for Lighting the Advent Candle

Reader : We light this lamp as a reminder that God is always with us to comfort, to heal, to strengthen and guide us. God's love draws us home and warms our hearts and spirits.

light the fourth advent candle of Peace

Everyone: Lord of Comforting Light, be with us today as we draw closer to the wondrous event of the Birth of your son. Help us to remember that your light has guided our journey bringing us to this place. Remind us that Mary so willingly said "yes" to you when you asked her to be the one to bear the Christ Child. May we be as eager to serve you as Mary was. AMEN.

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/1966/worship-connection-december-20-2020>



Angel Ornament craft

<https://www.thebestideasforkids.com/angel-craft/>



Scripture Lesson Luke 1:26-38

1:26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,

1:27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

1:28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

1:29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

1:30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

1:31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

1:32 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.

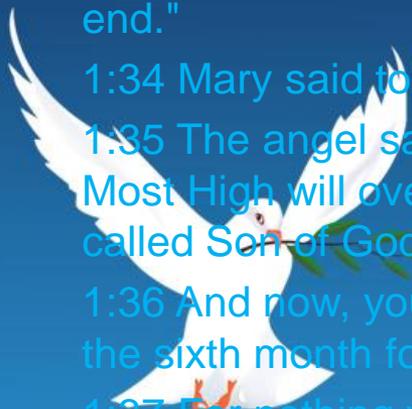
1:33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

1:34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

1:35 The 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.

1:36 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.

1:37 For nothing will be impossible with God."



Be Born in Me

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pB4TK6x6pxA&ab_channel=TheKISMusic



Scripture Lesson

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

7:1 Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him,

7:2 the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent."

7:3 Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

7:4 But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan:

7:5 Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in?

7:6 I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.

7:7 Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"

7:8 Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel;

7:9 and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.

7:10 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly,

7:11 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

7:16 Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.



YOUTH AND ADULT DISCUSSION OR JOURNAL

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 and Luke 1:26-38

When does David realize the situation of where he lives versus where God's "home" is? What does David propose to do about this situation? How do you think David reacted when Nathan announced that instead of David building God a house, God would be building David a house or lineage?

What do we learn about God from this passage? [God is not caught up in appearances. God desires to be among the people, in their hurts and pains as God works to provide a place for them to rest. God desires a people who reflect God's nature (v. 10).]

Who was more surprised in these two stories, David or Mary? Why?

Why is part of the Christmas message that nothing is impossible for God? [The Christmas message is based in the miracle of God coming in the form of a vulnerable infant to a desperate people.]

Imagine salvation is like a house. Where are you in relationship to the house? Still outside? On the porch about to come in? In the doorway? In the hallway headed deeper in the house?

What are your hopes for this Christmas?

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/companys-coming/fourth-sunday-of-advent-year-b-lectionary-planning-notes/fourth-sunday-of-advent-year-b-small-groups>

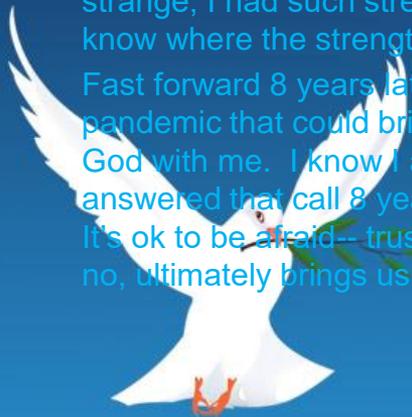


Message

Have you ever felt God calling you to do something that scared you just a little bit? That's what happened to Mary. God called her to do something that took her out of her comfort zone, where she had to put all her trust in God. It was not only out of her comfort zone but it was incredibly frightening. She questioned her own ability to serve but ultimately she responds, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." She responds with complete faith.

I had a similar experience a few years ago. The church nominations committee was concerned about a program in the church. The program was struggling and very disconnected from the church. Many people from the church did not even know it was a church program. It was so separated from the principles that the original founding ministry had intended it to be. I remember sitting in that meeting and feeling so uncomfortable, like I was going to pass out. I felt the urging to volunteer to help but it scared me. I knew I could not walk out of that room without accepting the call. I knew it was something that I had essentially trained for my whole life. I made excuses in my head though. I don't have the time to take this on. This isn't the career I wanted to go into. I'm not strong enough to fight. But I couldn't not do it. No one was forcing me. I was compelled. It was more uncomfortable to say no than to walk away. I agreed to take it on. The work was some of the hardest work I had ever done in my whole life. The constant conflict was unbearable. I have to admit I hate conflict. I'm a chicken. I will run for my life in the face of conflict. In this experience though it was strange, I had such strength and courage. It was what I was called to do. It was too important. Even now, I still don't know where the strength and passion comes from. It can only come from God.

Fast forward 8 years later. I still feel compelled every day to follow God's path for this ministry. Even facing a pandemic that could bring the program to its knees, God is urging and leading me every step of the way. I actually feel God with me. I know I am not alone and I know I am serving exactly where I am supposed to be. I am so glad I answered that call 8 years ago. It is and has been one of the greatest joys in my life. So if you get the call answer it. It's ok to be afraid-- trust God! Trusting God despite our fears, saying yes to God's call even when we feel like saying no, ultimately brings us joy. It's like the kind of joy we celebrate on Christmas.



Worship Song Mary Did you Know

[Mary Did You Know? \(Official Music Video\) | One Voice Children's Choir cover – YouTube](#)



Benediction

God of Light and Hope, in whom there is no darkness, cause your light to shine on us and through us to others, that they may know of you and of your Love. Let us witness to your gift of Jesus who came and taught us how to live as children of Light. Go in peace, dear friends, and know that the God of light, hope, peace, and joy goes with you. AMEN.



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Worship Song

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6kj8pzDLcc8&ab_channel=TheCatLadyJ

