



Mission: To be a church where faith is fostered, community is cherished, and Christ's love thrives.

ENTRANCE

PRELUDE Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy Sharon Reitsma

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP\* Liturgist, Emily Slough

Liturgist: God says, People: "Do not be afraid."  
Liturgist: God says, People: "I have called you by name."  
Liturgist: God says, People: "I will be with you."  
L: God says, P: "You are precious and honored in my sight."  
L: At the beginning of this season, at the start of this week, at the top of this hour,  
All: may we wrap ourselves in these words and begin again, amen!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING\*

HYMN OF PRAISE\* All Earth is Waiting UMH 210

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER Liturgist, Emily Slough

*During the Congregational Prayer, you will be prompted to respond:*

PETITIONS: Liturgist: Lord, in your mercy. People: Hear our prayer.  
PRAISES: Liturgist: Lord, we give you praise. People: Thanks be to God.

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen**

SONG OF REFLECTION An Advent Prayer Flautist, Sharon Reitsma & Chancel Choir

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:26-38 Liturgist, Emily Slough

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 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. 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. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then 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.

L: This is the Word of God for the Children of God P: Thanks be to God

*\*At this time, children can stay with their families for the remainder of worship or join a Family Ministries Team member for children's time and worship.*

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

## PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 9

L: The Lord be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**P: We lift them up to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**P: It is right to give our thanks and praise**L: *(the pastor(s) gives thanks appropriate to the occasion)* ... and join their unending hymn**P: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**L: *(the pastor(s) continues the thanksgiving)* ... as we proclaim the mystery of faith.**P: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**L: *(the pastor(s) invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit)* ... now and forever.**All: AMEN.**

## RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Amy Beth Coleman

## CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING FORTH

## HYMN OF COMMITMENT\*

In Case No One Ever Told You

Words by Anna Strickland

1. In case no one ever told you or you have forgotten, You are a blessing and have been since you were begotten, Fashioned from love, Sent to the earth from above, You're nothing short of a godsend.
2. You are the masterpiece born of God's imagination, Even the parts that are crying out for restoration, All that you are, Born out of stardust and scars, Reflects God's perfect creation.
3. You are uniquely created for love and belonging, Forcing yourself to be someone you're not is exhausting, You are a gift, There is no box you must fit, Let your belovedness blossom.

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH\*

**We believe in a blessing God who calls us Beloved. We believe that this blessing showed up in the life of Mary, and was also bestowed upon the hemorrhaging woman, the poor in spirit, the children, the crowds, the Jews, the Gentiles, the faithful and the doubting. So in faith, we trust that God's blessing, like ripples on the water, forever reaches toward us. And with wild hope, we believe that because of this blessing, we are covered in love. We are more than enough. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## BENEDICTION\*

## POSTLUDE

Response to the Word:

Focus Verse: "But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. – Isaiah 43:1

"You are a blessing—known, chosen, and called for a purpose" –Kayla Craig

Reflect on a time when you experienced loneliness. What practices might help you break free from isolation? How can you support others experiencing loneliness and isolation?

Liturgy by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

