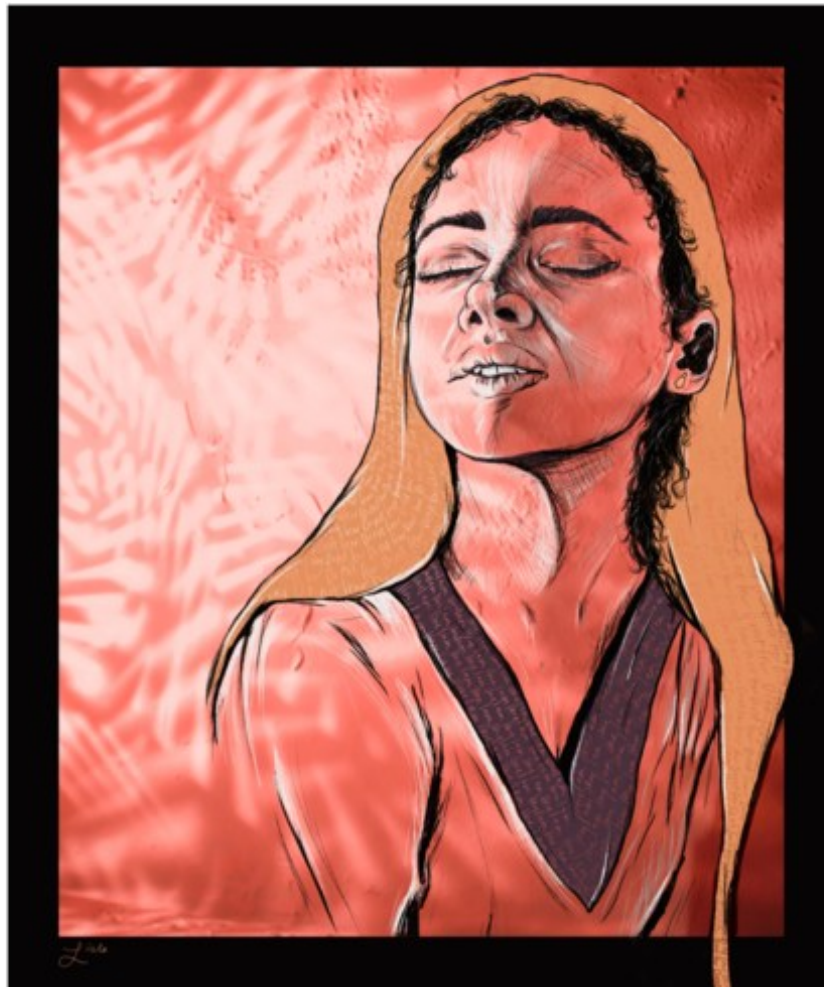


**Peace United Church of Christ
December 14th, 2025
Third Sunday in Advent
10:30am**



Mary's Yes, Lisle Gwynn Garrity
A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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Gathering Music

Tent Show Band

Prelude

Winter from The Four Seasons, Vivaldi

Emily Ramsey, violin

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bells

Choral Call to Worship

And the Glory of the Lord from *Messiah*, G.F. Handel

***And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together:
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.***

*Advent Candle Lighting

The Fena Family

In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of joy?

We see glimmers of joy in birthday candles and homemade cards. We see joy in the laughter of children and the delight of grandparents. We see joy in meals around the table and in the singing of Christmas songs.

You are right. Even in a fearful world, joy is all around us. Today we light the candle of joy as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, joy is here. Joy is real. We only have to look for it.

Thanks be to God for that good news! Amen.

*Song

One Candle Is Lit, verse 3

see insert

*Prayer of Confession

Courageous God, you invite us to live into our call. You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust. Instead of responding with a resounding “yes,” we often hide, deflect, or deny our call. Spark courage in us. Remind us that every person can make a difference. Remind us that even when we’re scared, we are not alone. Step by step, responding to your invitation, we pray. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Beloved, no matter where your path has traveled, today is a new day. So join me in declaring this good news:

We are known. We are forgiven! We are sent to serve. May we step forward in faith, always moving closer to God’s call. Amen.

*Song

The Angel Gabriel

***Of her, Immanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,
“Most highly favored maiden.” Gloria!***

*Passing of the Peace

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26-39, NRSVUE

Amanda McElray Hunter

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.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Story for All Ages

Amanda McElray Hunter
Kate Dean

Sending the Children

**Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
Gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

Introduction to *Barrington Bunny* from *The Way of the Wolf*, Martin Bell Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis
Carol of the Birds, trad. Catalan carol, arr. Jim Pospisil

Part I: Barrington Bunny and the Winter

Bud Trnka

My Lord Has Come, Will Todd, arr. Wendy Durrwachter

Part II: The Squirrels

Phyllis Cook

Canticle of the Turning

**My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?**

Chorus:

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!**

**Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.**

Chorus:

**From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your Justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed for the world is about to turn.**

Chorus:

**Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.**

Chorus:

Part III: The Beavers

Nina Preheim

Gaudete, trad. French carol

**Rejoice, rejoice!
Christ is born
Of the Virgin Mary
Rejoice!**

Part IV: The Field Mice

Joan Peterson

What Child is This

#148, *New Century Hymnal*

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this, the angels sing, is Christ, God's holy offering;
Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mary!**

**Why lies the Child in manger bare where ox and ass are feeding?
Give heed, draw near; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the child of Mary!**

**Bring gifts of incense, gold, and myrrh; come, join in jubilation;
The Holy Child, though meek and mild, has come with God's salvation.
Raise, raise the song on high, the mother sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the child of Mary!**

Part V: The Wolf

Cindy Macaulay

Stables, Peter Mayer

Part VI: Barrington's Gift

Amy Westbrook

In the Manger, Mikhail Mikhaylovich Ippolitov-Ivanov

Part VII: The Baby Field Mouse

Marsha Hystead

One minute pause, Wendy Durrwachter

Part VIII: Christmas Day & Invitation to Prayer

Rev. Laurie Crelly

Serenity (O Magnum Mysterium), Ola Gjeilo

*(During this anthem, you are invited to come forward and light a candle in prayer for loved ones,
yourself, or the world)*

*O great mystery,
and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the newborn Lord,
lying in a manger!
Blessed is the virgin whose womb
was worthy to bear
the Lord, Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!*

Offertory

Wexford Carol, arr. Victor C. Johnson

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Song

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

#144, New Century Hymnal

***Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the Christ-child bring;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinner reconciled!"
Joyful, all you saints arise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angel host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born king!"***

***Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time the Savior comes, off-spring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased on earth with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born king!"***

***Hail the Bearer of God's peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness,
Light and life our Savior brings, risen with radiant, healing wings.
Mildly laying glory by, born that we no more may die.
Born to raise us all from earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing. "Glory to the new born king!"***

*Benediction

Postlude

God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen
arr. Chip Davis of Mannheim Steamroller

Deb Rausch, soloist

Assisting in Today's Service:

Cindy Macaulay and Lyn Kaim, Greeter

Darlene Leafgren, Laurie Berner, and Phyllis Cook, Ushers

Siggy Hunter and Lyra Tennis-Luoma, Nursery Attendants

Debra Kellner, Bridget Reistad, and Cathy Ameal, Coffee Hour Volunteers

Peace United Church of Christ Staff

Alex Nelson - Livestream Technician

Amanda McElray Hunter - Children, Youth and Small Group Coordinator

Bri Dornbush - Office Coordinator

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis - Pastor

Carrie Kelsey - Kitchen Manager

Dan Shepard - Maintenance

Jim Pospisil - Music Director

Rev. Laurie Crelly - Pastoral Care Chaplain

Mali Lorenz - Bookkeeper

Rachel Burnett - Business Manager

Sophia Farell - Soundboard Technician



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