

**Glen Echo Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
December 24, 2023**

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Brian

Greeting One Another in Christian Love

(Please return to your seats to worship when the lights flash.)

PRELUDE “God Rest Ye, Merry Gentle Ones” arr. Bill Wolaver

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE The Brunner Family

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Relatives conceive—one a barren woman, the other a young girl who has not been with a man.

All: How can this be?

One: With God, all things are possible.

All: Our hearts beat with laughter.

One: Our lips sing of God’s glory.

All: Let us magnify the Lord as we worship God this day.

***HYMN OF PRAISE #159 “There’s a Song in the Air”**

**There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire while the angel choirs sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a king!**

**There's a tumult of joy o'er the wonderful birth,
For the virgin's sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.
See, the star rains its fire while the angel choirs sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a king!**

**We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song
That comes down through the night from the heavenly throng,
And we welcome the glorious gospel they bring,
And we greet in the cradle our savior and king.**

***INVOCATION**

***GLORY TO GOD #34**

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

FIRST READING

Luke 1:46-55

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. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

PRAYER HYMN #162 "What Child is This" vv. 1-2

**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?**

Refrain:

**This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud
The babe, the Son of Mary.**

**Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading. (Refrain)**

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

SPECIAL MUSIC

Lowry and Greene, arr. by Judith

"Mary, Did You Know?"

SECOND READING

Luke 1: 39-45, 56-58

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

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

SERMON

"Tis the Season of Love"

Aaron Brunner

HYMN OF PREPARATION #250 "O Breath of Life"

**O Breath of Life, come sweeping through us,
Revive your church with life and power.
O Breath of Life, come, cleanse, renew us,
And fit your church to meet this hour.**

**O Wind of God, come bend us, break us,
Till humbly we confess our need.
Then in your tenderness remake us;
Revive, restore, for this we plead.**

**O Breath of Love, come breathe within us,
Renewing thought and will and heart.
Come, love of Christ, afresh to win us;
Revive your church in every part.**

Invitation to Commune

Carol

Communion Sentences

One: Glorify God this day. Magnify the Lord with all your heart.

All: Sing praises to God who reigns above. Glorify the Lord with gladness.

Prayer of Consecration

(Please partake of the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation.)

Communion Music

arr. Bill Wolaver

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming/Away In a Manger”

***INVITATION AND HYMN OF DEDICATION**

#494 “They’ll Know We are Christians”

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:**

Refrain:

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
(Refrain)**

**We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.
(Refrain)**

**All praise to the Father, from whom all things come
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one.
(Refrain)**

(Please be seated for the Postlude.)

POSTLUDE
BENEDICTION

“Mary Had a Baby”

arr. Craig Curry
Aaron Brunner

**Please stand, if you can.*

Portions of the worship service were adapted from:

The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023: Worship Planning Resources for Every Sunday of the Year. Scifres, Mary and Beu, B.J., Editors. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2022.

News in the Pews

Who to Contact: For general concerns or questions, please contact our President, Kathleen. For pastoral concerns, please contact our Elder Chair, Rosemarie. If you would like to speak with the pastor, please contact Aaron.

Shampoo for the Outreach Committee: Outreach is now collecting shampoo for the kids at juvenile detention. If the shampoo contains conditioner, that's fine, but it does need to be shampoo too. They are also looking for ChapStick – 33 of each item is needed.

Mary's 100th Birthday Party: You are invited to join us for an open house celebrating Mary's 100th birthday. The open house will be held this Wednesday, December 27th from 1 to 4 pm in the church basement. Light refreshments to be served.

Winter Clothes for Kids: The children at Oak Park Elementary are in need of mittens, gloves and hats.

Candlelight Service: Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be tonight at 7:30 p.m. Live baby! All are welcome.

Meyer Hall Volunteers Needed: Come join us as we visit the kids at Meyer Hall on New Year's Eve. Please sign up on the sheet hanging in the hallway.

Poinsettias have been donated by the following people:

Julie & Jeff	in memory of Mike & Lowell
Randy	
Kathy	in memory of Jim
Kathy	in honor of Bev
Bev	
Rosemarie	in memory of Anel
Deb	in memory of Mike & Estel & Carol Jean
John	in memory of Harold & Betty, Mike, Charles, Bill
Jackie	in memory of Bobby, Mr. & Mrs. Orie
Dorothy	in memory of Lowell, Harold & Alice, Lloyd & Esther
Paul & Lori	in memory of Martha & Donald
Ron	in memory of Ryan & his parents
Pam	in memory of Elaine & Elsie

If you ordered a poinsettia, please take it home tonight.

ABIDE WITH US



CHRISTMAS OFFERING

*A Special Day Offering of Disciples Mission Fund
supporting the ministries of our Regional church*



ABIDE WITH US
when we gather to
discover friendship and faith
in summer camps

ABIDE WITH US
when we welcome a new pastor
to our congregation

ABIDE WITH US
when we nurture one who feels called to serve you in ministry

ABIDE WITH US
when we seek to break down barriers of race, gender,
and sexual identity

ABIDE WITH US
when we hold one another accountable and ethical

ABIDE WITH US
when we engage in mission together

ABIDE WITH US
when we gather for assemblies and celebrations

“OH, COME TO US, ABIDE WITH US, OUR LORD EMMANUEL.”

Your Christmas offering equips our Regional church to provide an abiding presence in summer camp settings, congregational life, and leadership gatherings. Your gift enables our shared ministry to give support to Elders, Sunday School teachers, youth group sponsors, worship leaders, seminarians, and pastors. With your gift, connections are made between congregations and among Disciples across our Regional geography and around the world.

*You are invited to make a gift to equip our
Region's presence with your congregation.*



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*2023 Special Day Offering of Disciples Mission Fund
supporting the ministries of our Regional church*



EVENTS FOR THIS WEEK
DECEMBER 24-30, 2023

Sunday	Worship Coffee Fellowship in Lounge Candlelight Service	10:15 AM After church 7:30 PM
Monday	Christmas Day – Office Closed	
Wednesday	Mary's 100 th Birthday	1:00-4:00 PM
Next Sunday	Meyer Hall	6:00 PM

Today's Serving Schedule

Accompanist:	Judith Henry
Deacon:	Julie
Elder:	Carol
Interim Minister:	Aaron Brunner
Videographer:	Teresa
Worship Leader:	Brian

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