

Welcome to Worship  
December 22nd, 2024  
Advent 4

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Prelude                      *What Child Is This?* ~ arr. Sharon Aaronson

Gathering Hymn              *Beauty for Brokenness* ~ W&P #17 (1-2, 5)

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading                      Micah 5:2-5a

*The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.*

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
    who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
    one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
    from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
    when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
    to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
    in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
    to the ends of the earth,

<sup>5a</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

Word of God, word of life  
    **Thanks be to God**

Psalm                              *Turn and Restore Us- Psalm 80*~ Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan

## Gospel

### Luke 1: 39-55

*Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.*

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name;

<sup>50</sup> indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones

and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things

and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has come to the aid of his child Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

## Hymn of the Day

*Canticle of the Turning ~ W&P #26*

## Musical Offering

*Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly ~ Tomlin, Ingram, Barrett*

## Offertory Hymn

*Light Dawns on a Weary World ~ ELW 726 (vs. 1-2, no refrain)*

## Communion Hymn

*Come to the Table ~ ELW 481*

*We Are Waiting for Jesus ~ ACS 905*

## Sending Hymn

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

## Postlude

*Christmas is Coming ~ Vince Guaraldi*

Flowers are in Honor of Fay Thompson