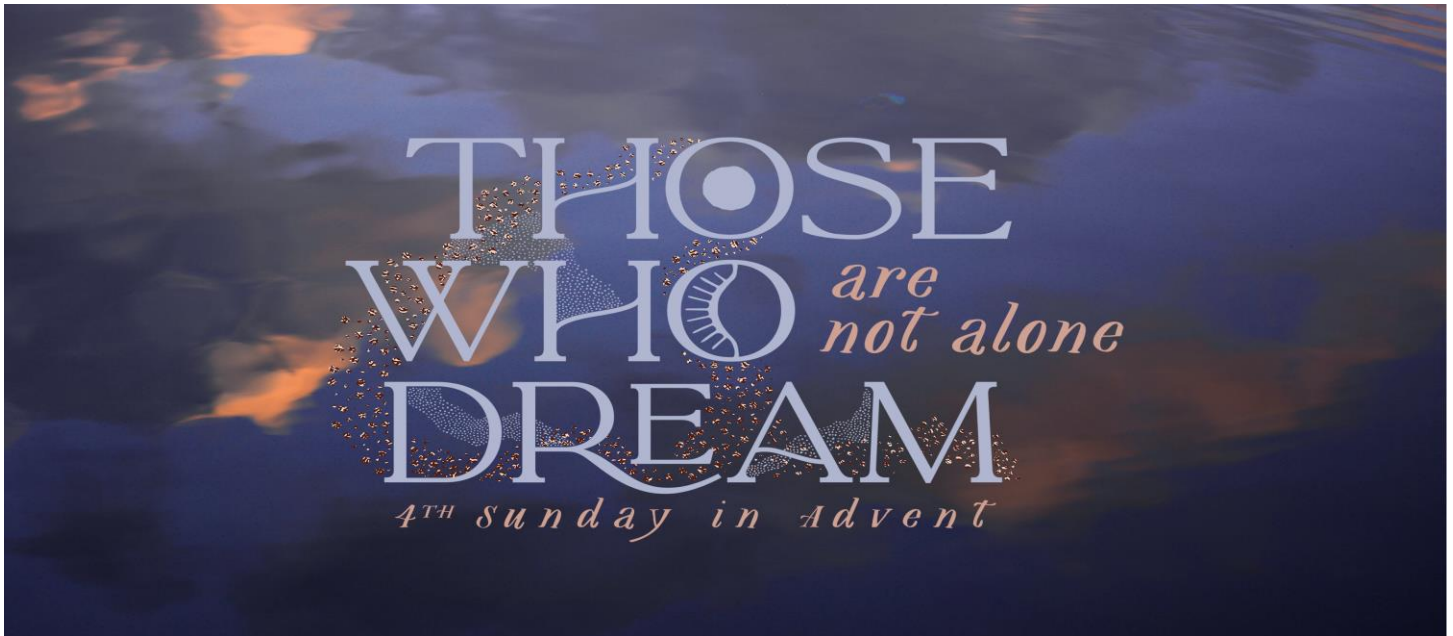


Corbin Presbyterian Church



December 20, 2002

11:00 am

Joy Like Water

based on Luke 1:26-45

Mary went to Elizabeth's house,
Because that's what we do when the world falls apart.
That's what we do when the script is flipped,
When the rug is pulled,
When it rains outside.
We go home.
We find friends.
We find love.

So Mary went to Elizabeth's house,
Harboring good news that must have felt like water—
Something capable of helping her float or pulling her
under.
And only then,
Only there,
In the presence of a face that looked like love,
Does the word, "joy" appear.

Mary said, "How can this be?"
The angel said, "Do not be afraid."
Mary said, "May it be so."
But when Mary went to Elizabeth's house

And Elizabeth opened the door,
Joy—like a tipped cup of water—
Spilled out everywhere.

I imagine that Elizabeth laughed.
I imagine that Mary framed her growing belly.
I imagine that both women pressed palms to stomach
When that baby began to kick,
A holy ritual as old as time.
I imagine that God smiled.
And I imagine, that for the first time,
Mary could float.

Isn't it always the way?
I could harbor joy to myself.
I could tuck joyful moments deep into pockets,
Saving memories of better days for long nights.
But when I share my joy with you,
When you open the door,
Joy spills out everywhere,
And it is love that helps me float.

Poetry Prayer by Sarah Are / A Sanctified Art

*No matter where we worship, God is with us. Worship is a way of life, not just an event or a physical space.
We cultivate sacred space by slowing down and being still enough to recognize God's presence in our midst,
wherever we are. Let us become still and breathe deeply. Let us breathe in God's presence
and breathe out all that separates us from God in this moment. Let us prepare to worship God.*

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude

Exspecto Adventum
(I Await the Arrival)

William Greene

Opening Prayer & Welcome

Call to Worship

This is the season of holy waiting.

We watch for the One who scatters the proud and lifts up the lowly.

We wait for the day when our spirits will rejoice to know God's favor.

We watch while the light of day begins to fill the sky.

Come, let us walk in the light of God.

Let us worship the God of love.

Hymn: Glory to God #108

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

*Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!*

*By his Word was all created; he commended; it was done;
heaven and earth and depths of ocean, universe of three in one,
all that sees the moon's soft shining, all that breathes beneath the sun,
evermore and evermore!*

*O, that birth forever blessed when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!*

Lighting the Candles of the Advent Wreath – The Candle of Love

Watch and wait for Christ's coming! We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light the 1st candle in hope.

We light the 2nd candle for peace.

We light the 3rd candle in joy.

We light this candle with love.

Hear the promise of God's love from Psalm 89:1:

*I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.*

Prayer God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, God of love, you are love, and those who abide in love abide in you. Teach us how to love one another as reflections of your light in the world. God of promise, God of love, into our darkness come. Amen.

Response

LYONS

***The candle of love tells what we are worth: God loves us so much, God came to the earth!
An angel brought news of a child who would be the one who would save us and set us all free.***

Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2015. Used by permission.

Prayer of Confession

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in pride and possessions. Though we know your story of love, we resist the costs of following you fully. We sometimes pass by those considered lowly or turn away those who are hungry. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. Turn any apathy we carry into acts of love and service.

We pray in the name of the One for whom we wait. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

GLORIA

Hearing and Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Luke 1:26-45

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 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. 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. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ 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.

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



A Dream Confirmed | by Lisle Gwynn Garrity Inspired by Luke 1:26-45 | Digital painting

Artist Statement: Did it feel like a dream when the angel approached?
"Greetings, favored one!"

Did her mind spin as she pondered the impossibility of it all? "You will bear a son...and he will be great."

Did she lose her balance when she realized the gravity of her call? "The child will be holy...the Son of God."

Did her legs get weak after the words left her lips? "Here I am...let it be."

In the quiet that followed, did she question everything? Did she realize what this would mean—for her family, for Joseph, for her future? Did she realize she would be perceived as impure, as a threat to patriarchy, power, and proprietary? Did fear cloak her, like a garment pulled too tight?

And so, in a haze she runs away—seeking refuge in the hill country, retreating to family who would keep her safe and help her make sense of her world turned upside down.

As soon as she falls into Elizabeth's arms, Elizabeth knows and feels it to be true. *Yes, I feel it too. We are pregnant with promise. We carry this together.* This is not a dream deferred. It is a dream confirmed, a dream shared. A dream that will birth joy.

In this image, Mary and Elizabeth's bodies are tenderly intertwined. Halos, like crescent moons, encircle each of them and their wombs, signaling the cosmic change they bring forth.

Responding to the Word

Hymn: Glory to God #99

My Soul Gives Glory to My God: Mary's Song

MORNING SONG

*My soul gives glory to my God; my heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.*

*My God has done great things for me: yes, holy is God's name.
All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.*

*From age to age to all who fear, such mercy love imparts,
Dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.*

*Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure,
Leaves hungry spirits satisfied; the rich seem suddenly poor.*

*Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,
Remembering past promises with present faithfulness.*

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

...we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught his disciples to pray, saying, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering & Prayer of Dedication

Even though we cannot present our gifts during an in-person service of worship today, we still respond with gratitude for the gifts God has given to us. Tithes and offerings may be sent to Corbin Presbyterian Church, 601 Master St., Corbin, KY 40701.

Response

*We give thee but thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone, A trust, O Lord from thee.*

SCHUMANN

Following the Word into the World

Hymn: Glory to God #110

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

*Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love!
Glory to God on high.*

*Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!*

Charge & Blessing

Postlude

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN



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Phone: 606-528-1444 Website: www.corbinpres.org Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CorbinPresby/>
Zoom link for worship: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83307369561?pwd=NUJocHNlNmNMZEtiOUdGRW0vcEwzdz09>

The Reverend Lisa R. Eye, Pastor
Clay Howard, Director of Music/Organist
Mary Begley, Administrative Assistant
David Hoskins, Treasurer

Session

Class of 2020
Karen Nies

Class of 2021
Tom Fish
Bob Martin

Class of 2022
Janet Martin
Doralene Webb

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am – 1pm
Rev. Eye may be reached by calling the Church Office or by email: pastor@corbinpres.org