



SERVICE OF MIDDAY PRAYER FOR ADVENT

December 16, 2020

First Presbyterian Church

THE SONG OF MARY

OPENING SENTENCES

Our help is in the name of the Lord. Ps. 124:8
Maker of heaven and earth.

The mountains and the hills Isa. 55:12
Shall break forth into singing,
And all of the trees of the forest shall clap their hands.

For behold, our Lord and Ruler is coming to reign forever.
Alleluia! Come, Lord Jesus.

LIGHTING OF CANDLES

HYMN 108

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINIUM MYSTERIUM

This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word.
Now he shines, the long-expected. Let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven, adore him. Angel hosts, his praises sing.
Powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent; every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of Elizabeth and Mary,
you visited your servants with news of the world's redemption
in the coming of the Savior.
Make our hearts leap with joy,
and fill our mouths with songs of praise,
that we may announce glad tidings of peace,
and welcome the Christ in our midst. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Luke 1:26-56

Before the reading:

As God has spoken through the prophets, now God speaks to us. Hear the word of the Lord. Lk 1:70

After the reading:

This is the promise of God to our ancestors and to us. **Thanks be to God.** Lk 1:72

CANTICLE: THE SONG OF MARY

Hymn 100

Canticle of the Turning

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

1. 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?

Refrain:

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.

2. 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. **R**

3. 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 every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. **R**

4. 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,
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. **R**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

HYMN 158

Born in the Night, Mary's Child

MARY'S CHILD

1. Born in the night, Mary's Child, a long way from your home;
coming in need, Mary's Child, born in a borrowed room.

2. Clear shining light, Mary's Child, your face lights up our way;
Light of the world, Mary's Child, dawn on our darkened day.

3. Truth of our life, Mary's Child, you tell us God is good;
yes, it is true, Mary's Child, shown on your cross of wood.

4. Hope of the world, Mary's Child, you're coming soon to reign;
King of the earth, Mary's Child, walk in our streets again.

BLESSING

Jesus says: I am coming soon.

Rev. 22:20

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

The God of peace be with us. **Amen.**

Bless the Lord. **The Lord's name be praised.**