



**Music**

“I Wonder as I Wander”  
<https://youtu.be/CWwO296zaKA>

Heather Tower

**Gathering Prayer**

Linda Hescock

**Holy God, who has done wonderful things for us, we worship you with thanks and praise. We turn to you with hope and trust. We come to this place humbly seeking your mercy and grace. We bring our spiritual hunger, hoping to be fed. We bring our weariness, longing to find rest for our souls. We bring our dullness, asking that we might be awakened by your light. We bring our brokenness, seeking to be made whole. You have promised to be with us. Reveal yourself to us here, we pray, in the name of One who came to share our common lot. Amen.**

**Gloria Patri**

<https://youtu.be/OLz3R1hnUjs>

**Music**

“In the Bleak Mid-Winter”  
[https://youtu.be/jwStDK2\\_qpw](https://youtu.be/jwStDK2_qpw)

Justina Golden

**Scripture**

Luke 1:26-38

Rosemary Dawson

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.

<sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

<sup>32</sup>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.

<sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” <sup>35</sup>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. <sup>36</sup>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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup>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.

Luke 1:47-55

Linda Hescock

<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 lowliness 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> 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 thoughts 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 helped his servant 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.”

**Music**

“For Unto Us a Child is Born”  
<https://youtu.be/sFdOpZWnwmI>

Lynne Walker and Chris Harris

**Sermon**

“Plans Change”

Rosemary Dawson

Plans Change. That seems to be an understatement during this year. But Plans Change – and sometimes that is good. My joy this Sunday is that plans change. My intention was to have a ‘standard’ Advent service today with a ‘traditional’ Christmas Eve service on Thursday. But Plans Change. And so, today we are blessed with a very ‘musical’ Sunday and it is great!

I think that is what it was like for Mary. A young virgin – a girl – was planning a traditional marriage to an older man named Joseph. That is, until the angel Gabriel meets her one day and surprises her with the news that she will be the mother of the Christ. OK, Change of Plans. It was shocking for her, and confusing. We hear it and see it in her reactions...

“She was deeply troubled by his words....  
 and tried to discern the meaning of his greeting.”  
 “But how can I have a baby? (she asked the angel) I am a virgin.”

So when Gabriel shares with her the power of the Holy Spirit to conceive the Messiah through her she knows Plans have Changed. And she is ready for it; She shifts all her expectations, all her plans and hopes and dreams; and she replies

“I am the Lord’s maid, ready to serve. Let’s do it.”

And in saying Yes to God her heart is filled with joy and hope, and she sings out

“My soul is ecstatic, overflowing with praise to my Lord.  
 Though I am God’s lowly servant,  
 he looked with kindness upon me.  
 And now all people will say that I am blessed  
 because the Mighty One has done this great thing for me.”

It is a gift of profound grace and gift of God’s favor; all because Plans have Changed for Mary - but also for us. This season, this year, Plans have Changed, many times (and they will continue to change). But here is the surprising gift in the midst of change – God is working to fulfill his promises in our midst – the same promises Mary sang of – mercy, justice, abundance, vindication.

Plans Change – and when we are open to change, when we can say “I am God’s servant, ready to do his will” then we will also know God’s blessing and favor; and our hearts will soar with Joy.

Amen.

## Hymn

‘Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (Huron Carol) vs 1, 4  
<https://youtu.be/3DtOqcFBOqk>

'Twas in the moon of winter-time When all the birds had fled,  
That mighty Gitchi Manitou Sent angel choirs instead;  
Before their light the stars grew dim, And wandering hunter heard the hymn:  
"Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, In excelsis gloria."

O children of the forest free, O sons of Manitou,  
The Holy Child of earth and heaven Is born today for you.  
Come kneel before the radiant Boy Who brings you beauty, peace and joy.  
"Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, In excelsis gloria."

## Joys and Concerns

As you meet with God in prayer, please lift up the joys and concerns shared through the Trumpet Blast. God is eager to be your help and strength, to listen to you and meet your needs. Prayer is a gift we can always use.

## Prayers of the People

Rosemary Dawson

Holy and Wondrous God, we thank you and praise you for the impossible working of your grace. We thank you for the wonder of Christ’s birth and for the new birth of your Spirit within us. We thank you also that you invite us to live as God-bearers in your world. As so we come before you now, like Mary, willing to see your purpose accomplished through us.

And so we pray, faithful God, for your church and for this congregation. Grant that we may continually recognize your presence and celebrate your mercy. Fill us with the joy of knowing ourselves to be your people, and empower us to live as servants of your grace, that we may carry your salvation to all the world.

We pray for all who are called as leaders among us. May recognize your sovereignty and seek to establish your way of justice and righteousness in the world. And we pray also for all who are in need this day. Grant that the lowly may be raised up, the sorrowful know peace, the needy be filled, and the wounded be made whole. We especially lift up the joy of ... and remember before you the needs of... Grant to all of us the joy of your grace as we walk in faith and service to Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray...

## Lord’s Prayer

## Choral Response

[https://youtu.be/1AivVHv\\_abc](https://youtu.be/1AivVHv_abc)

**Music**

“Once in Royal David’s City”  
<https://youtu.be/qjtQSIIdMx4A>

Suzan Smith and Peter Shea

**Offering**

Rosemary Dawson

God’s favor comes to us as an unmerited gift. God’s blessings reach the world through those who answer God’s call. We have the opportunity, like Mary, to respond to God with our all. May what we offer today build up God’s kingdom, by lifting up the lowly, filling the needy with good things, and sharing with all the good news of salvation. Let us dedicate our gifts with joy.

We give our best to you, loving God, for you have given your best to us in the incarnation of Christ. May our offerings proclaim Jesus in ways that will be received with joy. Send your Word to the world in this season through our caring service. We are your servants. Use us as you will. Amen.

**Doxology**

<https://youtu.be/5I7PEGUPAXQ>

**Hymn**

The First Noel vs 1-2  
<https://youtu.be/muk8hb8z744>

The First Noel, the Angels did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the East beyond them far  
And to the earth it gave great light  
And so it continued both day and night  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

**Common Commission**

**Let us go forth into the world in peace, being of good courage, holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no one evil for evil, strengthening the faint-hearted, supporting the weak, helping the afflicted, honoring all persons, loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

**Hymn**

Hark the Herald Angels Sing vs 1-3  
<https://youtu.be/smprYWXarDU>

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:  
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King"

**Benediction**

Rosemary Dawson

Go now into the world

With your souls giving glory to God,  
and your spirits rejoicing in God our Savior. Luke 1:46-47 (adj)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Postlude**

“O How Joyfully”  
<https://youtu.be/7BEjXdP1NT4>

Lynne Walker