

# Calvary United Methodist Church

*Sunday, December 20, 2020; 10:15 am*

## Welcome and Announcements

### Prelude

*Dee Freeman*

### Call To Worship

Leader: Now is the time of watching and waiting.

People: **The time of pregnant expectation of new life.**

Leader: Now is the season of hope unfolding.

People: **The dark winter season when hope is waiting to be born.**

Leader: Let us come before God with receptive and willing spirits.

People: **May our souls magnify God's name and may our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!**

All: **Rejoice! God comes to bring the birthday of life and hope. Amen.<sup>1</sup>**

### Invocation of the Spirit

### Opening Hymn

*To God Be the Glory*

See the next page for the lyrics.

### First Testament Lesson:

*2 Samuel 7:1-11,16*

“Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.” But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I

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<sup>1</sup> (Ruth Duck, *Bread for the Journey*, Pilgrim Press, 1981, p.18-19.)

will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house." "Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever."

(2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 NRSV)

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

We live on the brink every day. We stand on the threshold between this world and the next one. We live and move between the ordinary and divine, between the mundane and the mystery. Too often, we forget to look up and see the angels in our living room. We forget that the love we give and live is a sign of eternity, God with us, right now. We forget that company is coming.

**Luke tells us that God's favor came to a girl, an ordinary girl. It might have been you or your daughter; it might have been the girl down the street or your grandchild. But the messenger of God came and greeted her and said, "The Lord is with you." What a gift and a promise: Emmanuel, God is with us.**

We light these candles with peace in our hearts for the promise of proximity, the nearness of God. Even when we forget to listen, to lean into that presence, God is as close as our own breath. This, in a confused and confusing world, is a peace that passes all understanding. It is the peace that knows that company is coming.

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel.**

### **Declaration of Praises**

### **Sharing of Prayer Concerns**

### **Prayer Time**

### **Scripture Lesson**

*Luke 1:26-38*

"In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord



10:15 am Worship

God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” 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. 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. For nothing will be impossible with God.” 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 1:26–38, NRSV)

**Sermon**

*Rev. Matthew Williams*

*Company's Coming: Waiting on the Threshold*

**Closing Hymn**

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

See the next page for the lyrics.

**Benediction**

## To God Be the Glory

1. To God be the glo-ry, great things he hath done! So loved he the  
 2. O per - fect re-demp-tion, the pur-chase of blood, to ev-ery be -  
 3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done, and great our re-

world that he gave us his Son, who yield - ed his life an a -  
 liev - er the prom-ise of God; the vil - est of - fend - er who  
 joic-ing thru Je - sus the Son; but pur - er, and high - er, and

tone-ment for sin, and o-pened the life-gate that all may go in.  
 tru - ly be - lieves, that mo-ment from Je - sus a par-don re - ceives.  
 great - er will be our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

*Refrain*

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the

Lord, praise the Lord, let the peo-ple re - joice! O come to the Fa-ther thru

Je - sus the Son, and give him the glo-ry, great things he hath done!



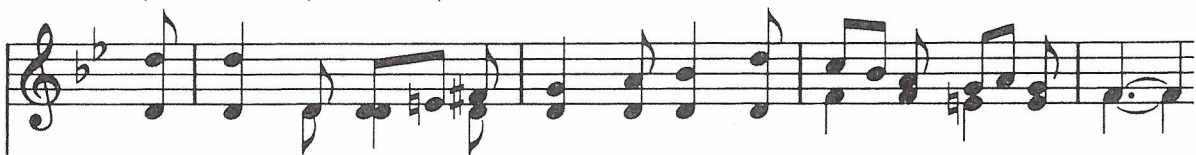
# It Came upon the Midnight Clear 210



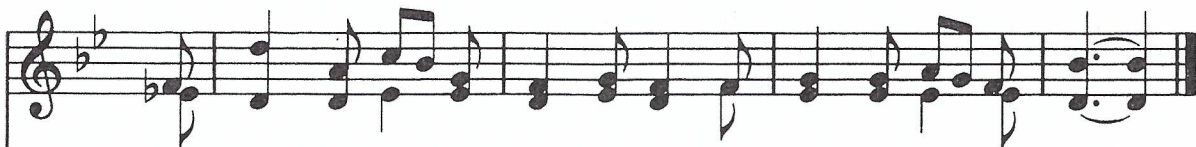
1. It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,  
 2. Still through the clo-ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un-furled,  
 3. And ye, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,  
 4. For lo! the days are has-tening on, by proph-et seen of old,



from an-gels bend-ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
 and still their heaven-ly mu-sic floats o'er all the wea-ry world;  
 who toil a-long the climb-ing way with pain-ful steps and slow,  
 when with the ev-er-cir-cling years shall come the time fore-told



"Peace on the earth, good will to men,\* from heaven's all-gracious King."  
 a-bove its sad and low-ly plains, they bend on hover-ing wing,  
 look now! for glad and gold-en hours come swift-ly on the wing.  
 when peace shall o-ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol-emn still-ness lay, to hear the an-gels sing.  
 and ev-er o'er its Ba-bel sounds the bless-ed an-gels sing.  
 O rest be-side the wea-ry road, and hear the an-gels sing!  
 and the whole world send back the song which now the an-gels sing.



\*"all" may be substituted

WORDS: Edmund H. Sears, 1849 (Lk. 2:8-14)  
 MUSIC: Richard Storrs Willis, 1850

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