

Sermon "Crazy Love" Rev. Dr. Dana Sutton

Hymn "No Wind at the Window" No. 101

The Offering of God's People

* **Offertory Response** "Lord of All Good" No. 711 v. 1

* **Prayer of Dedication**

We give you thanks, Holy One, for all good things: for this universe and for Earth itself, for creatures and plants, for water and food, for light and darkness; for Jesus, our brother, who enlarged our vision, setting himself before us as the bread and wine of abundant life; and for the Holy Spirit, who comes to us in baptism and moves in our midst with the power to lead us to you. Turn our offerings to your good will, and turn us always to you in gratitude. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

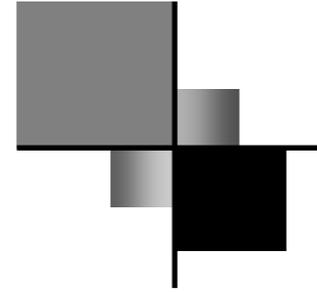
(After each petition, the pastor will say, "Hear us, O God," and the congregation responds with, "Your mercy is great." We conclude with The Lord's Prayer found on p. 35 in the hymnal).

* **Hymn** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" No. 127

* **Benediction**

Go from this place to reap the harvest of God's love. Go from this place to continue to sow seeds of justice, peace, and love. Go from this place to nourish and to be nourished, knowing that God is ever a part of our lives. Amen.

* **Benediction Response**



Highlawn

Presbyterian Church

DECEMBER 8, 2019
2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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** Those who are able, please stand for the parts of worship indicated with an asterisk*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

Arr. Steve Calderone

*God rest ye merry gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Savior
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray
Oh tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
Oh tidings of comfort and joy*

Advent Candle Lighting

HPC Youth

Call to Worship

Leader: Christ, the One who was, and is, and is to come, welcomes you to this place. As one body, with one voice, we honor and glorify the giver of wisdom, counsel, knowledge, and joy.

People: Amen. So be it.

* Hymn

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

No. 82

Invitation to Confession

Let us lay before God and one another the distances between us, the impatience, idolatries, and lack of compassion that form our confessions this day. For if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves. Yet in mercy, God will forgive us and renew us.

Prayer of Confession *(Unison)*

Gracious and welcoming God, have mercy on your people. We confess that we do not believe in your incarnation. We do not heed your word each day in all that we say and do. We do not see our neighbors, families, and friends as beloved children whom you have made. In your mercy, forgive us, for we repent of our ways and look to your power to heal us and raise us up, so that, at the last, you will gather us to you and give us peace.

(Please observe a moment of silent, personal confession)

Assurance of Pardon

The reign of God has come near; the repentant will be judged with righteousness. You are forgiven. Be filled with hope, believing in the power of the risen Christ to bring you to new life. Rejoice and believe.

* Passing of the Peace

Let's celebrate forgiveness and new possibilities by greeting each other with words of peace and welcome.

(Please stand and share God's peace as you feel led).

Children's Message

Anthem

"To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary"

Rusty Edwards

Scripture

Luke 1:26-56

The Message

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to the Galilean village of Nazareth to a virgin engaged to be married to a man descended from David. His name was Joseph, and the virgin's name, Mary. Upon entering, Gabriel greeted her:

Good morning! You're beautiful with God's beauty, Beautiful inside and out!

God be with you.

She was thoroughly shaken, wondering what was behind a greeting like that. But the angel assured her, "Mary, you have nothing to fear. God has a surprise for you: You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and call his name Jesus.

He will be great,

be called 'Son of the Highest.'

The Lord God will give him

the throne of his father David;

He will rule Jacob's house forever—

no end, ever, to his kingdom."

Mary said to the angel, "But how? I've never slept with a man."

The angel answered,

The Holy Spirit will come upon you,

the power of the Highest hover over you;

Therefore, the child you bring to birth

will be called Holy, Son of God.

"And did you know that your cousin Elizabeth conceived a son, old as she is? Everyone called her barren, and here she is six months pregnant!

Nothing, you see, is impossible with God."

And Mary said,

Yes, I see it all now:

I'm the Lord's maid, ready to serve.

Let it be with me just as you say.

Then the angel left her.

Mary didn't waste a minute. She got up and traveled to a town in Judah in the hill country, straight to

Zachariah's house, and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby in her womb leaped. She was filled with the Holy Spirit, and sang out exuberantly,

You're so blessed among women,

and the babe in your womb, also blessed!

And why am I so blessed that

the mother of my Lord visits me?

The moment the sound of your

greeting entered my ears,

The babe in my womb

skipped like a lamb for sheer joy.

Blessed woman, who believed what God said, believed every word would come true!

And Mary said,

I'm bursting with God-news;

I'm dancing the song of my Savior God.

God took one good look at me, and look what happened—

I'm the most fortunate woman on earth!

What God has done for me will never be forgotten, the God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others.

His mercy flows in wave after wave

on those who are in awe before him.

He bared his arm and showed his strength,

scattered the bluffing braggarts.

He knocked tyrants off their high horses,

pulled victims out of the mud.

The starving poor sat down to a banquet;

the callous rich were left out in the cold.

He embraced his chosen child, Israel;

he remembered and piled on the mercies, piled them high.

It's exactly what he promised,

beginning with Abraham and right up to now.

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months and then went back to her own home.