

**December 6, 2020**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

<https://youtu.be/xhYu0-umDhs> - Worship Video

**Prelude Song**

**Welcome**

Welcome to worship at Merville United Methodist Church.  
I am Pastor Jill Clem and I am so happy you are joining me today.  
As we worship, I hope you will feel the presence of God

**Announcements**

- Per my decision we are following the direction of Bishop Laurie and the Appointive Cabinet to cease in-person worship at this time. Please join us online each Sunday as we worship and celebrate this Advent season.
- We will return to in-person worship on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Advent Devotionals are emailed each Friday for you to use in your home with your family. If you would like to receive these emails, please email me at [jill.clem@iaumc.net](mailto:jill.clem@iaumc.net).
- Please note that the church building does remain closed to visitors. If you are in need of speaking to Holli or Pastor Jill please call the church office.
- Please be sure to check for updated information on our Facebook page and our website.
- You can find the full worship videos on our website at [mervilleumc.org](http://mervilleumc.org) and our You Tube channel under Merville United Methodist Church.
- We encourage you to continue to mail in your gifts and offerings to the church office or you may set up online giving by contacting Holli our administrative secretary. You will need to fill out a form and provide a voided check.

**Gathering Words**

In the midst of our busy time, when we are in the rush to Christmas,  
the Lord bursts into our lives with the tantalizing promise of something new.  
Today, may our hearts and spirits be open to the glorious possibilities  
of hope and peace to come.  
May our lives be open to receive the Good News.  
Let us worship together.

**Lighting of the Advent Candle – Peace**

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.

**Song**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vss. 1 & 4)*

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1. *O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*
  
4. *O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree,  
an ensign of thy people be;  
before thee rulers' silent fall;  
all peoples on thy mercy call.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**Unison Call to Worship**

**Now is the time, let us pause.**

**As we wait, may we hear the voice of God.**

**Now is the time, let us watch.**

**In our homes, at our work, even while waiting in line may we see the face of Christ.**

**Now is the moment, let us prepare our hearts.**

**In our words, in our hearts, in all we say and do may God's extravagant love shine through.**

**Opening Prayer**

Loving God, our spirits do rejoice in all your gracious acts towards us, most of all, the event we so look forward to—the wonderful and precious gift of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. We give thanks for the willingness of Mary to believe that the impossible could and would happen. Help us to have a like faith. Open our hearts and minds to believe that your promises can come to surprising fulfillment. Show us how we can best serve you with mercy and in humility, empowering people to live lives of dignity and worth.

As we look at our television screens and read accounts of people throughout the world who are being made powerless because of the greed and violence of others, remind us of the great possibility of prayer to effect changes for good. To bring down the powerful and to lift up the lowly; to fill those who are hungry and to drive away those who profit by the weakness and ignorance of others. Be with all those who feel that life holds no hope and help them and each of us truly to believe O God, that with you, nothing is impossible.

Lord, be with us all, for we ask these things in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray...

## Lord's Prayer

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

## Song

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*  
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*1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;  
behold, the King of glory waits;  
the King of kings is drawing near;  
the Savior of the world is here!*

*2 Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
make it a temple, set apart  
from earthly use for heaven's employ,  
adorned with prayer and love and joy.*

*3 Redeemer, come, with us abide;  
our hearts to thee we open wide;  
let us thy inner presence feel;  
thy grace and love in us reveal.*

*4 Thy Holy Spirit lead us on  
until our glorious goal is won;  
eternal praise, eternal fame  
be offered, Savior, to thy name!*

## Words of Preparation

Speak to us, Lord, through these scriptures.  
Remind us again of your everlasting power.  
May we know your story and our place within it.  
May we remember your mighty works and deeds,  
that we might know that you are the God of all ages.  
May we claim your promise and share your love.  
We are listening, Lord; speak to us today.

## Scripture – Luke 1:47-55 (New Living Translation)

<sup>47</sup> How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

<sup>48</sup> For he took notice of his lowly servant girl,  
and from now on all generations will call me blessed.

<sup>49</sup> For the Mighty One is holy,  
and he has done great things for me.

<sup>50</sup> He shows mercy from generation to generation  
to all who fear him.

<sup>51</sup> His mighty arm has done tremendous things!  
He has scattered the proud and haughty ones.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down princes from their thrones  
and exalted the humble.

<sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away with empty hands.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel  
and remembered to be merciful.

<sup>55</sup> For he made this promise to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and his children forever.”

**Message**

“Mary’s Song”

*Pastor Jill*

**Responsive Prayer**

**We will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;**

**Our souls magnify the Lord;**

**With our mouths we proclaim God’s faithfulness to all generations**

**Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.**

**We declare that your steadfast love is established forever;**

**His mercy is to those who fear him**

**from generation to generation.**

**Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

**He has filled the hungry with good things,**

**and sent the rich away empty.**

**You are our God and the Rock of our salvation.**

**Special Music**

*Mary Did You Know?*

*Lisa Fouts*

CCLI: #2467810

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?  
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?  
This child that you’ve delivered, will soon deliver you*

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm the storm with his hand?  
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?  
When you kiss your little baby, you kiss the face of God*

*Mary, did you know? (Did you know?)  
Mary, did you know?  
Mary, did you know? (Mary, did you know?)  
Mary, did you know? (Mary, did you know?)  
Mary, did you know?*

*The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again  
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the lamb!*

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day rule the nations?  
Did you know that your baby boy is Heaven’s perfect Lamb?  
That sleeping child you’re holding is the great I am*

*Mary, did you know? (Mary, did you know?)*

*Mary, did you know? (Mary, did you know?)*

*Mary, did you know? (Mary, did you know?)*

Thank you for joining us for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent worship service.

We hope you have a glorious week filled with God's blessings and the hope of a beautiful tomorrow.

**Blessing**

Never put your faith in worldly status,

and never underestimate your heavenly importance.

Let your trust in the coming of Christ soar within you like wings of joy.

Go out into the world and serve one another as God-bearers.

Let your soul magnify the Lord,

and you spirit rejoice in God your Savior.

Grace, mercy and peace, from God our Creator,

through Jesus our Savior,

in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit our Nurturer,

be with you this day and evermore.

Amen!