

Covenant United Methodist Church

www.covenant-umc.org

**20301 Pleasant Ridge Drive
Montgomery Village, MD 20886
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**December 13, 2020
3rd Sunday of Advent
Virtual and Indoor Worship Bulletin**



**Contours of Mary's Dream, digital painting by Lauren Wright Pittman
Inspired by Luke 1:46-55**

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

This Joy

Resistance Revival Chorus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TbDPwA09Bc>

Credits: This Joy Composed by Shirley Caesar Produced by Tiffany Gouché and Abena Koomson-Davis Lead vocals, Abena Koomson-Davis Vocals, Resistance Revival Chorus

Call to Worship

Once upon a time, there was a choir that faced a terrible reality.
They couldn't sing together every Wednesday in the choir room.
They couldn't sit together every Sunday in the choir loft.
They couldn't prepare and practice together for the annual Christmas Cantata.
As they faced all they couldn't do, tears filled their eyes.

But the choir director, knowing her people and having great faith, said to them,
"this is hard, but we can always find good if we look for it."
And so they practiced their songs and sang separately but together on SMULE,
The Zoomed and laughed and prayed together,
And they made a new plan for a Christmas music Sunday.

It was not the same, but it was good, so good.
Friends, anytime we gather together, in any way, from any place, to worship God as
best we can in word and song....we sow joy.

Come, let us worship God.

"Adapted from a prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org."

Opening Song

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Chancel Choir

Song

Waiting
Chancel Choir

Pepper Choplin

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Joy

Rhonda Von Ballmoos & Florence Thomas

Song

Heirlooms
Duet: Deidre Post Marshal and David Post

Amy Grant

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture

Luke 1: 6-55

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Song

Mary Did You Know

Mark Lowry-Buddy Green

Vocals: Jenn Simpson, Nancy Wilcox, Wayne Brunk, Ron Davison, Paul Rabenhorst

Poem

Mary

written by Sarah Are
Sanctifiedart.org

Song

Breath of Heaven

Chris Eaton-Amy Grant/Lloyd Larson

Duet: Laurie Augustino and Anita Stonebraker

Payer of Confession, Pastoral and Lord's Prayer

O Great Songwriter,

With a world full of song and melody, there should be no end to our joy.

And yet, instead of decorating our beings with joy, we let it slip away like loose change,

Instead of singing like Mary, or dancing like David,

we become focused on that which we cannot have or cannot do.

Forgive us, we pray.

Teach us the ways of trees that surrender their leaves and yet dance in the winds of winter.

Teach us the ways of puppies, who wriggle and yelp and run with abandon.

Teach us the ways of children, who laugh and dance and sing as if joy is the very thing that keeps them alive.

Teach us to live in joy and to sow joy in the world.

Song

O Come to Set Us Free
Chancel Choir

Mary McDonald

Affirmation of Faith

Great Creator,

We are in awe of you.

We will never know how you managed to dream up

**Mountains and valleys,
Freckles, dimples, and curly hair,
A cool morning mist,
The change of seasons,
Or the magic of music.
Your greatness is beyond our reckoning.
And because we are in awe of you,
We believe we must follow Mary's lead
And allow our souls to sing.
We believe that the appropriate reaction to your goodness
Is complete gratitude,
Which looks like love for our neighbor,
Justice for the poor,
Food for the hungry,
And joy that overflows.
And even though we do not always believe in ourselves,
We believe that our song is pleasing to you.
We believe. Help our unbelief.
In Christ's name we pray, amen.**

Song

When Love Was Born
Bernie Helms, Mark Schultz & Stephanie Lewis
Solo: Deanna Duff

Invitation to Offering

Song

Silent Night, Holy Night
Franz Gruber-Joseph Mohr/arr Mark Hayes
Chancel Choir

Benediction