Contours of Mary’s Dream, digital painting by Lauren Wright Pittman
Inspired by Luke 1:46-55
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
Pepper Choplin
Chancel Choir

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Joy
Rhonda Von Ballmoos & Florence Thomas

Song
Heirlooms
Amy Grant
Duet: Deidre Post Marshal and David Post

Prayer of Illumination
Scripture
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
Mary McDonald
Chancel Choir

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