



## "From Generation to Generation"

Week 4, December 18, 2022: "We Are God In Each Other"

### Gathering Music

### Announcements

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Worship Leader: Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked the question, "What makes you feel connected; what makes you feel loved?" From the voices of different generations, hear their answers:

Older Adult: Handwritten notes.

Adult: Casseroles.

Teenager: Being invited in.

Child: Reading a book together.

Older Adult: The passing of the peace.

Adult: Family walks.

Teenager: Youth group.

Child: When I see my friends at preschool.

Older Adult: Surprise phone calls.

Adult: Making music with other people.

Teenager: Home-cooked food.

Child: Belly laughs.

Older Adult: Eye contact.

Adult: Dinner parties.

Teenager: An inside joke.

Child: Hugs.

Older Adult: Dancing with my partner in the kitchen.

Teenager: Today we light the candle of love as a reminder that from the very first generation, God has surrounded us with love. May this good news—these threads of love—not only weave deeper connections between neighbors, but shape our actions and allow us to see God more clearly.

*Another worship leader or reader lights the candle.*

Teenager: In a lonely world, let this light shine bright. From generation to generation, we are held in God's love. Thanks be to God for that good news. Amen.

<sup>1</sup>People, look east. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Guest, is on the way

<sup>3</sup>Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,  
One more light the bowl shall brim,  
Shining beyond the frosty weather,  
Bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Star, Is on the way.

<sup>2</sup>Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
One more seed is planted there.  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
That in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sign today:  
Love the Rose, is on the way.

<sup>4</sup>Angels announce with shouts of mirth  
him who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
With the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Lord, Is on the way.

### Call to Confession/Prayer of Confession/Words of Forgiveness

#### ***call to confession***

One of the greatest gifts *and* challenges of faith is that we cannot be Christian alone. We *need* one another. We need one another to grow. We need one another to love. And we need one another to see God more clearly. So together, let us lift our voices in unison. Let us lean into the ties that bind and pray to our merciful God.

#### ***prayer of confession***

**God of today and tomorrow, When Mary was pregnant and afraid, she ran to her cousin Elizabeth's house. Elizabeth threw open the door with joy and showered blessings upon her.**

**How often do we have that same opportunity?**

**How often do we leave the door locked, the curtains drawn, and the lights off? How often do we shower critique or judgment instead of blessings and joy?**

**Gracious God, forgive us for our wrongs. We want to see you when we see our neighbor. Amen.**

#### ***words of forgiveness***

Friends, this is what I know — God delights in us. God throws open the door, just like Elizabeth, and says, "Come on home. There is room for you here!"

And in that moment, we are blessed. In that moment, we are forgiven. In that moment, we are seen, healed, and welcomed home. So rest in this good news: you are saved by grace.

Let us respond together, using the words from Mary's song:

**"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant, Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed." (Luke 1:46:55 NRSV)**

### Children's Time

### Scripture Lesson

## **Luke 1: 39-45; 56-58**

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by God.

<sup>56</sup>And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home. <sup>57</sup>Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. <sup>58</sup>Her neighbors and relative heard that God had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

### **Advent Hymn**

### **Love Has Come**

**WS 3059**

1 Love has come a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
Hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

2 Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.  
Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;  
What is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.  
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

3 Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.  
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

### **Sermon**

**"From Generation to Generation: We Are God In Each Other"**  
**Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty**

### **Response to the Sermon/Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe that creation is inextricably linked. We belong to one another in an undeniable way. We are bone of bone and flesh of flesh, life breathed into dust.**

**We believe that God invites us to live into that truth— to love without abandon, to see the good in one another, to trust that all belong to God.**

**We know that this life of connection is easier said than done, which is why we gather in this space, week after week, generation after generation, to be reminded:**

**We see God in each other. This we believe. Amen.**

### **The Prayers of the People**

#### **Prayer Hymn**

#### **View the Present through the Promise**

**WS 3048, V. 2 & 3**

2 Probe the present with the promise, Christ will come again.  
Let your daily actions witness, Christ will come again.  
Let your loving and your giving and your justice and forgiving  
Be a song to all the living: Christ will come again.

3 Match the present to the promise, Christ will come again.  
Make this hope your guiding premise, Christ will come again.  
Pattern all your calculating and the world you are creating  
To the advent you are waiting: Christ will come again.

### **Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

### **Lord's Prayer**

### **Offering**

### **Offertory**

### **\*Doxology**

### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

God of Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow having blessed us with time, talent, and treasure, we in turn are to bless others in our stewardship of all you entrust to us. Receive the financial offerings we make and put them to good use. Amen.

### **Advent Hymn**

### **Love Came Down at Christmas**

**UMH 242**

<sup>1</sup>Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, Love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas;  
Star and angels gave the sign.

<sup>2</sup>Worship we the Godhead,  
Love incarnate, Love divine;  
worship we our Jesus,  
But where-with for sacred sign?

<sup>3</sup>Love shall be our token;  
Love be yours and love be mine;  
Love to God and all men,  
Love for plea and gift and sign.

### **Benediction**

### **Passing of the Peace**