

Makawao Union Church



Welcome to the
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2020



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The Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Please stand in body or in spirit.*

*Congregational responses are printed in **bold**.*

The Time of Preparation

Aloha, Welcome and Announcements

Peace of Christ

One: May the Peace of Christ be with you

Many: And also be with you.

One: Now we invite you to greet and share with one another in a sign of God's Peace.

Prelude

Cantique

Lynn Trap

Advent Call to Worship

One: We gather to worship with expectations: God revealed in new and astonishing ways.

Many: God comes to us in real time. God comes to us in dreams.

One: Sometimes God's presence is hard to take in –difficult to believe.

Many: Oh God, we long to believe. Help our unbelief!

One: God is present here. God is working in our midst.

Many: Then our mouths are filled with laughter, our tongues shout out with joy!

*Hymn #106

My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise

My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise

Ruth Duck, 1985

Luke 1:46-55

1 My heart sings out with joy - ful praise to God who rais - es me,
2 The arm of God is strong and just to scat - ter all the proud,
3 The prom - ise made in a - ges past at last has come to be,

Who came to me when I was low and changed my des - ti - ny,
The ty - rants tum - ble from their thrones and van - ish like a cloud,
for God has come in power to save, to set all peo - ple free.

The Ho - ly One, the Liv - ing God, is al - ways full of grace
The hun - gry all are sat - is - fied; the rich are sent a - way.
Re - mem - bering those who wait to see sal - va - tion's dawn - ing day,

To those who seek their Mak - er's will in ev - ery time and place.
The poor of earth who suf - fer long will wel - come God's new day.
Our Sav - ior comes to all who weep to wipe their tears a - way.

The "Magnificat," a traditional text for evening prayer as well as Advent, is paraphrased here by Ruth Duck. She developed it to make the ancient rite of evening prayer available to her own worshipping communities.

Tune: MARIASLOVSÅNG C.M.D.
Swedish folk melody

Alternate tunes: ELLACOMBE, TALLIS' THIRD



LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Reader 1: On our Advent Journey we have lit three candles: the first candle of **Hope**, the second candle of **Peace** and the third candle of **Love**. By doing so, we are daring to express our longing for peace, for healing, and for the wellbeing of all creation.

Reader 2: Today we light the fourth candle, the candle of **Joy**. In the Advent Season this is usually the easy one. But we are in challenging times and many of our usual cues and expectations are changed. These changes can, at times, push joy to the side. But **Joy** is still there, like an underground spring that wells up within us. It is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to **Joy**, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share.

Reader 1: We light the candle of **Joy** to symbolize the Joy that is ours when we stay connected to the Spirit who is always sustaining us for the work of bringing the Light of Christ into the world.

We Continue in Prayer

Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Advent season. As these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Magnify your love within us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may always walk in the light of Christ. Join us now as we offer this prayer, saying...

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

We Hear the Good News

Molly Schad, soloist, and John Rowehl

*My soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath done great things,
and holy is his name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him
from generation to generation.
He hath showed strength with his arm.
He hath scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seats,
and exalted them of low degree.
He hath filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He hath holpen his servant, Israel.
In remembrance of his mercy, as he spake to our fathers,
to Abraham and his seed forever.*

(Luke 1:46-55)

Scripture Readings

Romans 16:25-38

Martha-Lee Bohn

²⁵ Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Luke 1:26-38

Martha-Lee Bohn

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."
²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary,

for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴ Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵ The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Sermon

“More blessed to receive?”

Pastor Heather

We Respond with Thanksgiving

Centering into Our Communal Prayers

Prière (Prayer)

Théodore Salomé

Prayers for All That Has Been Shared

Call to Offering

Pastor Heather

*Hymn #123

Mary, Woman of the Promise

(See Last Page)

We Go Out Into the World

*Benediction

*The Queen’s Prayer

#580

‘O kou aloha nō, Aia i ka lani

A ‘o kou ‘oiā i‘o, He hemolele ho‘i. ‘Āmene.

English Translation:

Your loving mercy is as high as heaven and your truth so perfect.

Postlude

Trumpet March on "Creator of the Stars at Night"

Grimoaldo Macchia

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Upcoming Events

December 24 7:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Zoom
December 27 10:30 am Worship via Zoom

Mahalo to the following for their talents and service:

To **The Rev. Heather Mueller** for being our supply Pastor.

To **Molly Schad**, soloist, **Judy Anderson**, **Jay Slaughter** and **John Rowehl** for our live music today.

To **Judi Anderson** and **Loretta Hughes** for lighting the fourth Advent Candle this morning.

To **Martha-Lee Bohn** for being our scripture reader this morning.

To **Chris Kepler** and **Lewis Gamble** for being our hosts today.

To our Worship Tech and Design Team: **David Fisher**, **Lewis Gamble**, **John Rowehl**, **Jay Slaughter**, **Chris Kepler** and **Bill Kepler**.

- ◆ **Please continue supporting MUC with your time, talents and treasures.**

To make a donation please visit our website at www.makawaounionchurch.org and look for the **Donate** button at the bottom of the screen or you can send your donations via US Postal service to our mailing address:

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Mary, Woman of the Promise

Luke 1:39-55

Mary Frances Fleischer, 1988

1 Mar - y, wom - an of the prom - ise; ves - sel
 2 Mar - y, song of ho - ly wis - dom sung be -
 3 Mar - y, morn - ing star of jus - tice; mir - ror
 4 Mar - y, mod - el of com - pas - sion; wound - ed
 5 Mar - y, wom - an of the gos - pel; hum - ble

of your peo - ple's dreams: Through your o - pen,
 fore the world be - gan: Faith - ful to the
 of the Ra - diant Light: In the shad - ows
 by your off - spring's pain: When our hearts are
 home for trea - sured seed: Help us to be

will - ing spir - it wa - ters of God's good - ness streamed.
 Word with - in you, as you bore God's won - drous plan.
 of life's jour - ney, be a bea - con for our sight.
 torn by sor - row, teach us how to love a - gain.
 true dis - ci - ples, bear - ing fruit in word and deed.

This text, selected as the winner in a regional Hymn Society competition seeking contemporary Asian hymns, portrays Mary's many roles in fulfilling God's promise. The author is an Adrian Dominican sister whose ministry has focused on worship and the arts.

Tune: QUEM PASTORES 8.7.8.7.
 German carol, 14th century
 Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906