



~ Welcome Visitors! ~

Guide to the bulletin: An asterisk (*) indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit. Text printed in **BOLD** indicates everyone says them together. **NCH** is the New Century Hymnal next to your pew chair.

Children: Children are always welcome here. We know youth grow – in the love of God and the love of others – when they have opportunities to worship in community. Today, children and youth are invited to participate in Nifty Gifty (making holiday gifts) throughout the entire service). There are a variety of quiet activities and fidgets the youth (and adults!) can do available by the sanctuary doors. There is also a [Prayer Ground](#) set up at the front of the sanctuary. There are several quiet activities prepared for children. We know many of us need to wiggle a bit to be comfortable. Kids do too!!! Adults are welcome to sit in this area as well! #ChildofGod. You and/or your children are welcome to get up during the service to select something to do.

GATHERING TOGETHER

Prelude

What Child Is This

arr Ken Ligaray

featuring musicians Vania Ligaray and David Ligaray

Welcome and Community Connections

*Introit

We are called

*Call to Worship¹

One: Jeremiah said, “I am only a boy.”

All: Moses said, “Who am I to do this work?”

One: Mary said, “How can this be?”

All: We often say, “But God, I am afraid.”

One: Even when we are afraid, God invites us closer.

All: So may we trust the Inviter.

One: May we heed God’s invitation.

All: May we summon our courage and sing God’s praise.

One: Let us worship our courageous, inviting, calling God. Amen!

* Candle Lighting—Joy

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

Courageous God, you invite us to live into our call.

You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust.

Instead of responding with a resounding “yes,”
we often hide our face.

We dig our heels in.

We look for someone else to volunteer.

Spark courage in us.

Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference.

Remind us that even when we’re scared, we are not alone.

You invite us forward.

With baby steps we hope, we pray, amen.

¹ Liturgy adapted from a prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

*** Words of Forgiveness**

Pastor Peter: Family of faith, no matter where your path has led you in the past, today is a new day. So join me in declaring this good news:

All: We are known. We are forgiven! We are sent to serve.

May we step forward in faith, always moving closer to God's call.

Amen.

***Hymn**

Mary, Woman of the Promise

NCH 123 vss 1-4

HEARING THE WORD

Hebrew Scripture

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Special Music

People Look East

Guest pianist, Linda Brant

Gospel

Luke 1:26-39

Reflection

SHARING OUR LIVES

Call to Prayer

Be Still and Know

Prayers of the People

During our online worship service, we invite you to type your prayers in the comments section on your screen. Or you can text prayers to Pastor Kris at 608-438-6307 or Pastor Peter at 608-338-2268. They will collect the petitions and read them during the service. Know that prayers shared this day are public. If you have prayer request you would like to remain private, you may email them to: pastorkris@memorialucc.org and/or pastorpeter@memorialucc.org

Prayer of Jesus

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.

Affirmation of Faith

We have seen the valley.

We have seen a sky without stars.

We have seen the longest night, and *still* we believe.

We believe in a with-us God.

We believe in the hope of tomorrow.

We believe that good news is louder than fear.

We believe this good news is for all people.

**So even when our knees shake,
even when our voice trembles,
even when fear is all around us, we will hold onto that good
news.**

We will reach for each other.

We will look for God in our midst. We will sing songs of joy.

We will proclaim:

Unto us, love is born.

**We have seen the longest night,
and we have seen unimaginable love.**

So *still*, we believe. Amen.

GOING OUT TO THE WORLD

Mission Moment Christmas Fund Offering 2025

Song for Going Out *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

NCH 107 vss 2- 4

Benediction

Postlude *Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us* Gilbert M. Martin

Worship Leaders: Jonathan Schroerlucke (Dir. of Music), Jeff Darwin (Pianist), Pastor Kris Gorton, and Pastor Peter Morris

Readers: Marty Smith and Sonja Short

Usher: Haylie Schmit

Media Room: Bill Jetzer

Fellowship: The Roltgen Family

Memorial UCC uses photographs and video for social media communication with our members and friends. If someone does not wish to be photographed or in a video, ushers will help them find a seat out of camera view.

Memorial UCC's ONE LICENSE for streaming: #A-711042



Hearing Loop and Listening Devices: For those who have hearing aids, Memorial UCC has a t-coil compatible hearing loop. Listening devices are also available for people who are hard of hearing. See an usher if you need assistance.

Bathrooms: There are two bathrooms near the main entrance of the church. A third Gender Neutral and Accessible bathroom is in the hallway by the nursery. If you need assistance finding the restrooms, an usher will gladly help you



Giving Options—Ever-Widening Opportunities: Checks can be mailed directly to the church or dropped off during office hours. Please indicate any special designation in the memo line. You can give securely via PayPal with your credit card, debit card, or direct withdrawals. Visit and click the "giving" link in the upper right-hand corner or scan the

QR code here. If you are interested in monthly automatic withdrawals, please email Cathy Halpin at halpincjo@gmail.com, and she will get you signed up.

Want to Know More About Us? Co-pastors Kris and Peter would be happy to set up a time to chat further. Feel free to contact either of them at pastorkris@memorialucc.org or pastorpeter@memorialucc.org. You don't need to be a formal member to get involved here. There is a lot of information on our website at www.memorialucc.org.



Insisting on Hope Advent 2025

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY, DEC 21, 9:30 AM

FAMILY FRIENDLY SERVICE W/ A POP-UP PAGEANT

WEDNESDAY, DEC 24, 5 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE, CANDLES, COMMUNION, & CAROLS

SUNDAY, DEC 28, 9:30 AM

BREAKFAST CHURCH, HOT CHOCOLATE & CAROLS

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS 6-7:30 PM

**COMMUNITY MEAL & CREATIVITY
DEC 3, DEC 10, & DEC 17**

'Tis the season for food & community! Our midweek gatherings will provide an intergenerational opportunity for conversations and a different creative Advent activity each week. This is a drop-in, bring the kids or grandkids, invite friends, and stay as long as you like Advent program!

OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS

SATURDAY, DEC 13, 9:30 AM

CRAFT & COOKIE SALE

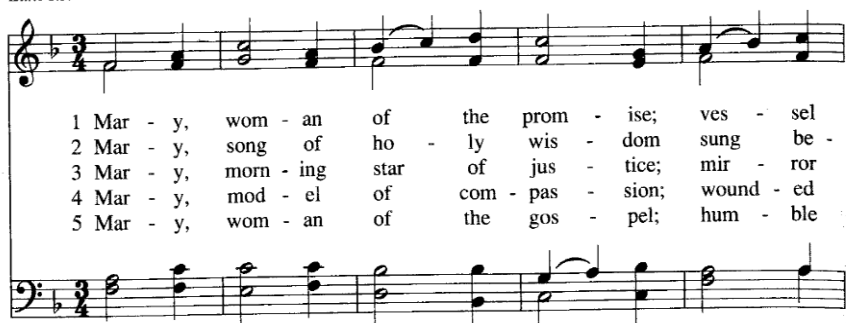
SUNDAY, DEC 21, 10:30 AM

JUSTBAKERY WILL BE AT MEMORIAL UCC

Mary, Woman of the Promise

Luke 1:39-55

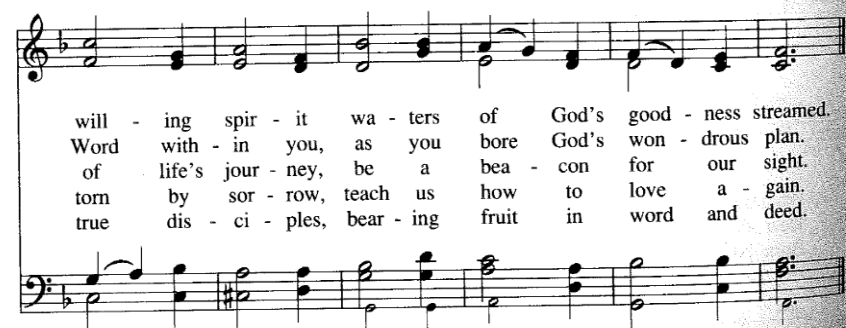
Mary Frances Fleischaker, 1988



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 Marian 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

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

Isa. 12:6; 26:9; 35:6; Matt. 11:5

Marty Haugen, 1983; rev. 1993

1 A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In deep - est night Christ's com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, whose hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 cold the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall

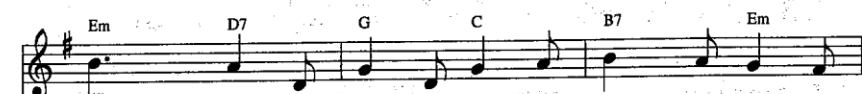
Je - sus is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing.
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less;

Liturgical composer Marty Haugen wrote both words and music for this Advent hymn with the twofold aim of providing an easy congregational chorale and utilizing the images of the Isaiah passages.

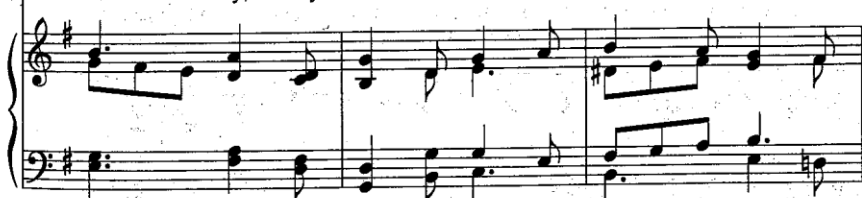
Tune: REJOICE, REJOICE 9.8.9.8.8.7.8.9.
 Marty Haugen, 1983



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing
One with - out voice breaks forth in song, a lame one leaps in
Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our end - less



geth - er, to o - pen wide the heav - en - ly door, and
kind - ness, the thun - der of the an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak are raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry, may God fill ev - ery day we share, and



lives now in - side us for ev - er. . . .
shat - ter all hate and in - jus - tice. . . .
weap - ons are bro - ken a - sun - der. . . .
bring us at last in - to glo - ry. . . .

