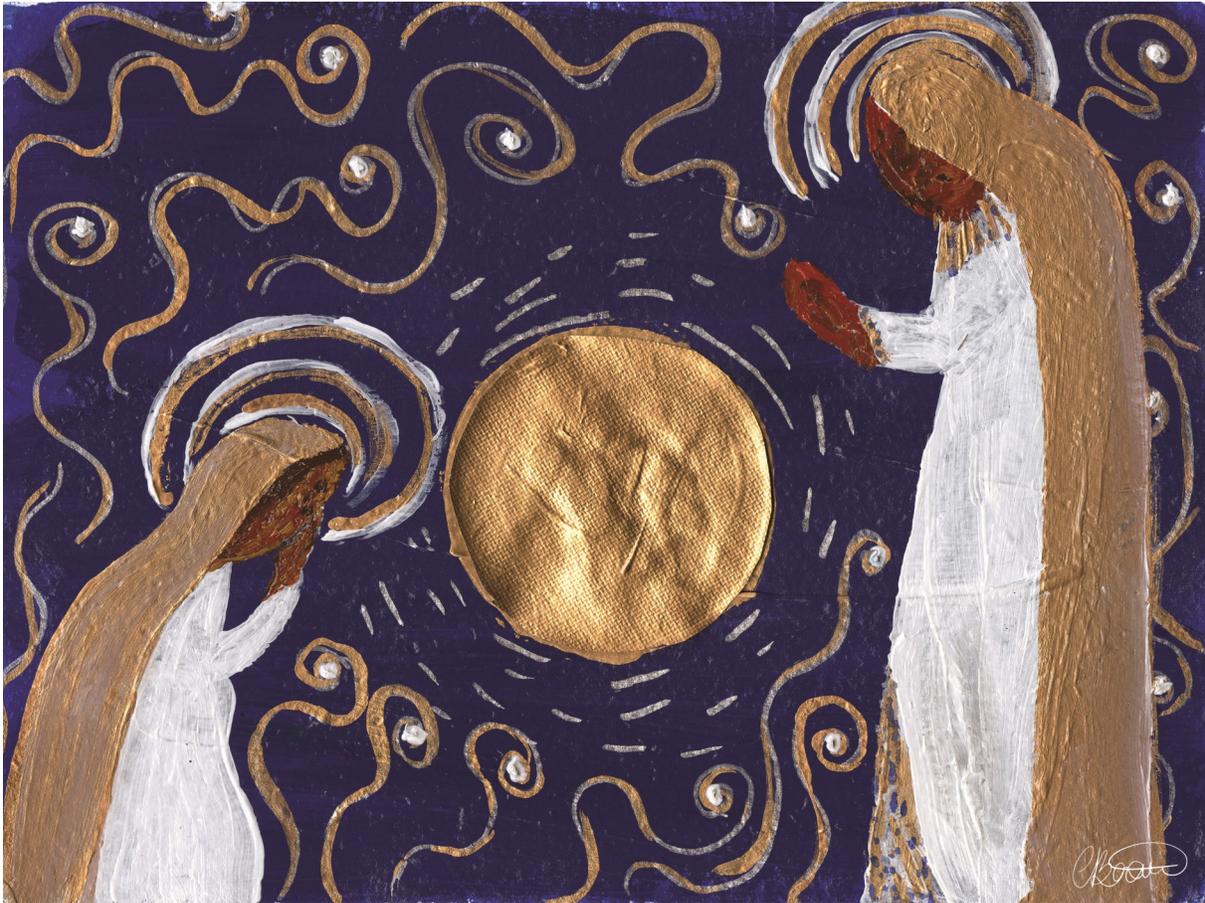




FROM  
GENERATION  
TO GENERATION...

*God meets us in our fear*



"Mary's Golden Annunciation" by Carmelle Beaugelin | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

## Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

2nd Sunday in Advent

December 4, 2022

***God meets us in our fear***

*God of all generations,  
though signs and seasons change,  
your promise is faithful  
and your word will never pass away.  
Give us courage and strength  
as we watch and wait  
for Jesus Christ, our redeemer,  
who is coming in glory to reign. Amen*

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Wachet auf

Jacobus Kloppers  
J.P. Murphy, Organist

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

\*SONG OF PRAISE      Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

Hymnal, No. 94

\*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Vince Leseney

**Patient God,  
you know just how often  
we make decisions from a place of fear rather than love.  
You know just how often  
we allow fear to take the place of logic,  
fanning unhealthy fires in our lives.  
You know just how often  
we tuck your words, "Do not be afraid"  
on dusty shelves and in the back of closets,  
stubbornly holding onto our own point of view.  
Forgive us for giving fear the microphone.  
Silence the voices of scarcity, shame, and rejection,  
which spark and feed so much of our fear,  
to recenter us in love.  
With hope we pray, amen.**  
*(Time of silent reflection)*

\*THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.  
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

\*SONG OF RESPONSE

Gloria (refrain only)

Hymnal, No. 113

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Donna Vint

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Nick Lindley

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

Page No. 558

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

O Come, Emmanuel

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-38

Page No. 831

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

God Meets Us in Our Fear

Tracy L. Evans

\*SONG OF FAITH

Here I Am

Bulletin, p. 6

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in a God who knows our fears.  
We believe in a God who says, "Be not afraid."  
We believe in a God who kicks off her shoes  
and wades into the muck of our lives with us.  
We believe in a God who stitches herself to our heels,  
and invites us to dance.  
We believe in a God who hemmed stars into the night sky  
so that we can find our way home,  
and who sends us friends with open doors,  
so we can find our way to love.  
We believe in a God who finds us in our fear  
and does not leave us alone.  
Thanks be to God for a love like that.  
Amen.**

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 35

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY

Doxology (Verse 4)  
All creation join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king!

Hymnal, No. 143

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE LORD'S SUPPER

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION MUSIC

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

\*SENDING SONG From Generation to Generation (Verse 1 and 2) Bulletin, p. 8

\*BLESSING AND CHARGE

As you leave this place, may you go knowing that  
from generation to generation,  
we have been claimed and loved.  
From generation to generation,  
God has been by our side.  
From generation to generation,  
we are not alone.  
The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow

knows you by name, loves you, and calls you forth,  
saying, "Go be the person you are called to be,  
love wildly, do justice, and come back soon."  
May it be so. **Amen.**

\*POSTLUDE

Veni, Emmanuel

Robert Powell

\*Please rise in body or spirit.

We invite anyone who wishes to consider membership in this church to contact the pastor or a member of the session. You may also indicate interest in membership by checking the appropriate column in the ritual of friendship booklet. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.

**Lectionary Readings for December 11** : Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11.

The Food & Shelter items of the month for **November are cereal and juice (non-perishable)**. **Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.**

**Hearing-assistance** devices and **large print hymnals** are available from the head usher.

Communion liturgy is courtesy of Rev. Michelle Hendrichs, who blogs at [www.lifeinthelabyrinth.com](http://www.lifeinthelabyrinth.com)

# 94 Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is  
 2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to  
 3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of

grow - ing thin. Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten  
 drift a - way. Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness  
 wis - dom's seed, come to bless with fire and fra - grance

to the stir - ring, faint with - in: seed of prom - ise, deep - ly  
 shines the hope of com - ing day. Christ, the morn - ing star of  
 hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need. In the lone - ly, in the

plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem! Like the soil be -  
 splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim. Heav - en's em - ber  
 strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view: child who comes to

neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.  
 fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.  
 grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.



# Here I Am

PICARDY 8.7.8.7.8.7

Text: Anna Strickland (2022)

Music: Traditional French carol (17th cent.)

Unison

An - gel Ga - briel came to Ma - ry In the hills of  
 Though his words were filled with glo - ry Still the mes - sage  
 Week by week in Ma - ry's bel - ly God was grow - ing  
 Whe - ther we may feel we're rea - dy For the task be -

Ga - li - lee fear Ap - pre - hen - sion and con -  
 brought great lee fear "Who am I to bear the  
 flesh and us bone laid As her life and path were  
 - fore us laid God will streng - then and up -

fu - sion Filled her, won - d'ring what's to be  
 sav - ior With the path - way so un - clear?"  
 chang - ing Ne - ver was she left a - lone  
 hold us Ev - en when the fear won't fade

"Do not be a - fraid," the an - gel told the maid  
 "Here I am," she pledged; the an - gel Gab - riel fled  
 With her all the while; was the Ma - ry's ho - ly child  
 We say, "Here I am," to God's tran - scen - dent plan

"God has high - ly fa - vored thee"  
 Quick - ly as he had ap - peared  
 Pledge of "Here I am" of God's own  
 Trust - ing God to lend us aid

# From Generation to Generation

♩ = 90

From gen-er-a-tion to gen-er-a-tion, we have shared the Christ-mas sto-ry

of a ba-by in a man-ger, who was born in Beth-le-hem.

Hope is wing-ing, Peace now ring-ing, Joy we're sing-ing, Love he's bring-ing.

1. There is room for ev-'ry sto-ry. There is hope through God's great glory.  
2. God will meet you in your fear. And bring peace both far and near.  
3. We can choose a bet-ter way. And find joy in ev-'ry day.  
4. We see God in one an-oth-er. As we learn to love each other.

Words: Debi Burns, using material from "From Generation to Generation" © A Sanctified Art | A Sanctified Art.org  
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