

“Will this disturb the sleep of a woman near to giving birth?”  
- Poet-Farmer, Wendell Berry



“Mary & Elizabeth” by Lauren Wright Pittman|A Sanctified Art LLC|Artwork used with permission.

**Prelude** *Mary Did You Know?* by Craig Curry

**Lighting of the Candles and Ringing of the Bell**

**Welcome**

**Advent Candle Lighting Song**

**Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy** *We Light a Candle*

We light a candle for joy, and our world that's longing for joy.  
We light a candle for joy, and our world that's longing for joy.  
Holy One shine with the fire of our lives.  
We light a candle for joy, and our world that's longing for joy.

**Call to Community**

One: As pregnant Mary sought care at Elizabeth's house,  
Many: we, too, gladly support and encourage one another.

One: As Elizabeth's baby jumped in her womb, recognizing the gift of his gestating cousin,  
Many: we, too, are joyful with delight, recognizing the Holy in one another.

One: As Mary sang a song joyfully envisioning God's justice and mercy,  
Many: we, too, sing songs of hope and liberation.

One: God brings down the proud from their thrones and lifts up the humble.  
Many: God fills the hungry with good things and sends the calloused away empty.

**\*Opening Hymn** *Come, My People*/Handout

**Opening Prayer** *enfleshed.com, adapted*

Cosmic Womb of Life, we pray that we may move as gently as Advent invites us to move—that those pregnant, birthing, and preparing ways may be treated with deep dignity. That the life of all children may be treated with reverence and accompanied by community. What systems of violence must we topple that it may be so? What rhythms of care must we practice? What webs of love must we weave? Come, joy of the world. Practice hope with us. Gather 'round each of us in all of our child-likeness with peaceful awe. Amen.

**Assurance of Grace and Peace**

One: Peace be with you.  
Many: And also with you.  
One: Let us share peace with one another

**December 15, 2024**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

We're so glad you've joined us today. Please feel free to ask any questions and participate or not in any parts of the worship service as you desire.

**Service Volunteers**

Usher: **Paul Burdick**  
Greeters: **Jennifer Schwarb**  
Offertory & Communion Juice: **Jodi Berault, Chris Maitner, Bernie Lopata**  
Acolyte: **Shirley Lawson**  
Reader: **Michael Valdez**  
Sound Board: **David Bohn**  
Video Camera: **Chris Clark**

**Staff**

Pastor **Rev. Jody Betten**  
[jody@douglasucc.org](mailto:jody@douglasucc.org)

Music Director **Peter Black**

Cantor **Jeff Spangler**

Administrative Asst. **Julie Ridl**  
[julie@douglasucc.org](mailto:julie@douglasucc.org)  
Phone **269.857.2085**

**Worship**

Sundays at 10am

**Quiet Contemplation**

Thursdays at 5pm

**Our Mission**

To grow together spiritually as progressive Christians, welcoming all, and pursuing peace, justice, love, and healing for all creation.

We demonstrate this by:

- Being Open and Affirming
- Acting as a Creation Justice Church
- Respecting and understanding all belief and faith traditions
- Recognizing and celebrating our connectedness to all peoples
- Valuing questions rather than answers

*Asterisk (\*) means stand if you wish and are comfortable doing so.*

Congregational voice parts look like this.

And service music lyrics look like this.

**DOUGLAS UCC**



**\*Passing the Peace** *Hands Shaped Like a Cradle*

Put Peace into each other's hands and like a treasure hold it,  
Protect it like a candle flame, with tenderness enfold it.

**Gospel Reading** *Luke 1:39-46a*

**Contemporary Word** *Don't Hesitate/Mary Oliver*

**Reflection** *Have Yourself a Mary Christmas/Jody Betten*

**Moment of Quiet for Reflection**

**Offering and Offertory** *Goodness of God*  
Lauri Donaldson  
by Jenn Johnson, Brian Johnson, Jason Ingram,  
Ed Cash, and Ben Fielding

**Joys and Concerns • Tibetan Prayer Bell**

One: Thanks be to God!      **Many: Alleluia!**  
One: O God,                      **Many: Hear our prayer.**

**\*Doxology** *Oh Glorious God*

O Glorious God to you we bring  
Praise, treasures, lives as offering;  
Spirit of Joy with in us dwell;  
Come Jesus, our Emanuel.

**Celebration of Holy Communion**

One: God be with you.                      **Many: And also with you.**  
One: Lift up your hearts.                      **Many: We lift them up to God.**  
One: Let us give thanks to God.      **Many: It is good to give God thanks  
and praise.**

**Creation's Praise** *Body of God*

God breaking through to our lives, but this is no great surprise.  
Babies and barns, green fields and farms; This is the body of God.  
Star in the dark sky we share, straw underfoot as we look up and stare,  
Each part of creation a perfect formation that lives as the body of God.  
Where else would God be but right here?  
Under our noses, in the midst of our fears,  
God in the manger, God in the cows,  
God in the Christ child who showed the world how.  
God in our stories, God in our world,  
God in our lives is the Good News we've heard.

**\*Sharing of the Bread and Cup** *(gluten-free option, non-alcoholic juice in trays)*

The Bread of Life, the Gift of Heaven. Amen.  
The Cup of Love, the Drink of Compassion. Amen.

**The Lord's Prayer**

Our Creator who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom  
come, your will be done, on Earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our  
daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass  
against us. Lead us not into temptation, and deliver us from evil. For  
yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

**Ways to be Love in the World**

**\*Hymn of Sending** *Canticle of the Turning/Green Gather Hymnal, #556*

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude** *Joyful Day/Mark Hayes*



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E-Pistle**.

**Prayer List**

Melanie (Stacy Honson's sister);  
Bev Hawkes; Anne Dooley's  
daughter, Dee; Dan McGavin  
and Family of Carol Brown;  
Barbara Lindsay (Lewis Corbin's  
Bridge Partner); Rev. Marchiene  
Rienstra Family; Karen Clement  
(Friend of Debra Carr's); Ann  
and Jim Hopkins; Sally LaRowe  
(Linda Charvat's friend); Janice  
Campbell children &  
grandchildren (Pete Wehle's  
friends); James Higgins (Friend  
of Shane Anderson and Michael  
Tuleja), Joe Scarpone (Friend of  
Tom Fahlstrom); Fred Hamlin;  
John Kerr; Dave and Shirley  
Lawson; Ruth Fahlstrom  
(daughter of Tom Fahlstrom);  
Nancy Grib (Friend of Pamela  
Chappell); Stuart Family; Mary  
Westenbroek; Jerry Elpers and  
family (Beth Howley's Dad); Edie  
Plantinga (Nancy's Mom); Max  
Matteson; Eric Cooley (Jo  
Cooley's brother)

**Birthdays**

**December 15:** Sarah Donovan,  
Chelsie Norman  
**December 16:** Emil "Sonny"  
Pulick  
**December 18:** Margret Bazany  
**December 19:** Dee  
Mikos-Graves

**Anniversaries**

**December 17:** Daniel Dow &  
Stephen D. Prokop

**Weekly Financial  
Stewardship Report**

for December 8, 2024

Attendance: **124**      Viewers: **155**

Collection Plate/Mail:	<b>\$2,224.00</b>
Online Giving:	<b>\$3,157.23</b>
Total:	<b>\$5,381.23</b>



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[douglasucc.org/giving](http://douglasucc.org/giving).)

Or give from your smartphone  
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**844-931-2849**.

**Thank you!**

Your gifts sustain our mission of  
service.

[www.DouglasUCC.org](http://www.DouglasUCC.org)

# Come, My People

## Opening Song

James Martin

James Martin and Ellie Martin Cliffe

### Refrain



Come, my peo - ple — wel - come to wor - ship.



Love is in — the — warmth — of — this place.



Sing to God — a — song — of — thanks-giv - ing!



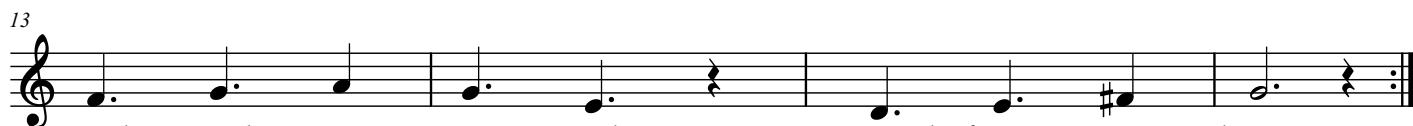
Sing to God — a — song — of praise!

### Verses

1. Gath - er — in
2. Stor - ies — of
3. Stand with each



safe - ty, wel - comed in Chris - tian — love;  
Je - sus show us the way to — live, —  
oth - er in one com - mu - ni - ty, —



God touch - es us with Strength from a - bove.  
how to serve oth - ers, how to for - give.  
work - ing to - geth - er, God's reign to see.



# 556 Canticle of the Turning

Verses



1. My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
 3. From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a  
 4. Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, And my spir - it sings of the  
 work great things in me, And your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your  
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant from his throne. The  
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This



fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the  
 sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the




weak - ness you did not spurn, So from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, You will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; There are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, 'Til the spear and rod can be




name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God. who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn!

Text: Luke 1:46-58; Rory Cooney, b.1952  
Tune: STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN; Irish traditional; arr. by Rory Cooney, b.1952  
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