

# Worship Bulletin

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, December 10, 2023



"The Harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" ~ Luke 10:2

# Welcome!

For God's glory and by His grace, Harvest Fellowship exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ who are progressively growing in their love of God, their love of people, and their commitment to help others grow as disciples.

*If you are visiting us today, we would like to connect with you! Please scan the QR code in the insert or complete the yellow 'Welcome' card and place it in the offering plate by the sanctuary entrance.*

## God Calls Us

### **Call To Worship – Ephesians 1:3-14**

**Leader:** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

**Men:** *In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace,*

**Women:** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

**All:** *In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined, according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,*

**Leader:** In him you also, when you heard, the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

**All:** *Who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.*

### **Prayer of Invocation**

#### **Hope Of Israel**

Words & music by Ben Fielding, Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, and Reuben Morgan

In Bethlehem one holy night  
A host of angels filled the sky  
They sang to tell the world who waits  
Our Savior comes this Christmas Day

**God is with us, Christ our Savior, Jesus our Emmanuel  
He shall reign our King forever, the hope of Israel**

The wise men traveled from afar  
They followed close a shining star  
With costly gifts before Him lay  
Our King was born this Christmas Day  
Peace on earth, goodwill to men  
Let violence and all hatred end  
For born to us the Prince of Peace  
This Christmas Day our song shall be

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### ***Turn Your Eyes***

Words & music by Helen H. Lemmel, George Romanacce, Nic Trout, and Kevin Winebarger

Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
Look full in His wonderful face  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of His glory and grace

Turn your eyes to the hillside  
Where justice and mercy embrace  
There the Son of God gave His life for us  
And our measureless debt was erased

**Jesus to You we lift our eyes  
Jesus our glory and our prize  
We adore You behold You our Savior ever true  
Oh Jesus we turn our eyes to You**

Turn your eyes to the morning  
And see Christ the lion awake  
What a glorious dawn fear of death is gone  
For we carry His life in our veins

Turn your eyes to the heavens  
Our King will return for His own  
Every knee will bow every tongue will shout  
All glory to Jesus alone

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## **God Renews Us**

### ***Advent Reading: Galatians 4:21-31 (p. 974)***

<sup>21</sup> Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? <sup>22</sup> For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. <sup>23</sup> But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. <sup>24</sup> Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she

is Hagar. <sup>25</sup> Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. <sup>26</sup> But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. <sup>27</sup> For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband."

<sup>28</sup> Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. <sup>29</sup> But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. <sup>30</sup> But what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman." <sup>31</sup> So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

### ***Lighting of Advent candle of Hope & Peace (purple)***

#### ***Joy Has Dawned***

Words & Music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend

Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation—  
God's salvation now unfurled, hope for ev'ry nation.  
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory,  
But a humble gift of love—Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels  
As the mighty Prince of Life, shelters in a stable.  
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness,  
Cling now to a mother's breast, vuln'erable and helpless.

Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory;  
Gifts of men from distant lands, prophesy the story.  
Gold—a King is born today, Incense—God is with us,  
Myrrh—His death will make a way, and by His blood He'll win us.

Son of Adam, Son of heaven, given as a ransom;  
Reconciling God and man, Christ, our mighty champion!  
What a Savior! What a Friend! What a glorious myst'ry!  
Once a babe in Bethlehem, nAow the Lord of hist'ry."

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

#### **God Speaks To Us**

***"The God of Peace"***  
***Genesis 16:1-15 (p. 11)***  
***Barry Noll***

<sup>1</sup> Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. <sup>2</sup> And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. <sup>3</sup> So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife. <sup>4</sup> And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. <sup>5</sup> And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the Lord judge between you and me!" <sup>6</sup> But Abram said to Sarai, "Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her. <sup>7</sup> The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. <sup>8</sup> And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai." <sup>9</sup> The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress and submit to her." <sup>10</sup> The angel of the Lord also said to her, "I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude." <sup>11</sup> And the angel of the Lord said to her, "Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the Lord has listened to your affliction." <sup>12</sup> He shall be a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen." <sup>13</sup> So she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing," for she said, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me." <sup>14</sup> Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered. <sup>15</sup> And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael.

### ***What Child is This?***

Words by William Dix, 1865; Music-Greensleeves

What Child is this who, laid to rest  
 On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
 While shepherds watch are keeping?  
 This, this is Christ the King,  
 Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
 Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,  
 The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate,  
 Where ox and lamb are feeding?  
 Good Christians, fear, for sinners here  
 The silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,  
Come peasant, king to own Him;  
The King of kings salvation brings,  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy for Christ is born,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

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## God Sends Us

### ***Worship through Tithes & Offerings***

*"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich" ~ 2 Corinthians 8:9*

General offering: metal plate; Mercy Ministry (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday): wooden plate  
You may also give online at <https://www.hfpca.org/giving> or mail your offering to Harvest Fellowship, P.O. Box 475, Lusby, MD 20657

### ***O Come, All Ye Faithful***

Words and Music by John F Wade

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

**O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.**

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God in the highest;

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning:  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing;

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### ***Benediction***

### ***Passing of peace/Announcements***

**Leader:** The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**All:** And also with you.

### ***Prayer is available in the Prayer Room***

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### ***Sermon Notes***

### ***For Further Discussion:***

1. Why do you think the holidays are the venue of so much familial conflict? What is your go to response in those conflicts?
2. What seems to be the source of conflict between Sarai and Hagar and Sarai and Abram (vv. 1-6; cf. 15:4; Gal. 4:21-31)? How is the source of their conflict very similar to the causes of conflict we have today around the holidays (Jas. 4:1-5)?
3. How does the Lord intervene in Hagar's life? In what ways have you seen God intervene in your conflicts with family members (vv. 7-10)?
4. What similarities and differences are there between the birth announcements to Hagar and Mary (vv. 11-12; Lk. 1:28-33)? How does appearance of the angel of the Lord to Hagar anticipate the final divine messenger (Mal. 3:1)?
5. In what ways does Hagar recognize God's grace to her (vv. 13-15)? How is the Lord's compassion for an Egyptian woman Hagar anticipate Jesus' interaction with the Samaritan woman (Jn. 4)?