

**Today's Worship  
December 5, 2021  
Second Sunday in Advent**

**WELCOME** Rev. Dr. Rob Bruce

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Leader and People

L: Host of Hosts, from sunrise to sunrise, and generation to generation, we are your people.

**P: You have been with us wherever we have gone. You will be with us wherever we may go.**

L: You planted us in a land flowing with milk and honey, then you planted our salvation in Mary's womb.

**P: Jesus, who is the Christ, is planted firmly in each one of us.**

L: Our souls magnify the Holy One.

**P: Our spirits rejoice in God, our Savior.**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**  
Daniel, Janna, and Ruby Buchan

**MUSIC** **To a Maid Engaged to Joseph** All  
(Verses 1, 2, and 5—See music sheet)

**MUSIC** **I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day** All  
(See music sheet)

**PASTORAL PRAYER** Rev. Karen Hoyt

**LORD'S PRAYER** All  
**Our Father, which 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 trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever.**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** Luke 1:26-38 (NRSV) Rev. Hoyt

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.

**MUSIC** **O Little Town of Bethlehem** Mike Stewart  
Flute Solo

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** Rev. Dr. Bruce

**SERMON** **No Way**

**CONFESSION** Rev. Hoyt

**MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE** Rev. Dr. Bruce

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Rev. Hoyt: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Rev. Hoyt: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Rev. Hoyt: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Father, in this season when we celebrate the coming of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks and praise. You created all things and called

them good. You made us in your image. Even though we rebelled against your love, you did not desert us. You delivered us from captivity and made covenant to be our Sovereign God. You spoke to us through prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they study war any more. Therefore, with the prophets and all who have looked for a better age to come, with your people of all ages and the whole company of heaven, we join the song of unending praise, saying:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy is your name, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations. You scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts and have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation. You put down the mighty from their thrones and exalt those of low degree. You fill the hungry with good things, and the rich you send away empty. Your own Son came among us as a servant, to be Emmanuel, your presence with us. He humbled himself in obedience to your will and freely accepted death on a cross.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you." When supper was finished, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave the cup to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you. This is the cup of the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and many, for the forgiveness of sin. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection, you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from captivity to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant. Therefore, in remembrance of all your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we ask you to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, which we offer in union with Christ's sacrifice for us, as a living and holy surrender of ourselves.

Send the power of your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that in the breaking of this bread and the drinking of this cup we may know the presence of the living Christ, be one body in him, cleansed by his blood; faithfully serve him in the world; and look forward to that day foretold by prophets and apostles, when the One who came in humility and who comes today in Word and Spirit shall come in final victory. Through him, with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

**AMEN**

## SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

### MUSIC

**It Came Upon the Midnight Clear**  
Edmund Hamilton Sears - 1849

All

It came upon the midnight clear  
That glorious song of old  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold  
Peace on the earth good will to men  
From heaven's all gracious King  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing

Still thro' the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing

And ye beneath life's crushing load  
Whose forms are bending low  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow  
Look now for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing  
O rest beside the weary road  
And hear the angels sing

For lo the days are hastening on  
By prophet bards foretold  
When with the ever-circling years  
Comes round the age of gold  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing

### BENEDICTION

Rev. Hoyt

As we await the coming of the Promised One, may your love and knowledge and insight overflow, that you may live in peace and harmony with all beings for the glory and praise of God.

**ALL: We go in the power of God's Spirit to Love Christ, Love People, and Help People Love Christ. AMEN**

## Opportunities This Week

*Monday, Dec. 6*

SHCFP Board Meeting 10AM Bagley Annex  
(Jackie Buchan 678-313-8893, [jackiebuchan@charter.net](mailto:jackiebuchan@charter.net))

Music Rehearsal 6:30PM Bagley Annex  
(Janni Martin 770-533-0679, [friendofguatemala@gmail.com](mailto:friendofguatemala@gmail.com))

*Tuesday, Dec. 7*

Good News at Noon 6:30PM at Good News  
(Jean Prezel [jeanprezel@gmail.com](mailto:jeanprezel@gmail.com), 678-720-6945)

*Wednesday, Dec. 8*

Advent Study 7PM virtual  
(Chris Hester 678-936-5127, [chrishester23@gmail.com](mailto:chrishester23@gmail.com))

*Thursday, Dec. 9*

Bible Study 10:30AM virtual  
(Rob Bruce 404-906-8276, [rob.bruce@ngumc.net](mailto:rob.bruce@ngumc.net))

*Sunday, Dec. 12*

Children's Sunday School 10AM Bagley Annex sunroom  
(Chris Hester 678-936-5127, [chrishester23@gmail.com](mailto:chrishester23@gmail.com))

Pages Adult Sunday School class 10AM Bagley Annex classroom  
(Garry Glenn 678-617-8073, [rglenn@aim.com](mailto:rglenn@aim.com))

Journey to Bethlehem Adult Sunday School class 9:45AM  
Bagley Annex garage  
(Lamar Jordan 770-536-9043, [ljordan4751@charter.net](mailto:ljordan4751@charter.net))

Joyful Noise Adult Sunday School class 10AM Bagley Annex basement  
(John Wright 404-281-9820, [grampajohngrumps@gmail.com](mailto:grampajohngrumps@gmail.com))

Current Hearts Adult Sunday School class Pastor's office and Zoom  
(Rev. Dr. Susan Taylor [revdrtaylor@gmail.com](mailto:revdrtaylor@gmail.com))

Christmas Carol Sing-Along 10:15AM at Flowery Branch UMC  
(John Wright 404-281-9820, [johnwright1950@bellsouth.net](mailto:johnwright1950@bellsouth.net))

Worship 11AM pavilion and streaming online  
(Rob Bruce 404-906-8276, [rob.bruce@ngumc.net](mailto:rob.bruce@ngumc.net))

### Next Week's Sermon

*Think about it \* Pray about it*

**No Partiality**  
Luke 1:39-56



*Loving Christ Loving People Helping People Love Christ*

### *Welcome! We're Glad You're Here!*



We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, filthy rich, dirt poor. We extend a special welcome to those who are crying newborns, skinny as a rail or could afford to lose a few pounds.

We welcome you if you can sing like Andrea Bocelli or like our pastor who can't carry a note in a bucket. You're welcome here if you're "just browsing," just woke up or just got out of jail. We don't care if you're more Methodist than Asbury, or haven't been in church since little Joey's Baptism.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, starving artists, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters.

We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems or you're down in the dumps or if you don't like "organized religion;" we've been there too.

If you blew all your offering money at the dog track, you're welcome here. We offer a special welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or because grandma is in town and wanted to go to church.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid or got lost in traffic and wound up here by mistake. We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts and you!

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Youth and Children's Director: Chris Hester [chrishester23@gmail.com](mailto:chrishester23@gmail.com)  
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