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Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor  
Mrs. Amy Peck, Worship Choir Director  
Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator

December 15, 2024

9:45 AM

**All is Calm: But Why Aren't I?**

*Silent Night: The Paradox*

Third Sunday of Advent

*Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you are a guest, we invite you to take a moment to complete a visitor's card located in the back of the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate when it is passed. We also invite you to sign your name in our guest book located in the back entrance of the sanctuary.*

*We welcome infants and children and all their wiggles & voices in our worship! For your comfort, we also have a children's corner in the back narthex where your child can relax and play and you can still participate in the worship experience. We have children's books and activity bags for them to enjoy! Additionally, after the children's message, children from 3 years old—6th grade are invited to participate in Sunday school in our classroom downstairs. They can choose to attend Sunday school or return to their seats to sit with their parents. Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS  
JOYS & CONCERNS**

**INVITATION INTO THE PARADOX**

HYMN (v. 1)

*Silent Night*

**ALL SING: Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright. Round yon Virgin,  
Mother and Child, Holy Infant so tender and mild. Sleep in heavenly peace.  
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

LIFE IN THE PARADOX<sup>1</sup>

Genevieve Rhinehart

UNRAVELING THE MYSTERY—CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 124 NCH** (black hymnal, see next page)

*Mary, Woman of the Promise*

# Mary, Woman of the Promise

Mary Frances Fleischaker, 1988

Richard Gillard, 1977

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♩ = 80

Piano



1. Mar - y, wo - man of the prom - ise;  
2. Mar - y, song of ho - ly wis - dom  
3. Mar - y, morn - ing star of jus - tice;  
4. Mar - y, mod - el of com - pas - sion;  
5. Mar - y, wom - an of the gos - pel;

3



ves - sel of your peo - ple's dream:  
sung be - fore the world be - gan:  
mir - ror of the Ra - diant Light:  
wound - ed by your off - spring's pain:  
hum - ble home for trea - sured seed:

5



Through your o - pen, will - ing spir - it  
Faith - ful to the Word with - in you,  
In the shad - ows of life's jour - ney,  
When our hearts are torn by sor - row,  
Help us to be true dis - ci - ples,

7



wa - ters of God's good - ness streamed.  
as you bore God's won - drous plan.  
be a bea - con for our sight.  
teach us how to love a - gain.  
bear - ing fruit in word and deed.

## TIME OF CONFESSION<sup>1</sup>

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: God, you invite us into the mystery of Your serene love.

**C: We sing, "All is calm," but the paradox is that we are far from calm. We confess that we are so overwhelmed by all there is to do.**

L: We are agitated, annoyed, and aggravated...

**C: Anything but calm. Forgive us. Soothe our troubled souls and restore a sense of calm so that we might hear again the message of the Messiah.**

*(Silence is held for personal reflection)*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM**

*A Prayer for Advent*

by Williams & Nolan

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*Luke 1:26-56 (CEB)*

**MESSAGE**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** (see next page)

*Canticle of the Turning*



# Canticle of the Turning

Rory Cooney

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Piano  $\text{♩} = 80$

1. My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the God of my heart is  
2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in  
3. From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a stone will be left on  
4. Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re - mem - ber who holds us

5

great, and my spir - it sings of the won - drous things that you bring to the ones who  
me, and your mer - cy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to  
stone. Let the king be - ware for your jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant from his  
fast: God's mer - cy must de - liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing

9

wait, You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my weak - ness you did not  
be. Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you  
throne. The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can nev - er  
grasp. This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the prom - ise which holds us

13

spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to  
yearn, you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to  
earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev 'ry mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to  
bound, till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a -

17

turn? My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a -  
turn.  
turn.  
round.

22

- way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

**ALL:** 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## A TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

*Mary Did You Know?*

sung by Caitlin Damon & Amy Peck

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**\*SENDING HYMN NO. 106 NCH** (black hymnal, see below)

*My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise*

## My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise

Ruth Duck

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. My heart sings out with joy - ful praise to God who rais - es  
2. The arm of God is strong and just to scat - ter all the  
3. The prom - ise made in a - ges past at last has come to

5  
me, Who came to me when I was low and changed my des - ti -  
proud. The ty - rants tum - ble from their thrones and van - ish like a  
be, for God has come in power to save, to set all people

9  
- ny, The Ho - ly One, the Liv - ing God, is al - ways full of  
cloud. The hun - gry all are sat - is - fied; the rich are sent a -  
free. Re - mem - bering those who wait to see sal - va - tion's dawning

13  
grace To those who seek their Mak - er's will in ev - ery time and  
- way. The poor of earth who suf - fer long will wel - come God's new  
day, Our Sav - ior comes to all who weep to wipe their tears a -

17  
place.  
day.  
- way.

## **\*BENEDICTION**

L: In the silence and the shouts,

**C: come, Lord Jesus.**

L: In holy contentment and the exhaustion of faith,

**C: come, Lord Jesus.**

L: In the calm and eager anticipation,

**C: come, Lord Jesus.**

L: In the shine of hope and the weary sighs,

**C: come, Lord Jesus.**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Sing of Mary*

by Hanson

## **References**

<sup>1</sup> Life in the Paradox and Time of Confession was written by Deb Herlocker for our Advent series.

## **Special thanks to our Advent Team!!!**

Elaine Bevivino, Deb Herlocker, & Cindy Hogentogler

Thank you to Lee & Patsy Brown for donating our beautiful Christmas Tree and the Christmas wreaths!

We also give thanks for the nativity scene at the front of the church. Longtime Mt. Zion member, Dick Koch, built the right side, minus the dome about 40 years ago. Then a bit later... as the inn keeper was more “prosperous,” he built the left side. He added the “dome” 15 years ago, and his son Karl reworked the lighting before donating to the church after Dick’s passing last winter.

Thank you to all serving in worship this morning!

**Bearer of Light:** Tobias Rhinehart

**Life in the Paradox:** Genevieve Rhinehart

**Welcome Team Members—**Jeff & Nancy Sleeper, Connie & John Wolfe

**Liturgist—**Tori Everhart

**Tech Team—**George DeMers, Jack Herlocker, & John Kollasch

**Worship Choir—**Andrea Adams, Tom Bair, Brenda Beyer, Braden Bicher,

Debbie Butcher, Barb Neff, Lana Fritz, Carol Hartman, Norma Hull, Michael Maletz, & Jen Miller