Mt. Zion United Church of Christ 1054 Ridgewood Road, York, Pennsylvania 17406

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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 PARADOX¹

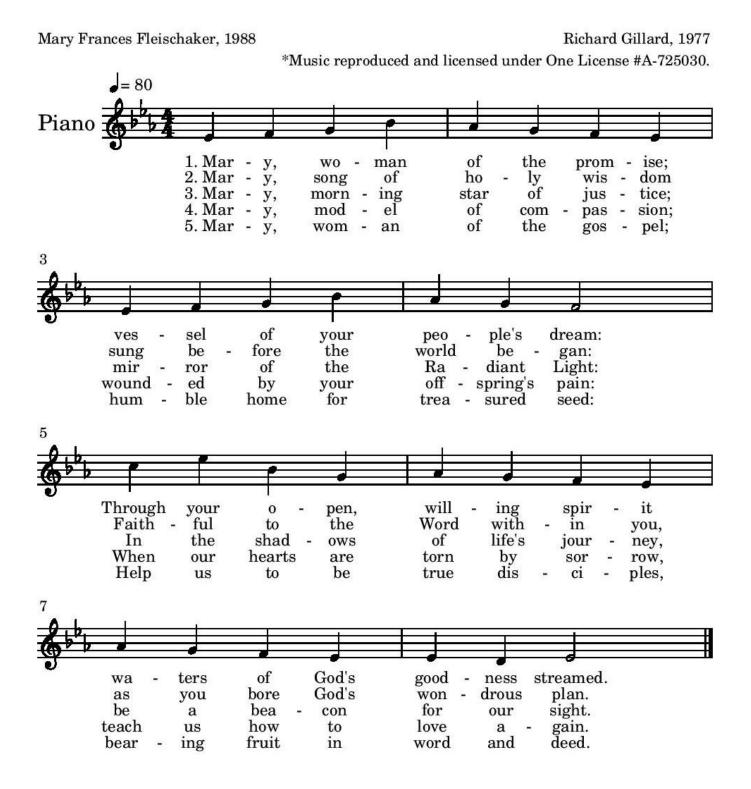
Genevieve Rhinehart

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



TIME OF CONFESSION¹

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



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?

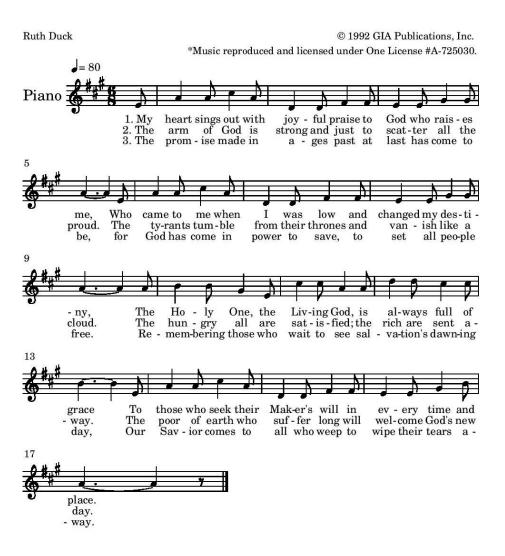
sung by Caitlin Damon & Amy Peck

*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



*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

¹ 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 Sleeger, Connie & John Wolfe

<u>Liturgist</u>— Tori Everhart

<u>Tech Team</u>—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