

Fra Angelico: *Fresco of the Annunciation*
Convent of San Marco, Florence, Italy

ST. BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR

Deer Isle Maine

Pastor Edward Dufresne, preaching
Connie Mayo, Music Director

Morning Prayer
Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 20, 2020

Prelude: *This Endris Nyght* Healey Willan

A brief silence

The Annunciation *a poem by Tony Stoneburner*

Lighting the Advent Candles

Leader: We light this candle for all God-bearers, saying 'yes' to God's challenge, accepting the pain and joy of an unknown future.

Congregation: **God, as we strain forward waiting for your promise, give light, give hope.**

All are invited to light their Advent candle(s) at home.



Sing three times

Confession of Sin

Leader: Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Congregation: **Most Holy God,**
in the midst of this season of new life, we confess:
We have resisted the light of your love;
we have not fully shared the gifts entrusted to us; and
we have not treasured the gifts of others around us.
We stand in need of your love.
Holy Father, make us holy.
Holy Jesus, make us holy.
Holy Spirit, make us holy.
Holy God, make us whole. Amen.

Leader: May God forgive us and help us to continue the journey.
As a woman is delivered from the pain of her labor to the joy of cradling her child,
may we be delivered into God's grace.

Congregation: **Amen.**

Opening Hymn 66 *Come, thou long expected Jesus (in back of the bulletin)*

The Invitatory

Leader: Our God and Savior now draws near:
Congregation: **O come, let us worship.**
Leader: Glory to God, Source of all being,
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
Congregation: **as it was in the beginning, is now,**
and shall be for ever. Amen.

First Lesson: Exodus 15:1-20: *A Song of Deliverance of Moses and Miriam*
Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:
I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.
The LORD is my strength and my might,

and he has become my salvation;
this is my God, and I will praise him,
my father's God, and I will exalt him.

The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name.
Pharaoh's chariots and his army he cast into the sea;
his picked officers were sunk in the Red Sea.
The floods covered them;
they went down into the depths like a stone.

Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power—
your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy.
In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries;
you sent out your fury, it consumed them like stubble.
At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up, the floods stood up in a heap;
the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.

The enemy said:
"I will pursue, I will overtake,
I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them.
I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them."

You blew with your wind, the sea covered them;
they sank like lead in the mighty waters.
Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?
Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, doing wonders?

You stretched out your right hand, the earth swallowed them.
In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed;
you guided them by your strength to your holy abode.
The peoples heard, they trembled;
pangs seized the inhabitants of Philistia.

Then the chiefs of Edom were dismayed;
trembling seized the leaders of Moab;
all the inhabitants of Canaan melted away.
Terror and dread fell upon them;
by the might of your arm, they became still as a stone
until your people, O LORD, passed by,
until the people whom you acquired passed by.

You brought them in and planted them on the mountain of your own possession,
the place, O LORD, that you made your abode,
the sanctuary, O LORD, that your hands have established.
The LORD will reign forever and ever."

When the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his chariot drivers went into the sea,
the LORD brought back the waters of the sea upon them; but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground.

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
Congregation: **Thanks be to God**

Canticle: Luke 1:46-55 S 242 *Magnificat, The Song of Mary (see back of bulletin)*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. *Amen*.

Lo, how a Rose e'er Blooming Bunny Reardon, cello

Gospel: Luke 1: 26-38
Leader: The Gospel according to Luke
Congregation: **Praise to you, O Christ**
In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 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. 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. For nothing will be impossible with God." 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.
Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
Congregation: **Thanks be to God**

Sermon *Living like Mary in the Optative Mood* Pastor Edward Dufresne

A brief silence

Affirmation

We believe in God, Creator of all:
The two-legged, the four-legged,
the winged ones, and those that crawl upon the earth and swim in the waters.
We believe in God, One Who Walked with Us:
Our Brother Jesus born in humility,
who lived and died for us and
who will come again to bring us to glory.
We believe in God, Spirit with Us:
Ever present and ever guiding, upholding us and
showing us the principles to live by.
We hear God's voice through the prophets.
Creator, One Who Walked with Us, Spirit with Us, Holy One:
We are named in the waters of baptism as your own,
all of us related, all of us your children.
We watch for signs of your homecoming
and thank you for this sacred circle of life. Amen.

Leader: The Peace of the Lord be always with you,
Congregation: **And also with you.**

You are invited to exchange the peace

The Prayers

Leader: The Lord be with you.
Congregation: **And also with you.**
Leader: Let us pray.

Advent Prayer based on the Lord's Prayer

Emmanuel, God with us—holy be your name.
In us, through us, and around us, your kingdom come.
Bread of life, feed us with your truth.
For our indifference to the wonder of your coming, forgive us.
Protect us from dangers and temptations we face each day.
You come to us now, and You will come to us again in glory,
when we will join all heaven and earth in giving you
blessing, honor and glory forever! Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Leader: Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever
Congregation: **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Leader: O Holy One, in this season of Advent we wait and pray that you will fill our hearts with joyful anticipation of your coming. May our waiting help prepare the way of the Lord.

Creator of the world you are the potter and we are the clay. Shape our spirits by your love that especially in this season of waiting we may discern your call to be peacemakers and justice seekers.
Congregation: **May we prepare the way of the Lord.**

Leader: God of compassion in these difficult times of crisis in our world our waiting is often filled with fear and anxiety. We seek your help and guidance as we pray for ourselves and all those who are suffering from anxiety or any form of physical or mental illness. We pray for our willingness to journey together to find common ground.
Congregation: **May we prepare the way of the Lord.**

Leader: God of hope our waiting expresses a deep longing for a better world. We pray for courage and persistence during this season of Advent, to work for the day when our paths will be made straight and our valleys will be filled in, when our nation and its leaders will embrace the common good for all humanity and for all of creation.
Congregation: **May we prepare the way of the Lord.**

Leader: Light of the World we pray that as we wait for the fulfillment of your Incarnation we may be bearers of your light to others in our community, our neighbors, who are in need of comfort, connection, hope or simply basic necessities of food, health care, housing, and meaningful work.
Congregation: **May we prepare the way of the Lord.**

Leader: Please offer your own prayers at this time

A member of the Pastoral Care Ministry will recite the names of people on our Prayer List

Pär Kettis	Persis Williams	Mickey
Tracey Hair	Seth	Stewart Pierson
Nick	Judi Simanton Stabler	Phoibe DeJesus
Pam Neff	Matt Crocker	Lindsay Bowker
Pastor Edward Dufresne	Julie	Mimi Gerstell
Al Chapman	Geoff Place	Nancy Boothby
Ana	Nancy Stearns	Marcia Scott
Isabelle Hulsey	Jennifer Hulsey	Michelle Price
The family of Linda Shepard	Pat & Tony Stoneburner	Mary Ann Shaw
Heather Callister	Charlie Egerton	

All are invited to add their own prayers here.

Congregation: **O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Benediction

Sending Hymn 265 *The angel Gabriel from heaven came (Verses 1 – 3 in back of the bulletin)*

Postlude: *Zu Bethlehem geboren* Helmut Walcha

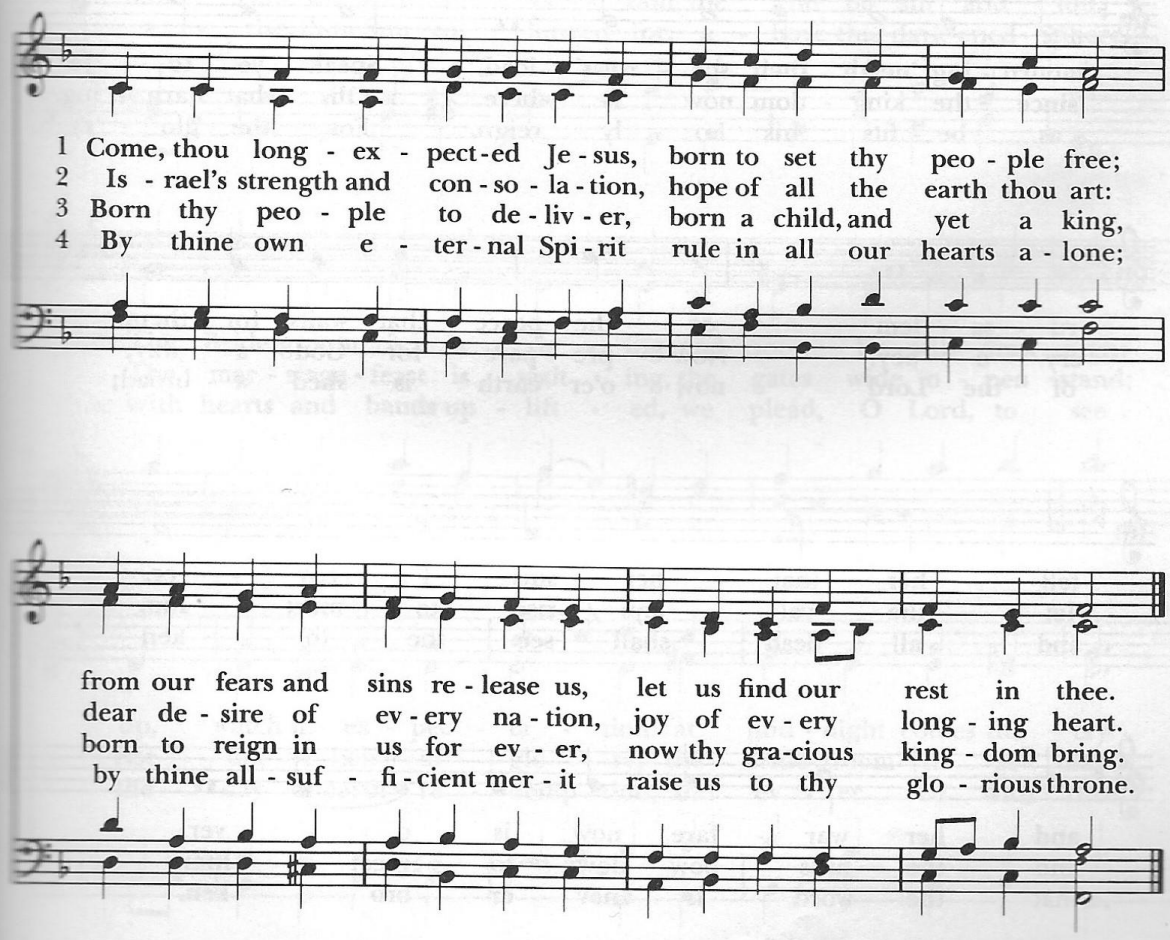
Dismissal

Announcements

You are invited to stay for Virtual Coffee Hour

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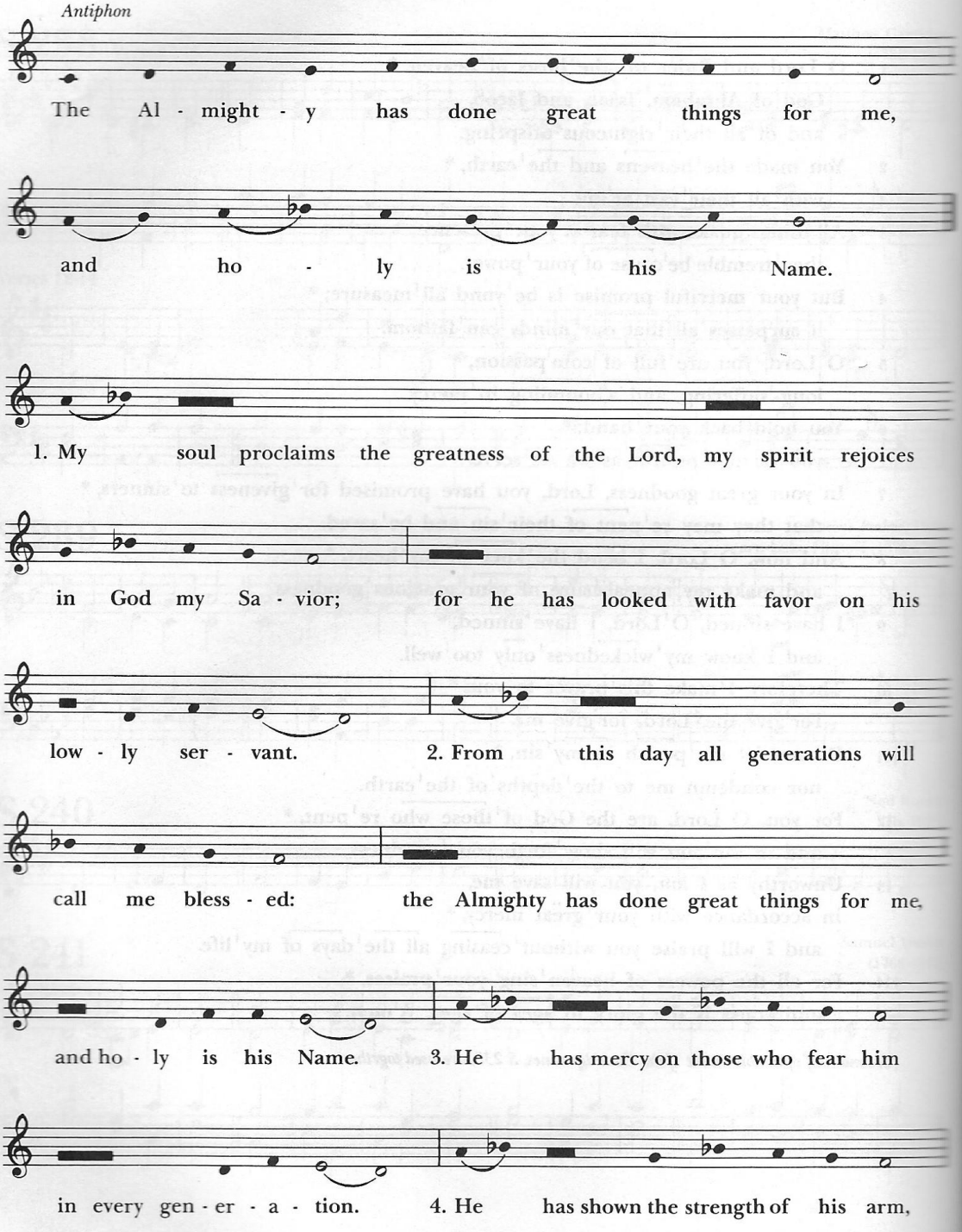
Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
Music: *Stuttgart,* melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesange,* 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

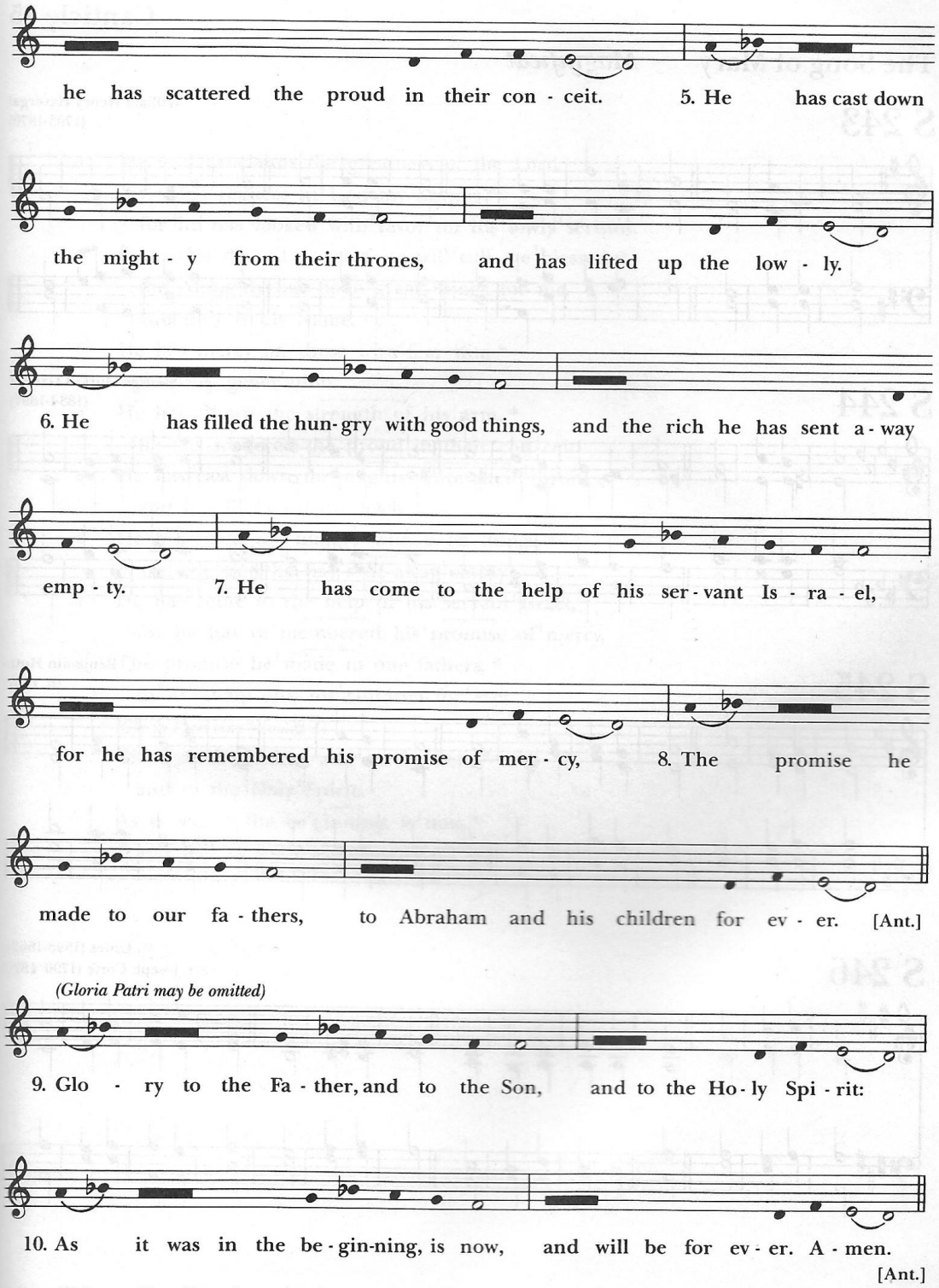
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The Song of Mary *Magnificat*

Antiphon





Setting: Plainsong, Tonus Peregrinus; adapt. Bruce E. Ford (b. 1947)



The Annunciation (March 25).

Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)
Music: *Gabriel's Message,* Basque carol; harm. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943)

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