

Sunday Gathering

Mary, Luke 1:26-38 - Bradley
Bell

December 18, 2022

Advent: The Mothers of Jesus

Length
in mins

Audio/
Visual Band Person Vocals

0:00 Call to Worship - Exodus 34:5-7; Psalm 145:8-9, 21

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent—we're only a week away from Christmas! Today's Advent candle symbolizes God's love demonstrated to us in the birth of Christ. And that love has always been God's heart toward his people. Listen to God describing himself to Moses:

5 The Lord came down in a cloud, stood with him there, and proclaimed his name, "the Lord."

6 The Lord passed in front of him and proclaimed:

The Lord—the Lord is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth, 7 maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity, rebellion, and sin.

Exodus 34:5-7a, CSB

Moses's response to God was to fall down and worship. Let's posture our hearts to do the same this morning. Read this aloud with me:

**8 The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

9 The Lord is good to all,
and his mercy is over all that he has made.

21 My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.**

Psalm 145:8-9, 21

0:00 *Go Tell It On The Mountain* [Default Arrangement in F]
Kids will be joining us on stage

0:00 Confession - Joel 2:12-13

Church, God is steadfast to us, but we can't always say the same for ourselves. We ignore him, fight him, outright tell him that what he wants in our lives doesn't matter. Our disappointment pushes God from his rightful place and separates us from him, hardening us to his grace.

But God has made a way for us to be brought near: through Jesus Christ, who was born to redeem us. And this was God's plan from the beginning: to call his people back to himself. God speaks this through the prophet Joel:

12 That is why the Lord says,
"Turn to me now, while there is time.
Give me your hearts.
Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning.
13 Don't tear your clothing in your grief,
but tear your hearts instead."
Return to the Lord your God,
for he is merciful and compassionate,
slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.
He is eager to relent and not punish.
Joel 2:12-13, NLT

December is a month that goes nonstop. But if you were to pause, be still, what would come to the surface? Would your heart need to be torn back into feeling? Would it need to be mended from too much?

Right now, I invite you to take a moment of stillness to return to the Lord.

(moment of silence)

Be assured today from the words of Isaiah: the Lord longs to be gracious to you; he is eager to show you mercy! He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry. As soon as he hears it, he will answer you.

0:00 *He Who Is Mighty* [Default Arrangement in F]
Play in E shape capo 1 for Key of F

0:00 *Angels We Have Heard On High* [Reawaken Hymns Arrangement in E]
Capo 2 play in D shape for key of E

0:00 Sermon - Luke 1:26-38

0:00 Baptism

Baptism is one of the most important steps of obedience a Christian can take. It is a declaration and display of the total salvation Jesus has already provided for us. A person is lowered into the water to symbolize the death of Jesus. Then the person is raised from the water to symbolize the resurrection of Jesus.

Now we will hear Robera Adugna's testimony.

[testimony]

Robera, thanks be to God for what he has done in your life! Baptism not only means you have committed to be a disciple of Jesus, but it also means the church commits to help disciple you. Church, we should feel the weight of this responsibility! Let's start by taking a moment and pray for our brother in Christ.

My brother, one important question before you are baptized. What is your sacred confession?

Robera: Jesus is Lord!

Come forward and step into the water. Our brother in Christ, it is our honor to baptize you in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Buried in the likeness of Christ's death; raised to walk in newness of life.

0:00 Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-28

0:00 *Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee* [Reawaken Hymn Arrangement in G]

3:43 *All Glory Be To Christ* [Kings Kaleidoscope in Eb]
Capo 3 play in C shape

0:00 **Benediction - Ephesians 1:5-7**

You may be seated. Thank you for joining us in today's gathering! We hope that you have experienced the welcome of Jesus.

Family Groups - We invite you to visit one of our Family Groups, which meet in homes throughout the week in order for us to grow in the context of deep relationships. If you would like to join one of them, there is info in the hallway, or talk with one of us, and we'll make a direct connection for you.

Giving & Visitors - Also, now is our time for giving—ushers, please come forward. If you are a visitor with us this morning, please grab a visitor card from the basket so we can get to know you more. You can give it to someone with a lanyard or leave it in your seat; the pen is yours to keep.

Antioch members, remember that giving is part of how we participate in God's mission. If you prefer to give digitally, visit our website or find us on GivApp.

Announcements

For everyone, here are a few ways to take the following steps:

1) Giving initiatives

MCT Prayer Calendars - They are now available for purchase! They will be in the back. We can take credit or debit card as well.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering - As always each year, we encourage you to consider giving to the IMB's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, 100% of which goes directly to missions. You might also consider giving directly to one of our non-IMB distributed members who raise support.

Year End Giving - We also want to remind you this time of year to consider Antioch in any of your year-end giving.

2) Christmas Eve and Christmas Day gatherings - Our Christmas Eve Gathering will take place this Saturday from 5:00 PM. Our Christmas Day Gathering will be at our normal time on Sunday at 10:30 AM. Neither gathering will have childcare, but they will be no longer than one hour and will be family friendly.

We begin each gathering with a call to worship, and we end with a benediction, which is simply a reminder that we are blessed to be a blessing.

Church, God's grace has come to you in the shattering and rising of Jesus Christ. Therefore, may you go today allowing that same grace to take you, so that others may behold a tangible expression of God's beautiful, creative power. Based on Ephesians 1:5-7

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

WE ARE SENT