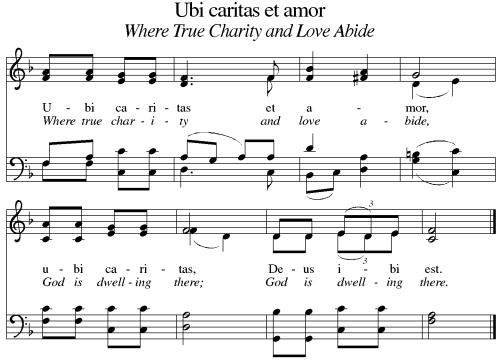
Mid-week Advent Service December 16, 2020 Advent 3 - Obedience

"You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." Luke 1:31-33

There were safer places more comfortable places palaces and wealthy places Yet you chose a daughter of the soil Who would have otherwise lived a good and honest life grown and harvested crops cooked and washed and cared for others and been forgotten to be your temporary home to be exalted for all time

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed

When does an ordinary life Become extraordinary A mundane day Become revolutionary A moment in time Change history? When God enters in Forgives sin Allows us to Begin again When we repeat Those words of Mary **'May it be to me As you say'**



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"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered.

"May it be to me as you have said." Luke 1:35-38

(A moment of silence - During the silence, you may like to read and reflect on the words that have been read or simply enjoy the peace and calm)

Into the daily cycle of our lives When all seems well With us and with the world When our yoke is easy And the burden light You break in And scatter our complacency

Into the daily cycle of our lives When we are comfortable And at our ease When the fire is lit

But eyes are closed You break in And challenge our dependency

You break into Our daily prayers Humble hearts Lay souls bare You break in You break in

You break in When defences are down With an Angel's shout Or the quietest sound You break in You break in

And we change And all things change When you break in

O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heavenly home; Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come again and with us ever dwell

Scripture reading Luke 1:5-17

⁵In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. ⁸Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. ¹⁰Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Veni Sancte Spiritus Holy Spirit, Come to Us Ostinato (repeated continuously) Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus. Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus. Ho - ly Spir - it, come to Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us. us.

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Intercessions - A circle prayer.

Imagine throwing a pebble into the center of a pond, and the circles of ripples that move out from the center.

We pray firstly for those closest to us, our immediate family and closest friends - for their health, needs, joys and fears. (Silent prayer) God of creation, God of Salvation Hear the prayers of our hearts

We pray for our extended family and friends who we might not see each week - for their love and concern, for their wellbeing. (Silent prayer) God of creation, God of Salvation Hear the prayers of our hearts

As the ripples reach out toward the land we pray for those who we only have contact with annually or less - for a blessing this Advent-time (Silent prayer) God of creation, God of Salvation Hear the pravers of our hearts

And as the ripples reach their furthest point we pray for this world and its people - for the needs of this week and the future. (Silent prayer) God of creation, God of Salvation Who speaks to us through thunder and whisper Who loves us as if there were but one of us to love Hear the prayers of our hearts

Our Father...

Benediction

May God the Father bless us; may Christ take care of us; the Holy Ghost enlighten us all the days of our life. The Lord be our defender and keeper of body and soul, both now and forever, to the ages of ages. (Æthelwold c 908-984)