

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’**

Ubi caritas et amor
Where True Charity and Love Abide

The image shows a musical score for a Latin antiphon. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor, / Where true char - i - ty and love a - bide,". The second system also has a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "u - bi ca - ri - tas, De - us i - bi est. / God is dwell - ing there; God is dwell - ing there." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand, with a triplet of eighth notes in the second system.

Text: Latin antiphon, 9th cent.; Taizé Community; tr. *With One Voice*
Music: TAIZÉ UBI CARITAS, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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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, ¹⁵for 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 us. Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us.

Text: Pentecost sequence; Taizé Community
Music: TAIZÉ VENI SANCTE, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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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 prayers 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)