



Carrollton Presbyterian Church
A Heart In The City

Worship for the Lord's Day

Third Sunday in Advent

December 14, 2025

11:00 a.m.



Mary's Yes
by Lisle Gwynn Garrity
Inspired by Luke 1:26-39
Photography with digital drawing

Centering Moment

In this image, we see the angel greeting Mary in the form of dappled light. Mary's back is turned to the angel, but we see her in the process of pivoting toward the warmth of the cascading light. I imagine this is the moment after the angel responds to her initial question, "How can this be?" After hearing the angel's response, Mary closes her eyes, imagining her cousin Elizabeth and perhaps her many ancestors holding her up as she prepares to step forward. The wrap around her head carries the angel's good news, anointing her with the promise that fear won't stop her. Embroidered along her neckline is Mary's willing response: "Here I am." Her lantern earring is a sign to each of us, to anyone who is fearful. It's as if Mary herself becomes a lantern, emanating courage in the face of a fearful calling, lighting a way forward.

—Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Bulletin indications:

* indicates standing in body or rising in spirit as able.

Bold text indicates words spoken by the whole congregation.

Preparing to Worship God

Tolling of the Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Angels from
The Realm of Glory/
While We Are Waiting
Come Medley

Henry Thomas Smart/
Don Cason,
Arr. by MA Taylor

Gathering Around God's Word

***Call to Worship**

Jeremiah said, "I am only a boy."

Moses said, "Who am I to do this work?"

Mary said, "How can this be?"

We often say, "But God, I am afraid."

Even when we are afraid, God invites us closer.

So may we trust the Inviter.

May we heed God's invitation.

May we summon our courage and sing God's praise.

Let us worship our courageous, inviting, calling God. Amen!

***Hymn 100**

My Soul Cries Out
with a Joyful Shout

STAR OF THE
COUNTY DOWN

Advent Candle Lighting

Wednesday Morning
Prayer Group

***Hymn of Preparation**

Advent Candles

Dr. Angela Saunders

*refrain and verse 3 - joy, then refrain again
(See Pew Pockets)*

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Courageous God,

you invite us to live into our call.

You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust.

**Instead of responding with a resounding "yes,"
we often hide our face.**

We dig our heels in.

We look for someone else to volunteer.

Spark courage in us.

**Remind us that every person is capable of making a
difference.**

Remind us that even when we're scared, we are not alone.

You invite us forward.

With baby steps we hope,

we pray,

Amen.

*Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Family of faith,
no matter where your path has led you in the past, today is a
new day. So join me in declaring this good news:

**We are known. We are forgiven! We are sent to serve.
May we step forward in faith, always moving closer to
God's call. Amen.**

*Passing of the Peace

Just as we have been forgiven in Christ, let us forgive and be at peace with one another, saying, “The peace of our Lord be with you!”

And also with you!

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

***Hymn 113** Angels We Have Heard on High GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Listening for God's Word

Time with Children

All children are invited to come forward for a time with Pastor Leigh.

Prayer for Illumination

Hebrew Bible Reading Jeremiah 4:1-10

For the word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among
us, for the Word of God within us,

Thanks be to God!

Anthem	"Star of Advent"	Pepper Choplin
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Gospel Reading Luke 1:26-39

For the word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among
us, for the Word of God within us,

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Rev. Leigh Bonner

***Hymn 88** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel VENI EMMANUEL
(verse 1, 2, 6 and refrain)

Responding to God's Word

*Affirmation of Faith

**We have seen the valley.
We have seen a sky without stars.
We have seen the longest night,
and still we believe.
We believe in a with-us God.
We believe in the hope of tomorrow.
We believe that good news is louder than fear.
We believe this good news is for all people.
So even when our knees shake,
even when our voice trembles,
even when fear is all around us,
we will hold onto that good news.
We will reach for each other.
We will look for God in our midst.
We will sing songs of joy.
We will proclaim:
Unto us, love is born.
We have seen the longest night,
and we have seen unimaginable love.
So still, we believe.
Amen.**

The Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory I Heard The Bells John Baptiste Calkin

You are invited to bring your offering to the plate on the Communion Table.

***Doxology** Hymn 606

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*Prayer of Dedication

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Following God Into The World

***Hymn 99** My Soul Gives Glory to My God MORNING SONG

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude How Great Our Joy! Hugo Jungst

You are invited to remain seated quietly for the postlude
so those worshiping online can hear the music

Serving in Worship

Prelude	Mary Anne Taylor
Liturgist	Mike Limerick
Advent Candle Lighting	Wednesday Morning Prayer Group
Acolytes	Elliott & Everett Snyder
Livestream	Keith & Robin Ellison Greg & Sue Smith

The bulletin art is:

Garrity, Lisle Gwynn. Mary's Yes; Liturgy, art, and artist's statement
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The Time with Children is "Advent 1, 2, and 3" from *The Complete Guide to
Godly Play, Volume 3*, by Jerome Berryman.

Our Staff

Rev. Leigh Bonner, Pastor
Debbie Lewis, Administrator for Ministry Support
Bobby Painter, Director of Music
Bryant Hand, Organist
Bronwen Feagins, Pianist

Our Session

+Elder on Call	
Linda Handyside, Clerk	Administration, Outreach
Amy Richardson, Assistant Clerk	Fellowship
Keith Ellison	Communications, Worship
Karen Hartley	Stewardship & Finance
Dale Howard	Congregational Care
Mike Limerick	Buildings & Grounds
Greg Smith	Communications
+Matthew Wilson	Administration

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Announcements

Crafternoons: An intergenerational celebration for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany

Sundays from November 30-January 4, Fellowship Hall, after worship until 1:30 P.M.

Come for light lunch, scripture, prayer, and crafts. Leave filled with the joy of fellowship. RSVP strongly recommended for all Sundays.

Today: Mirror Ornaments, Stars of Courage, and food.

Save the date: Tuba or not Tuba Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 20, 2:00 P.M., Sanctuary

Tom Anderson's tuba ensemble will play a lively selection of Christmas music for all to enjoy. Invite a friend! Suggested (not required) contribution: \$10.

Keeping Vigil for Hope on the Longest Night

Sunday, December 21, 5:00 P.M., Sanctuary

Save the date for this brief, contemplative service designed to be a refuge for those who find the holiday season and dark winter a difficult time.

Caretakers for our Little Free Pantry are needed for January and February. If you would like to volunteer, please reach out to Linda Handyside. Thank you very much, the Outreach Team.

This Week's Events

Sunday, December 14 (today)

- 9:30 A.M. Advent Coffee
- 10:00 A.M. Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 A.M. Worship @ The Sanctuary
- 12:15 P.M. Crafternoons: An intergenerational celebration for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany @ Fellowship Hall (Mirror Ornaments & Stars of Courage)

Tuesday, December 16

- 12:00 P.M. Al-Anon @ The Little White House

Wednesday, December 17

- 7:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal