

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 20, 2009

10:50 AM

Two women meet; greetings are exchanged. They are about to be mothers, and have much in common. Elizabeth, full of the Holy Spirit, exclaims that Mary is blessed. Mary, her spirit rejoicing, recites how God has been merciful. Expectation abounds for what is about to occur; those of low degree shall be exalted, and the hungry shall be filled with good things.

### GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Nursery care for infants and toddlers is available in the Educational Wing.

### WELCOME/MEDITATION

All are asked to complete the attendance register in the pew and pass it along to each person. Please indicate any prayer concerns also to be given to the ushers during the offering.

Prelude

*I Will Magnify the Lord*

Williams

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Grace Mimbe and Lynette Mimbe

Reader: "In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David" (Luke 2:1,3-4).

Reader: Today we remember Joseph, worn-out traveler and worried husband, doing what was necessary for the sake of his family, the burden of poverty stifling his hope in the promise of God. There was no room for him, yet he knows to whom he belongs.

**People: Today we give thanks for the Josephs among us, migrating far from home when there is no choice, fiercely devoted to the ones they love, unwavering in their belief that there is room for all in the kingdom of God.**

Reader: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of Joseph, who knocks at the door, ready to take his place among royalty. (Light two purple candles, the rose candle, and the last purple candle.)

**People: Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may leap in joy at your nearness and, like Mary, believe that there will be a fulfillment of what you speak to us today. Amen.**

\*Processional Hymn

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

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\*Invocation

### PROCLAMATION

Old Testament Reading

*Micah 5:2-5a*

O.T. Page 865

Micah proclaims the coming of a "new David" whose reign will be characterized by peace and caring for the needs of the people rather than war.

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. **People: Thanks be to God.**

**Children's Church** (Children age 4 through 1<sup>st</sup> grade may go to the Children's Church Room)  
**Junior Church** (Children grades 2 through grade 5 may go to the Junior Church Room)

\*Hymn

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

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\*Gospel Lesson

*Luke 1:39-55*

N. T. Page 57

"My soul magnifies the Lord... for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant." In Mary's Song, often called "magnificat" after its opening word in Latin, the lowliness of Mary recapitulates the lowliness of Bethlehem in the prophecy from Micah, and the "strength of God's arm" acts as both defender against oppressors (the proud, the mighty, the rich) and provider for the rest (the lowly, the hungry). In the other readings today, messianic prophecy is either recorded or fulfilled. Here, and in Mary's song (which follows in Luke, but precedes in the given order of today's readings), we see prophecy happening in "real time," as it were. Elizabeth, priest's elderly and miraculously pregnant wife, receives unwed Mary and her unborn child and breaks forth in blessing and wonder.

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Prayers of the People

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### RESPONSE

Offertory Prayer

(Unison)

Let us pray: **Thank you, God, for your mercy and protection, for feeding us physically and spiritually, for caring for us like a shepherd. We present our offerings as an act of gratitude. What we can never repay we pause to appreciate. In the name of generosity we cannot match, we seek to be generous toward others. May these offerings do far more than support our church. We dedicate ourselves and these gifts to honor Christ through ministry in the world. Amen.**

Offertory Anthem

*In Dulci Jubilo*

J. S. Bach

\*Doxology

Unison

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him; the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. Chorus: This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.*

"A Child This Day"

By Benjamin Harlan

Presented by the Chancel Choir of  
Lakeside United Methodist Church and Guest Orchestra

**\*Benediction/Benediction Response**

**\*Postlude**

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**Hearing devices** are available (special loops for hearing aids). Large print bulletins are now available. \*Please stand as you are able whenever you see this symbol. All **bold type** indicates congregational participation. As we worship, we are using the red United Methodist Hymnal (UMH) and black The Faith We Sing (TFWS). We do ask that you turn off all electronic equipment, including cell phones, as a courtesy to others. Nursery care for infants-preschoolers is available at the 10:50AM Service, in the educational wing. Please see an usher for assistance.

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**Welcome!** We are so pleased that you have chosen to worship with us on this day. Your presence is an encouragement and inspiration to us. Let us celebrate our faith and offer our thanks and praise to God for His blessings. If you desire to join our church, please speak to Rev. Charles Swadley or Rev. Bruce Lake. Membership occurs with Profession of Faith or a Letter of Transfer from another United Methodist Church or other Christian Church.

The **Poinsettias** on the altar are given to the glory of God. The **Flowers** on the altar are given to the glory of God and in honor The **Acolytes** The **Crucifer** is. The **Lay Reader** and **Lay Speaker** is John Wermuth. The **Greeter** is Wes Fergusson. The **Outside Greeters** are

**Our Church Staff:**

Ministers  
Pastor  
Pastor of Visitation Ministries  
Retired Pastor  
Deacon  
Administrative Assistant  
Music Director  
Community Minister for Diversity  
Organist  
Pre-School Director  
Ashland District Superintendent  
Virginia Conference Bishop  
Web Site: [www.lakesideum.org](http://www.lakesideum.org)  
Pastor's e-mail address:

*All Members of Lakeside United Methodist Church*  
*The Reverend Charles E. Swadley*  
*The Reverend Dr. D. Bruce Lake*  
*The Reverend Dr. Maurice Hancock*  
*The Reverend Nancy Robinson*  
*Victoria L. White*  
*Jeanne E. Bluford*  
*Justine Mimbe*  
*Caroline Fergusson*  
*Cynthia Padden*  
*The Reverend Mark V. Ogren*  
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*We envision churches where all God's people are welcomed at table, nurtured and transformed to be Christ to others in the world*

**Lakeside  
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Church**

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