



SHE PONDERED

By Lisle Gwynn Garrity
Inspired by Luke 2:15-20 | Charcoal
& chalk on paper

"When the shepherds see the new-born Messiah (confirming that their angelic night vision wasn't just a sleep-deprived hallucination), they deliver the angel's words to the new family. All are amazed by this pronouncement, except for Mary. She takes it all in, rolling the words over and over in her head, planting them deep in her heart: "Good news... great joy...all people...a savior...the Messiah . . . a sign . . . wrapped in cloth . . . lying in a feeding trough." Why does she ponder these things if she already knew them?"

I imagine Mary committing these words to muscle memory; she internalizes them so deeply within herself so that the words won't leave her—especially when the time comes for her baby son to be tested and tried and executed. Like the baby in her arms, these words become a part of her, filling like breath in her lungs.

I began this piece with a chaos of dark marks, smudging the entire paper black with charcoal. Then, starting from the middle, I began to draw with an eraser, etching the faces of Mary and her baby from the shadows. The result displays mother and child inextricably intertwined as light radiating amidst the darkness."

—Lisle Gwynn Garrity

WELCOME

- Greeting
- Announcements
- Prelude

Il est Ne'

-Jason Krug, Westminster Bells

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The world says, "All is lost."

God says, "All is loved."

The darkness says, "The light is dying."

The light says, "The fire is catching."

Fear says, "Cover your eyes and your ears."

Hope says, "Wait, watch, and listen."

As we light our first Advent candle,
we pray for holy hope of God.

Come now, O Child of Mary.

Come now, O Prince of Hope.

Sarah Jane Kimball, Mandy Myers,
Wylde, & Flynn

Hymn #92 *While We Are Waiting, Come*

**While we are waiting, come;
while we are waiting, come.**

**Refrain: Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting, come.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our souls magnify the Lord,
and our spirits rejoice in God our savior.
God has done great things. Holy is God's name!
**God's mercy is for all who fear the Lord,
God's love from generation to generation!**

+HYMN 82 ~ *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

+CONFESSION

Advent God, come among us. Awaken us to your presence, and fill us with your love. Forgive us when our hunger for justice gives way to our hunger for power. Forgive us when our hope for peace is swallowed by our fear of failure. Forgive us when our songs of faith are drowned out by the shouts of the world. Advent God, come among us, and make all things new. Hear now our silent prayers...

- *For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits* ~ Hymn 89 - Refrain
For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits; truly my hope is in you.
- Assurance of Forgiveness
- Response of Thanksgiving ~ Hymn 107
**Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heavenly door
and lives now inside us forever.**
- Passing of the Peace

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PRAYER FOR OPENNESS TO GOD'S WORD

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE - Ruth 1.15-18

STEWARDSHIP

- Call to Stewardship
Stewardship is a time to consider all our gifts. Think of how Jesus teaches us to spend the time, talents, and money with which we've been blessed. Think of how we each can use them to bring God's love to our neighborhood and to our world. Though many of us contribute electronically or by a check in the mail, your holding and passing the offering plate is an act of blessing and dedication.

- Offertory — *Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming* - arr. by Alf S. Houkom (Hymn 129)

GOSPEL READING - Matthew 1.1-17

SERMON ~ "Generations of Women"

+HYMN 142 ~ 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

Verses 1, 3 and 4

COMMUNION

- Invitation to the Table
 - Great Prayer of Thanksgiving
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
It is truly right and our greatest joy...
...The Lord's Prayer
 - Words of Institution
 - Communion of the People
You are invited to come forward. Take a piece of bread from the loaf and dip it in the cup and consume both together. If you would prefer to remain seated, the bread and cup will be offered to you there.
- Prayer after Communion
**God our hope, we give you thanks
that you have given us this foretaste
of the justice, righteousness, and peace
of your promised new creation.
Strengthen us with this heavenly food
as we seek to serve your holy realm.
Lead us to live in joyful expectation
of the coming again in glory
of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

+HYMN 105 ~ People Look East

Verses 1, 2 and 5

+BENEDICTION

+BENEDICTION RESPONSE - Hymn 88

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

— O Come, O Come Emmanuel

verse 1

POSTLUDE ~ *The King Shall Come*

- Michael Burkhardt

Welcome to Worship

Welcome to Maxwell Street, a church known for its diversity, inclusion and mission. This is Christ's Church and all are welcome. Bring your burdens as well as your hopes. Bring your disappointments as well as your joys. There is a kind of space here into which all are invited to be themselves and to feel at home. Participate to the degree you feel comfortable. Here is some information to help make you feel at home.

- LARGE PRINT BIBLES are available from the ushers.
- LARGE PRINT BULLETINS are available from the ushers.
- Hearing help is available with a personal amplification device from the ushers.
- An elevator is located in the Education Building for your convenience.
- **Visitors interested in learning more** are invited to meet with a pastor or member of the Welcome Team in the Johnston Parlor after the service. We are glad you are here today.

• Children Ministry

Infant to pre-K are welcome in the Nursery following Children's Moment or anytime during the morning. Come to the Young Children's Area in the basement. Professional caregivers and church volunteers will greet you there.

K - 5th grade after the children's message, children can go to our Sunday School program where age-appropriate activities will be available for all children ages k-5th grade.

Class: One Room Sunday School

Curriculum: Deep Blue Connects

Location: Big Blue Room and Children's Library (both rooms on Lower Level near Nursery)

All children are encouraged to be in worship with their families so they may share in hymns, scripture, prayers, and other parts of worship. There is a booklet available in the narthex, in classrooms, and the lobby with details about our Children's classes and upcoming events.

• **WIFI - Router Name: Maxwell - ORBI38**

Password: maxpres180

- Accessible restrooms are on the main level and basement level. Baby changing stations are available in the basement restrooms or nursery.
- Follow us on Twitter @maxpreschurch or tag #maxpres if you want to share a thought from today's service.
- + Indicates that the congregation is invited to stand in body and/or in spirit.

WORSHIP TODAY

Worship Leaders: Matt Falco, Rachel Vankirk Mathews, Kaitlin DeSpain, Ted Gentry, the Chancel Choir, Westminster Bells.

The reader is Blake Cegelka.

The acolyte is Theo Meads.

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of all the folks involved in social justice ministries at Maxwell Street by Linda and Jim Niemi.

Punch is served in the West Parlor. Punch is served in the West Parlor. All are invited.

The ushers are Ralph and Cindy Bollinger, Tim Costich, Tom Dixon, Ron Eads, Joe and Sandy Kyle, and Billy Porter.

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

Matt McMahan, Donna Wiehe, Doug Enmsminger, Cathy Penman, Richard Marshall.

We extend our condolences to Karlin Ghabrial and her family on the passing of Said last week.

We also extend our condolences to the family and friends of Emily Weixler McCay, friend of Andrea Williams.

SERVICE WOMEN AND MEN

Jake Abernathie, grandson of Dorothy & Loren Tice USS Harry S. Truman.

Trevor Anderson-Cooper (AOAN Weapons Department G-3), son of Debra Anderson & Bill Cooper.

Tyler Buckley, son of Leigh Buckley.

Clayton Tyler (Marine Bootcamp), brother of Jessica Tyler.

Nathan Stepp (Everett, WA) grandson of Mary Anna & Fayette Stepp.

And all the families and loved ones of our service women and men; for all peace-keepers and peacemakers in families, communities and the world.

MAXWELL STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DIVERSITY • INCLUSION • MISSION

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Pastor Matt Falco

Associate Pastor Rachel VanKirk Mathews

Choir Director Kaitlin DeSpain

Organist & Bell Director Ted Gentry

Mission Outreach Coordinator Shelli Gregory

Director of Children's Ministry Michelle Jones

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY

ADVENT WORKSHOP - Advent Calendars, cookie decorating, pizza, and more!! Fellowship Hall will be buzzing with activity following worship. On this first Sunday of Advent, we will enjoy a pizza lunch and Advent fun for families with children. Youth are invited to help with this fun event. Questions: Michelle Jones (michelle.jones@maxpres.org)

YOUTH will help with the Advent Workshop and then go ice skating at the rink at Triangle Park. Pick up is at the rink at 3:00.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK MEETING

Interested in being involved in reducing violence in Lexington? Want to work with others on justice related legislation on the local and national levels? Concerned about how we can foster civil discourse in our society? Come to the meeting in the Field room following worship.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN will be selling Pecans in the Punch Parlor after worship. They only have chopped nuts, some dark chocolate, and carmel left. These sales fund PW mission giving.

LIVE COURAGEOUSLY Our Stewardship Committee extends its appreciation to those who have already pledged, and encourages those who have yet to make your 2019 pledge to do so today.

THIS WEEK

Monday
10:30am Pastor's Coffee
5:30pm Trustees
7:00pm UK Guitar Concert

Tuesday
8:30am Sweet Blessings
9:00am Staff Meeting
7:00pm Centering Prayer
7:30pm UKirk

Wednesday
10:30am Kerygma
5:45pm Fellowship Dinner
5:45pm Children's Choirs
6:30pm Kerygma
6:30pm Chancel Choir
7:30pm Westminster Bells

Thursday
9:00am Canterbury Bells
10:00am Presbyterian Women
6:00pm Neighborhood Meal

Friday
6:00 - 8:00pm E7 Christmas Shop Set-up at St. Andrews (We're still looking for volunteers to help with set-up and the sale.)
6:30pm Words & Wine

Saturday
1:00pm E7 Christmas Shop - We need volunteers at this fun event. (Shelli@maxpres.org)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN meet Thursday, December 6 at 10am in the church Library. All women are invited to come enjoy good conversation, followed by Bible study led by Doug Ensminger. Following the study, we will have a special Christmas luncheon in Fellowship Hall. Rev. Nancy Jo Kemper will be the speaker for the program following lunch. In 2016 she was the Democratic candidate for Kentucky's 6th Congressional District, prior to that she was the pastor of New Union Christian Church in Woodford County and executive Director of Kentucky Council of Churches from 1991 to 2009. Her speech is entitled "The Ministry of Politics." All are invited to join us for lunch and to hear Rev. Kemper. If you need a ride to this meeting, please contact Linda Ensminger (554-5466) or Georgia Bacquet (278-3172).

WORDS & WINE meet on Friday, December 7 to discuss *The Hummingbird* by Steve Kieran. Natalya Tyutenkova will be our host. This year we will play a rousing game of Yankee Exchange. Please bring a new or gently used book gift wrapped. Questions: Kathy Cseledy (Ktcseledy@icloud.com)

NADYA Book Group meets December 9 from 6-7:30 at the home of Jason and Andrea Williams. They are reading *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng.

CHRISTMAS CARDS - Some of our church members are unable to attend church on a regular basis. We want them to know that we are thinking of them and wish them a Merry Christmas. Sending them a Christmas card is such a simple gesture to let them know they are still a part of the church family. Cards are available in the lobby. Choose a friend (from the labels); choose a card; write a message; place completed card in basket so we can mail them to our friends.

CHURCH BREAKFAST is Wednesday, December 19 at 8:30 in the Scout Room. Come join us for coffee, doughnuts and hear more about David Smith. \$1 contribution is appreciated.

SPECIAL MUSIC On Sunday, December 16, the Chancel Choir will present special music during worship. Come, let the music warm your spirits.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING - Join us on Sunday, December 16 for a fun evening of caroling. Meet at the church at 5:00 for a bowl of chili and a cup of hot cocoa then we'll divide up into groups and carpool to sing to our members that are unable to attend church on a regular basis. Let's spread some Christmas cheer!

MISSION AT MAXWELL

E7 CHRISTMAS SALE is Saturday, December 8 from 1-3pm at St. Andrews Episcopal Church (401 N Upper). Set up is Friday, December 7 from 6-8pm. Volunteers are needed to help with both set-up and the sale. Also, please bring in new and gently used gift items for the sale. Items may be dropped off at the office. Wrapped shoe boxes are wonderful to make the process go quicker. If you have any shoe boxes, please bring them to the office as well.

HABITAT BUILD We are helping with a current Habitat build on Friday, December 7 and Saturday, December 8. If you are interested in helping, please contact Shelli. (shelli@maxpres.org)

WARM TREE A Christmas tree will go up in our lobby on November 25 to be decorated with warm items (gloves, hats, scarves, etc.) that can be given to those seeking assistance from MSPC. Please bring items to help decorate the tree and help make this winter season a warmer one for our neighbors!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

We hope you will join us on Christmas Eve to celebrate the birth of Christ. We'll gather together with our neighbors, friends, and family to tell the story, sing carols, and share together in the joy of his arrival.

Family Service 5:30pm - A fun pageant for all ages
Traditional Candlelight Lessons & Carols Service 7:30pm
- Childcare Available
Communion Service 11:00pm - No Childcare Available

THE FRIENDSHIP BOOK can be found at the end of each pew. Please take the time to fill in your name, address, and phone. On the space at the end of the line, please be sure to sign up for any of the following, using more than one line if needed.

A. Presbyterian Women
B. Habitat Build
C. If You Would Like to Receive the Advent Devotional Electronically (please include email address).