

**Emmanuel Episcopal Church, West Roxbury**

**Online Liturgy for December 20, 2020**

**The Word of God**

*Prelude*

*Celebrant says*

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People* His mercy endures forever.  
Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**The Collect of the Day**

*The Celebrant says to the people*

The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*The Celebrant says the Collect.*

**The Collect**

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

**Old Testament**

*Lector* **A reading from 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and

a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus, says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

*Lector.* The Word of the Lord.

*People.* Thanks be to God.

*The Psalm is to be led by the Lector, responsively, the people reading the alternate verses*

### **The Song of Mary Magnificat**

*Luke 1:46-55*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children forever.

### **The Epistle**

*Lector.* A reading from **Paul's letter to the Romans 16:25-27**

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now

disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

*Lector* The word of the Lord

*People* Thanks be to God.

### **The Gospel**

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to **Luke 1:26-38**

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

*Celebrant.* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**The Dialogue Sermon: Everyone is to join the conversation. The Priest will offer some thoughts and listeners may respond with comments or questions.**

### **The Creed or Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in the God of life, who creates and loves people, who acts in history and who promises to never leave us alone. We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, who is our brother, who wants not to be idolized but to be followed. We believe that we dwell in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Without her we are nothing, filled with her we are able to become creative, loving and free. We believe in the Church of Jesus Christ, a community where we find companions and courage for the struggles of life, where we grow in our understanding of faith, through worship, prayer, nurture and service. We

believe that God has a use for us in this time and place, that though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we are called to be instruments of God's peace. We believe in living, hoping, laughing, and enjoying the good of the earth; We believe that people can change, and that God keeps pulling us to life and to a new world of joy and peace. Amen.

### **The Prayers of the People**

***Lector reads the prayers, the people respond – Lord, hear our prayer.***

*Rejoicing with Mary that the word comes among us, let us offer to God our prayers, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.*

May we find in Mary, the servant of the Lord, the model of our heart's willing surrender to God's call. For this let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

May we discover in true spiritual purity what God alone can do to make Christ come alive in Mary, in us, and in all the world. For this let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

May the God of mystery who dwells in unapproachable light draw us more and more deeply into the path of divine wisdom beyond all human expectation. For this let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

May our virtual assembly of disciples be a womb and a place for the shaping of Christ by God's power, so that we may give birth to Christ from the womb of our community for the world. For this let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

May our deepest hearts find strength in the gift of blessed hope that what God has begun to do in our world and in all our persons by Christ's saving work will be brought to its fullness by our Savior. For this let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

May we remember before God all who are in any need and who cry for the presence of God. For this let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

*[Here other intercessions may be offered.]*

*Call us to yourself, O God, as you called Mary, that we may be formed into a dwelling of holiness, giving life to all the peoples of the world through Mary's son, Jesus Christ Our Lord.*

### **Confession of Sin**

*Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. *Amen.*

*The Priest says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

### **The Peace**

*Celebrant*     The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*         And also with you.

*Celebrant.* And now as let us pray as our Lord has taught us:

*People*

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,  
for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### **Communion Prayer in this time of Pandemic**

*Celebrant*

O God, you prepared your disciples for the coming of our Savior through the miracle of Jesus' birth: Make our hearts and minds ready to receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit, that we may be filled with hope, joy, peace and love as we welcome the brightness of your light into the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **Closing Prayer**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Blessing**

*Celebrant*

May the peace of the Lord which passes all understanding, keeps your hearts and minds in the knowledge of God and of his son, Jesus Christ our Lord. And may the Blessing of God Almighty, The Father and the son be with us all and ever more. Amen

#### **Dismissal**

*Celebrant:* Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

***Thank you for joining us in prayer and witness today! Join us for virtual coffee hour and hymn singing following the Zoom recording on Saturdays at 5 p.m.***