

Advent Vespers

A lit purple candle with a bright flame, set against a dark background. The candle is the central focus, with its flame reaching upwards. The background is dark, making the candle and its light stand out.

*Angels from the
Realms of Glory
Mary - Saying Yes to God*

St. John the Baptist (Dixie)
December 10, 2025

Priest: Strengthen us in our weakness. Support us in our stumbling efforts to do your will and free our tongues to sing your praise. For to you all honour and blessing are due, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen

All sing the refrain

First Reading:

2 Corinthians 1: 17-22

Reader: A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Do I make my plans according to ordinary human standards, ready to say “Yes, yes” and “No, no” at the same time? As surely as God is faithful, our word to you is not “Yes and No.” For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, was not “Yes and No,” but in him it has always been “Yes.” For in him every one of God’s promises is a “Yes.” For this reason, it is through him that we say the “Amen,” to the glory of God. But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us, who has put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a down payment.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All sing

Hymn: “SING OF MARY, PURE AND LOWLY” (Tune #451, v 1, 2, 4)

Sing of Mary, pure and lowly, Virgin Mother meek and mild.
Sing of God's own Son most holy, who became her little child.
Fairest child of fairest Mother God the Lord who came to earth,
Word made flesh, our very brother, takes our nature by his birth.

Sing of Jesus, son of Mary, in the home at Nazareth.
Toil and labour cannot weary love enduring unto death.
Constant was the love he gave her, though he went forth from her side,
forth to preach, and heal, and suffer, till on Calvary he died.

Joyful Mother, full of gladness, in your arms your Lord was borne.
Mournful Mother, full of sadness, all your heart with pain was torn.
Glorious Mother, now rewarded with a crown at Jesus' hand,
age to age your name recorded shall be blest in every land.

Second Reading:

Luke 1: 30-38

Reader: A Reading from the Gospel of Luke

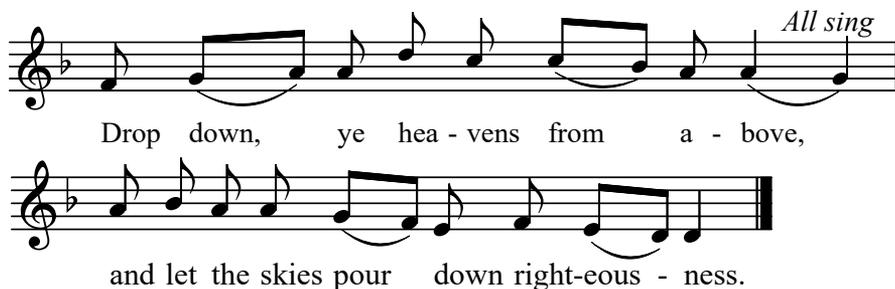
The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He 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.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection - *Fr. Daniel Brereton*

Advent Prose



The musical notation consists of two staves of music in a G major key signature (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and ends with a double bar line. The instruction "All sing" is written above the final note of the first staff.

All sing
Drop down, ye hea - vens from a - bove,
and let the skies pour down right-eous - ness.

Cantor: Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity forever: thy holy cities are a wilderness, Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation: our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee.

All sing the Antiphon

Cantor: We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing, and we all do fade as a leaf: and our iniquities, like the wind have taken us away; thou hast hid thy face from us: and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

All sing the Antiphon

Cantor: Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know me and believe me: I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour: and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

All sing the Antiphon

Cantor: Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry: I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions: Fear not, for I will save thee: For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.

All sing the Antiphon

The Prayers

Priest: Lord it is night. The night is for stillness.

All: **Let us be still in the presence of God.**

Priest: It is night after a long day.

All: **What has been done has been done; what has not been done has not been done; let it be.**

Priest: The night is dark.

All: **Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in you.**

Priest: The night is quiet.

All: **Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all dear to us, and all who have no peace.**

Priest: The night heralds the dawn.

All: **Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities. In your name we pray. Amen.**

Act of Faith

Priest: Dear friends, the announcement the Messiah was coming to her, brought joy to Mary. As we await the joy of his return, our Lord asks of us the same thing he asked of Mary – will you offer yourself to me, body and soul? Like Mary we have our own reasons to doubt, to be anxious, to ask “How can this be?” certain that we are not worthy or able to be so favoured by the Lord’s presence. And yet, we too are called to become dwelling places for the Lord on earth. I invite you therefore in the name of the Lord to take a moment of silence, to contemplate the message of the angel, that you too have been called to be the servant of the Lord, then come forward to the altar and light a candle – a sign that your answer to God, is yes, and let it be with you, according to his word.

Solo: “COME, EMMANUEL COME”

Sung Laurel Tubman

Concluding Prayer

Priest: God of glory, who filled Mary with the grace to accept your will, help us to also hear and receive your Word, that we too might accept your vision for our world; a world not of our making.

All: **Lord, grant us peace.**

Priest: Fill us with the hope and peace of Christ, that we may be renewed in strength and rise above the divisions and rancor of this broken world, to embrace your vision for a world at peace.

All: **Lord, grant us peace.**

Priest: Confront our perplexed and confused anxiety, and ease our minds with the peace and promise of your faithfulness. Strengthen us to carry out our service to others in righteousness and trust.

All: **Lord, grant us peace.**

Priest: As Mary put aside her fears and her own will to obey the plans you laid out for her, may we too overcome fear and humbly make a home within us for you to dwell in.

All: **Let it be with us, according to your word.**

Priest: We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Joy of Our Desiring.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: Gathering all our cares into one, let us pray,

All: **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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

All sing

Hymn: #320 - "YE WATCHERS AND YE HOLY ONES" (v 1, 3, 4)

Ye watchers and ye holy ones, bright seraphs cherubim, and thrones, raise the glad strain, alleluia! Cry out, dominions, principedoms, powers, virtues, archangels, angels' choirs: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O higher than the cherubim, more glorious than the seraphim, lead their praises, alleluia! Thou bearer of the eternal Word, most gracious, magnify the Lord, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O friends, in gladness let us sing supernal anthems echoing: alleluia, alleluia! To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three-in-One, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Dismissal

Priest: Go with joy, for you have found favour with God!

People: **Thanks be to God.**