



December 14 – 15, 2024

Bring Peace
Luke 1:46-55

Christmas Choir & Orchestra CHRISTMAS CONCERT



PRINCE OF PEACE Christmas Choir & Orchestra

ALL SERVICES
SAT 5:30 pm | SUN 8:45 am | SUN 10:30 am

Angels We Have Heard on High*

Ave Maria

A New Jerusalem

Mary, Did You Know?

Love Is The Reason Why

Breath of Heaven

Silent Night*

O Holy Night

Go Tell It On The Mountain

* Congregation participation

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Classic: Sun 8:45am | Contemporary: Sat 5:30pm, Sun 10:30am

Service of Remembrance | December 17 | 7:00pm

Christmas Eve Worship | December 24

Family: 3 & 4:30pm | Evening: 7 & 8:30pm | Online: 4:30 & 8:30pm

Christmas Day Worship | December 25 | 10:00am

Worship in person with Pastor Paul Dean preaching,
or experience a re-broadcast of the Christmas Concert online.

Christmas Lessons & Carols | December 29 | 10:00am

This will be the only worship service this weekend!

JOIN US FOR MISSION

Mission Outpost open house | January 11-12 after all services

Get a look at what Mission Outpost is doing! Most needed items
now are canned pinto beans, raisins, canned pasta sauce, ramen
noodles, boxed oatmeal and canned chicken (5oz). Thank you!

JOIN US IN GENEROSITY

Submit statements of intent: popmn.org/fall-stewardship

Submit year-end gifts before 11:59pm on December 31.

Make sure your gifts are credited in this tax year! Info →



Journey through Advent with using our new POP ADVENT CALENDAR: popmn.org/2024-advent-calendar/

Connect With Us

We are here to love God and all people by being the heart, hands and feet of Jesus in the world so that all might know that they are loved. We are an open and affirming church. We value growing a relationship with God and with each other, and showing up for people in need in this community and beyond. **Welcome to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church!**



Connect with
Prince of Peace!
Scan here to
join our mailing list
and find ways to
get involved.



Scan here to
donate to
Prince of Peace's
**Mission &
Ministry.**



Scan here to
make a **prayer
request** or to
have a member
of the Spiritual Care
Team contact you.

PAPER COPIES OF THESE FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE CONNECT DESK.



Trust the Story | Do Not Be Afraid | **Bring Peace**

MY SPIRIT REJOICES IN YOU

Our world is divided by barriers, borders, and boundaries. These boundaries divide communities and families as well as nations. But God's vision for our one expansive human family is that we can come together to walk in the light of God's intention for the world.

The world in Luke was also full of barriers and boundaries. It's into that divided world that Mary responds to surprising news with a poetic vision of peace. Here is Mary's *Magnificat* from Luke 1:46-55, re-imagined as a song by Marty Haugen in his *Holden Evening Prayer* worship service:

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you,
You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed me all my life through.
Great and mighty are you, O Holy One, strong is your kindness evermore.
How you favor the weak and lowly one, humbling the proud of heart.

You have cast the mighty down from their thrones, and uplifted the humble of heart,
you have filled the hungry with wondrous things, and left the wealthy no part.
Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One, strong is your justice, strong your love,
As you promised to Sarah and Abraham, kindness forevermore.

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you,
You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed me all my life through.

FOR REFLECTION:

Have you ever read the book *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* by Barbara Robinson? It's a story about a family of unruly kids who take over the annual Christmas pageant. These kids are always in trouble at school, often in fights, always causing trouble, stealing, antagonizing, disrupting everything. Everyone is sure they'll ruin the pageant, but these kids manage to bring a sense of humanity to an often-sanitized story. For example, the girl who plays Mary carries the baby slung over her shoulder, burps him, and looks like she's going to fight anyone who lays a hand on him. She is dirty, her hair is a mess, and she has bruises and scars from her hard life.

Could the actual mother of Jesus have been like that, too? What do you think her life was actually like? How did she look and feel after making a long, difficult journey while pregnant? How scary would the reality of this particular pregnancy be to a teenage girl? Did she need to be in constant self-protection mode, given the gap between her pregnancy date and her marital status?

Why is labeling Mary a virgin so important to us? Is that any of our business? We often depict Mary as the idealized vision of untouched, holy, blameless youth. Does anyone actually fit that description? Why do we need Mary to be "perfect"?

Think about all the characters in the Bible. Does God only choose perfect, righteous people to do God's work? Or is the Bible full of flawed people doing the best they can, having inspired moments of insight or trust in the middle of a lifetime of doubt and human mistakes? Why would Mary be different?

How can the idea of Mary as a regular person, equally amazing and flawed, be an inspiration for your Christmas season, and every season afterwards? What does it mean that she says "yes" to this offer, to be the mother of God? She appears to have a choice in this matter, because in Luke 1:38 she consents. (This might lead you to ask how many other women were asked, but turned the offer down!) What does it mean that Mary responds to this exciting, heavy, scary, bewildering offer with gratitude? How can this story speak into your life, your situation, and your story today?