



December 6 – 7, 2025

**Joy for the Lowly**  
Luke 1:39-56



### MUSIC THIS WEEKEND

#### CONTEMPORARY

**SAT 5:30 pm | SUN 10:30 am**

Go Tell It On The Mountain  
Your Word

PRAISE CHOIR: Take This Light  
Mary Did You Know  
I Got Joy

#### CLASSIC | SUN 9:00 am

Joy to the World  
PRAISE CHOIR: Take This Light  
BELLS: Musical Offering  
Angels We Have Heard On High

MESSAGE: **Jill Bergman**  
**Communion** (all services)

We offer prayers and sympathy to the family of Dale and Kara Kipp as they grieve the death of their nephew **Mitchell Morovets** and the family and friends of **Nancy Timm** as they grieve her death.

Upcoming Celebration of Life Service:  
**Nancy Timm** (December 11)  
**Sharon Norrbom** (December 12)

### JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS!

Find our Christmas schedule at [popmn.org/christmas-2025/](https://popmn.org/christmas-2025/)

### JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

**Classic: Sun 9:00 am (sanctuary)**  
**Contemporary: Sat 5:30 pm (chapel) | Sun 10:30 am (sanctuary)**  
Resources, livestreams, playlists and podcast links: [popmn.org](https://popmn.org).

**Christmas Concert | December 13 & 14 | All worship services**  
Celebrate the season with us! Enjoy holiday music at the Christmas concert featuring the Celebration Choir and Orchestra. Free and open to the public!

### JOIN US FOR COMMUNITY

**Beer Church | December 7 | 5:00 pm**  
Join us at Ineffable Brewing Co. for community, conversation, live music, a fascinating speaker, and a cold drink.

**Blue Christmas | December 8 | 6:30 pm**  
Join us for a grief support mini-series surrounding the holidays. Contact Pastor Sarah Fike at [sfike@popmn.org](mailto:sfike@popmn.org).

**Service of Remembrance | December 16 | 7:00 pm**  
Join us as we worship and thank God for our loved ones who have passed away. Submit the name of your loved one or loss by scanning the QR code.

**POP Artist Guild 2026 Calendars | Featuring POP artists**  
Purchase calendars for \$20 after worship this weekend in the community room. Proceeds go to Feed My Starving Children.



### JOIN US IN GENEROSITY

**Thank you for your gifts for mission and ministry!**



### Welcome to Prince of Peace!

We are an open and affirming community, here to love God and all people.



**Connect with Prince of Peace!**  
Scan here to join our mailing list and find ways to get involved.  
Paper copies of this form are available at the Connect Desk.

### YEAR-END APPEAL

As you consider your year-end gift, we ask that you support our Mission & Ministry Fund and help us prepare for 2026.

You can make your pledge at [popmn.org/give/year-end-appeal](https://popmn.org/give/year-end-appeal)



## Where is God in dark times?

I, Pastor Jill, grew up in a border town. My hometown of Albert Lea, Minnesota is only 7 miles north of the Iowa border. It's also more than an hour's drive away from Minnesota's capitol city of St. Paul. The people who live in a border town, especially one that's a distance away from the political center of the state, develop an identity that's unique to the region. In Albert Lea, we never quite felt like the people in the Twin Cities understood us and we didn't quite understand them very well, either. (I live in the Cities now and I can testify to that truth from both perspectives!) While rules and policies developed in the political center certainly affect the people in a border town, more often, it's the local happenings and policies that matter the most.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, also grew up in a border town. Her hometown was called Nazareth and it was in a northern region of Israel named Galilee. Galilee's identity was shaped by the fact that it was far from the political center in Jerusalem and little official oversight of the local population was possible. This meant that Roman soldiers as well as Israeli citizens had more freedom to practice behaviors that may not have been allowed in Jerusalem. Soldiers had the freedom to behave badly and the Jewish folks had more freedom to rebel. Both took advantage of this freedom. It was not a quiet or calm place to live.

Often when we consider Mary, we focus on her gentle and submissive qualities. These qualities would have been refined in a placid and passive environment – which Nazareth was not. If we ignore Mary's cultural context when we read her Magnificat, we will likely miss the passion and power of God to which Mary testifies. Her song of praise is not gentle or submissive. It is fierce, rebellious, and deeply personal. It depicts a fervent God who is in the process of upending the world and who is inviting Mary to join the revolution.

This upending got started 2000 years ago and it is still going on. In fact, if we pay attention, we can feel the push and pull of the world's human authorities against God as they seek to retain their power. Like Mary, God has given each of us a personal invitation to join the revolution. We each have a unique way that we can invert human power structures and reveal God's will.

In truth, we are all living on a border right now. The border is not a geopolitical boundary, though, it is a spiritual one. We have one foot in the world of humanity and one foot in the realm of the Divine. Such a border would tear us apart if not for the power of Jesus Christ who himself is leading us onward. In Jesus we realize that the entire world is being made new in his name. We are blessed to have been invited to participate. Even on the border, we can join in Mary's confident song, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Luke 1:46-47).