

December 18, 2020

Dear Friends,

“Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” (Luke 1:38) This is how Mary responded to the angel Gabriel’s announcement that she would bear the Christ child.

What a beautiful response! But there was a whole conversation with Gabriel which preceded it. There was a process, some interior wrestling for Mary as she realized God’s favour and considered her inclusion in his salvation plan. And she surrendered. Her surrender to God is a blessing to the whole world past, present and future.

I’ve been thinking about this – a lot – these many months. Christ comes to me – to us – and we are gifted with the privilege of surrendering to him. Then we become carriers of him for the blessing of the world.

**Sunday Online Worship Gathering at 10 a.m.**

This fourth Sunday of Advent, the theme is Love. We will hear of Mary’s surrender to God’s love. We will hear a testimony from Mikaela as she lights the candle that represents God’s love. And we will see excerpts from a small in-person gathering in the church building last Sunday during which three couples dedicated their babies to the Lord, two adults were confirmed and two were baptized.

Please [contact me](#) for a link to the Zoom service.

For this week’s scripture readings and other announcements, go to [Sunday’s bulletin](#).

You may pick up your Advent devotional [here](#).

**Sunday School for grades 4-6 at 11:15 a.m.**

Thank you to Simon for your dedicated leadership these many months. We will take a pause and see all of you who are in grades four to six when Sunday School resumes on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Christmas Eve**

Thank you to all who pre-registered for our two Christmas Eve services (5 p.m. and 7 p.m.) in the church sanctuary. We draw near to this high point in the Christian year, the celebration of God-with-us through Christ. “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.” (Isaiah 9:6-7a)

We have reached capacity for the in-person service as per current public health guidelines, but you may join the livestreamed 7 p.m. service.

Please [contact me](#) for a link to the Zoom livestream service.

God be with you. Merry Christmas!

With love and prayers,

Pastor Kerry Kronberg (with the whole team)