


## Welcome to Worship!

We are so grateful that you have joined us. Today, we continue our message series for Advent entitled "The Promise." We are looking at four of the first people to see God's incredible promise of a Savior fulfilled. We started with Simeon and the promise of HOPE. Next, we focused on the shepherds and promise of PEACE. Last week, we looked at Zechariah and the promise of JOY. This morning, we turn to Mary and the promise of LOVE.

## CHECK IN

You are important to us.
Guests and members,
let us know you are here or leave a prayer request by filling out the connection card in the pew and dropping it in one of the boxes in the back of the worship center. You may also check in online through our app or by scanning this $Q R$ code or by visiting:
myredeemer.church/ connect

|  | DeWitt Campus <br> 3:00, 5:00, \& 7:00pm <br> We will offer a Christmas Day Devotional online for you <br> to enjoy in place of live services at either campus. <br> 9:30 only |
| :--- | :--- |
| Christmas Eve (Saturday) |  |
| Christmas Day (Sunday) |  |

## Announcements

## 2022 CHRISTMAS OFFERING

This year's Christmas Offering is being dedicated to the following:
Cardboard Prophets - Every month, the Redeemer Church \#bethechurch program supports Cardboard Prophets and their mission to help the homeless community. Part of your gift to the Christmas Offering will be used to purchase tents, sleeping bags, meal kits, hand warmers, and much more.

Midwest Mission Kits - Midwest Mission is one of 10 cooperating depots in the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Supply Network. They distribute UMCOR supplies in response to disasters within the United States. Part of the your gift will go towards the UMCOR Mission Kits.
Herb and Kim Burkett - Despite the ongoing war in Ukraine, the Burketts continue to lead and grow the congregation of the Ukrainian Bible Church. They work with teens internally displaced and provide a short reprieve, conduct children's camp to offer a time of peace and safety, and hold weekend retreats for adults to reinforce the truth of God's Word. Again, part of your gift will enable them to proclaim the gospel and to grow God's kingdom.
To make a gift, simply use the Christmas Offering envelopes in your monthly mailing or mark any envelope with 'Christmas Offering'. A gift can also be made through the mobile app, on our website, or text 517-731-0518 with your dollar amount and the word 'Christmas'. Thank you for your support.

## A REALLY COOL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

Looking for a volunteer or two who would be willing to be a part of the "snow-shovel crew" to help clear the sidewalks on Sunday mornings during the winter months. If you are interested, contact the church office at 669-3430.

## CHRISTMAS EVE VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP

We are looking for volunteers for Christmas Eve Services. Services will be 3:00, 5:00, and 7:00pm. If you are interested in greeting, ushering or being a host/hostess at the Information Center, please sign up at the information counter in the church lobby or email Sandy.
With your help, Christmas Eve Services at Redeemer will be a warm, welcoming, joyful experience for all who come.


## YEAR-END GIVING

Now is the perfect time to make a year-end gift to the church in honor of Jesus and all he has done for us. All gifts will qualify for a 2022 charitable income tax deduction as long as they are received or postmarked by December 31, 2022. Please note the church office is closed on Friday, December 24 and 30. Donations can be dropped off in the office until Thursday, December 29 at 4:30pm.

For more information go to our website.

## FAMILY MINISTRIES

## CHRISTMAS BREAK FOR KIDS AND YOUTH MINISTRY

Please note there will be no classes for Kids Ministry or Youth Ministry on January 1. This includes all classes from Preschool through 12 grade. (including HS Group at 6 pm .)
There will be one time use kids bags available in the lobby for children in service on January 1. Reminder: January 1-9:30am service only.
MS Youth Group and Open Gym will take a Christmas break also, there will be no gatherings on December 27 \& 28, and January 3. Enjoy time with your families!

Regular class schedules will resume on January 8 at 9:30 for all ages from Preschool - 12 grade, at 11am for Preschool - 8th grade, and HS group at 6:00pm.

## MISSION TRIP: PLANNING AHEAD

We are excited to announce that we will be bringing back the youth missions trip in 2023! Trip dates are June 10-June 16, more details to follow! If you are interested in receiving details on the trip as we get them, please contact Megan at 669-3430 ext. 308 or email Megan.

## HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTIES - TONIGHT

We are excited to host a Christmas party for High School tonight! There will be games, prizes, cookies, Ugly Sweater contest, and a white elephant gift exchange. Our time for this evening will be 6 pm 8pm.



## Big Idea: WE PREPARE FOR THE BIRTH OF SOMETHING NEW

## Getting Started

What have you been told about the events surrounding your birth?

## Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. What do you learn about Jesus Christ from the angel's announcement (v.30-33)?
2. How do you suppose Mary felt about the angel's message foretelling her supernatural pregnancy? What do you think was the hardest thing for her to comprehend?
3. Why did the angel Gabriel tell Mary about Elizabeth's condition?
4. 'When God shows up, our lives are disrupted.' God can bring something new through a disruption. Share an example of this in your own life. How did God meet you through a time of change?
5. How is Mary's faith an example to you?
6. In what area of your life do you need to believe that nothing is impossible with God?
7. What are the prayer requests on your mind and heart today?

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank you for being willing to come to earth as a tiny baby. Your gift of love is amazing. Your birth changed the world. Thank you for the faith of Mary. May we demonstrate the same kind of faith in our lives too. In the name of Christ, we pray, Amen.

GOING DEEPER: Read Luke 1:26-38 and Luke 1:11-20. How does Gabriel's word to Mary compare with his word to Zechariah? How is Mary's response different than Zechariah's response? How do you think Mary felt about giving birth to the Messiah? What does Christ's birth mean to you today?

## FOCUS SCRIPTURES:

" In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.' Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus."

Luke 1:26-31
MY NOTES:

