



FROM
GENERATION
TO GENERATION...
We see God in each other

Cover Art: “The Golden Cradle”

by Carmelle Beaugelin

Inspired by Luke 1:39-45; 56-58 | Acrylic, gilding paint, canvas collage on handmade reclaimed paper

Mary and Elizabeth have found in each other a sisterhood amid their precarious and unusual circumstances. An older Elizabeth (perhaps losing hope of ever nursing a child at the loss of her monthly cycle) welcomes a young Mary (pledged to be wed at the first sign of her cycle, yet seemingly pregnant before she has even wed). Despite their difference in age, the two cousins find comfort in each other in the midst of the unconventional timing of their expanding families. All along, as the two women whisper together of the growing promises hidden in their wombs and unconventional lives, Mary and Elizabeth themselves are cradled by the guiding arms of the God who moves them beyond cousins into sisterhood.

Reminiscent of Haitian folk art figures, Mary and Elizabeth are portrayed wearing traditional Afro-Caribbean style headdresses as their silhouettes face one another in a stoic greeting. For new Haitian mothers, a tradition of preparing sacred tea leaves, as well as postpartum herbal baths, offers solidarity between the more seasoned women and a new mother. Often—as displayed by the relationship between the two women in this story—grandmothers, cousins, and other close female community members act as surrogates in this sacred practice for those who have been displaced from their own families.

The Golden Cradle expands on the imagery of Mary’s golden “yes” to her call, meeting Elizabeth’s “yes” to a holy birth of her own. In their meeting, the promises they carry leap for joy at this first encounter, offering us a picture of the kind of communal solidarity we often find along the journey of the unfolding story of God in our own lives. Even in moments of isolation, we often encounter surrogates who step in with divine provision when we need it the most.

—Carmelle Beaugelin

*With Christ as the Cornerstone, we will build a church of living stones,
where every member is a minister and is equipped to express God’s love
by word and deed to all people.*

Based on 1 Peter 2:5, 6

The Worship of God

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Children's Nativity

December 18, 2022

Gathering Music

Welcome

April Alston

✠ Opening Song

"From Generation to Generation"

Words and Music by
Christian McIvor ©2022

Verse 1:

The future holds the past and present, it knows where we've come from;
The present holds the past and future, and the hope of what may come.
Traditions held to, the paths we've followed have led us here today,
May we be open to transformation as we make a new way.

Verse 2:

When we're consumed with doubt and worry, it seems there's no release;
Our world gets small, our fears take over, and we lose all sense of peace.
But there, God meets us to call us forward, distractions start to fade;
With courage rising, we'll meet the challenge, we will not be afraid.

Chorus:

From generation to generation, the seeds of love are sown;
As we take part in God's liberation, the promise is made known.
The story continues of the Christ in flesh and bone;
From generation to generation, we are not alone.

Verse 3:

When we're caught up in times of trouble, we have a choice to make;
Will we respond with strength and patience? Will we bend or will we break?
If we just listen and work for justice, to truth we will be led.
And to the story, we'll take great joy then in weaving our own thread. (Chorus)

Bridge:

God's love connects us, it breaks down every wall;
So let God, from within us, reach out to the God in all. (Chorus)

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Bill Baxley, Blair Andrew,
Aidan Eshleman, Henry Davis

✠ *Please rise in body or spirit.*

Mary, Joseph, and Jesus

Luke 2:1, 3-7

Carol 262

“Away in a Manger”

Stanzas 1 and 3

The Angels

Luke 2:8-14

Carol 278

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Stanzas 1 and 3

The Shepherds

Luke 2:15-20

Carol 265

“The First Noel”

Stanzas 1 and 2

The Wise Men

Matthew 2:1-12

Carol 288

“We Three Kings”

Stanzas 1 and 5

Pastoral Prayer

Steve Rose

Offertory Anthem

“Beautiful Worship Noel”

GBC Choir

from *The Seven Noels*
by Pepper Choplin

Sing a beautiful worship noel,
full of praises, adoration and sing a beautiful worship noel.
Sing a beautiful worship noel, noel,
full of praises, adoration and sing a beautiful worship noel.

Rise and sing, O sing a beautiful worship noel
to the King, the King of Israel.
Through the joy of the sound, our joy will abound
when people join to sing.

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, O sing a beautiful worship noel, noel,
full of praises, adoration and sing a beautiful worship noel and sing,
Sing noel, come and sing a worship noel.

(cont'd on next page)

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord.
And make us one in the song we share as we live the Gospel of love we declare.

Noel, noel, noel, noel.
Born is the King of Israel
Born is the King, the Christ, the Christ, the Lord of all!

✠ **Doxology for Advent**

VENI EMMANUEL;
Words by Thomas Ken, 15th Century French Melody

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Prayer of Dedication

Lisha Stewart

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:39-58

Cathy Perkinson

Sermon

“We See God in Each Other”

Chrissy Williamson

Silent Reflection

Invitation

Chrissy Williamson

✠ **Musical Response**

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

(music and text are on pages 5 and 6)

Celebrating Community

Anna Beth Cross

Benediction

Chrissy Williamson

Postlude

“How Great Our Joy”
Pam Weis

arr. James Mansfield

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the
 fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the
 dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Thank you to Cranberry Tree Farms for their gracious donation of wreaths
 and for the beautiful Chrismon trees in the Sanctuary.

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