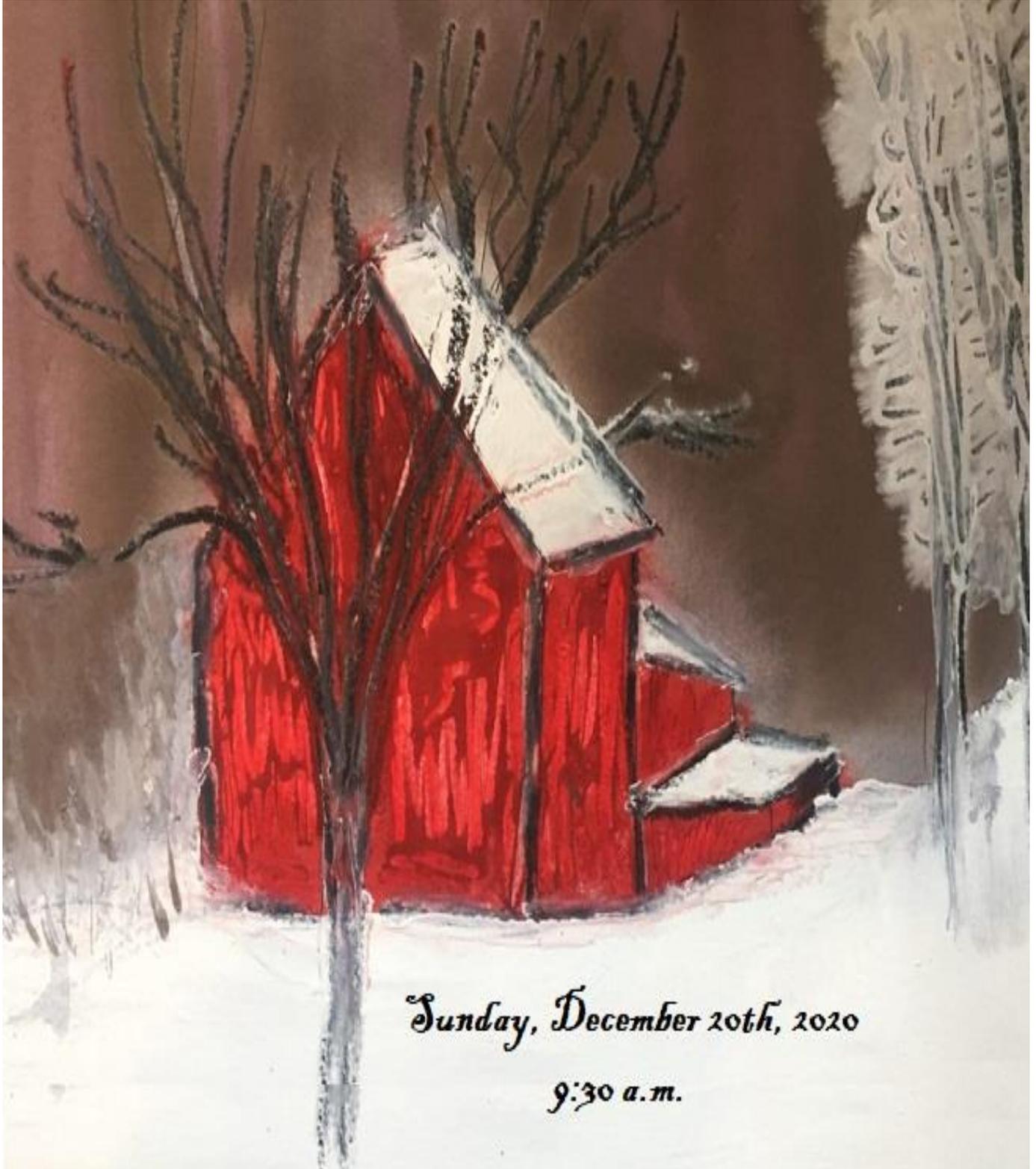


**NEW MILFORD
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**



Sunday, December 20th, 2020

9:30 a.m.

Red Barn in the Snow, New England | Sramana Mitra, 2018



The order of service is subject to change at the leading of the **Holy Spirit**.

Italicized Bold print invites congregational response in unison.

† Means you are **invited to stand** if able and comfortable.

Please invite your friends to join our worship services on Facebook & share our livestream.

ENTRANCE & PRAISE

Prelude

Announcements

Steve Kolitz

Welcome

Pastor Marion

You are invited to worship with us in the quiet of prayer, in the joy of song, and in the desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior Jesus Christ. Part of our mission is to be a place for all people. All are welcome here! Whatever your gender identity, age, race, religious background, economic status, sexual orientation, or condition of ability, we greet each other as beloved children of God.

† Call to Worship

Leader: God looks kindly on us when we are at our lowest.

All: Rejoice in God our Savior

Leader: God had done great things for us in times past.
God will do great things for us in days to come.

All: Rejoice in God our Savior.

Leader: Christ's mercy is upon us, offering hope in times of despair.

All: Rejoice in God our Savior

Leader: Christ's love has made us whole

All: Rejoice in God our Savior

Leader: The Spirit's power disarms our pride and prejudice.

All: Rejoice in God our Savior

Leader: The Spirit's power strengthens our mercy and compassion.

All: Rejoice in God our Savior

Leader: Even as we are filled this day, may we go forth to nourish a world in need.

All: Rejoice in God our Savior

(The Abingdon WORSHIP ANNUAL 2020 p.273)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Patty and Harold Jacobson

Reader One: We live on the brink every day. We stand on the threshold between this world and the next one. We live and move between the ordinary and divine, between the mundane and the mystery. Too often, we forget to look up and see the angels in our living room. We forget that the love we give and live is a sign of eternity, God with us, right now. We forget that company is coming.

Reader Two: Luke tells us that God's favor came to a girl, an ordinary girl. It might have been you or your daughter; it might have been the girl down the street or your grandchild. But the messenger of God came and greeted her and said, "The Lord is with you." What a gift and a promise: Emmanuel, God is with us.

Reader One: We light these candles with peace in our hearts for the promise of proximity, the nearness of God. Even when we forget to listen, to lean into that presence, God is as close as our own breath. This, in a confused and confusing world, is a peace that passes all understanding. It is the peace that knows that company is coming. (Light all four Candles.)

Reader Two: O Come, O Come Emmanuel.
(Advent Candle Light Liturgy 2020, www.umcdiscipleship.org)

HYMN: #211 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 1)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

OPENING PRAYER: (In Unison) Pastor Marion
Mighty God, pour out your Holy Spirit on all of us gathered here. As we follow in Mary's footsteps, open our hearts, that we might be filled with your goodness and your love. Live in us, that we might bear the Christ light for all to see. Overshadow us with your presence, that we might truly be blessed and offer your blessing of love to the world. (The Abingdon WORSHIP ANNUAL 2020 p.274)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SCRIPTURES:

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

7:1 Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him,

7:2 the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent."

7:3 Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

7:4 But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan:

7:5 Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in?

7:6 I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.

7:7 Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"

7:8 Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel;

7:9 and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.

7:10 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly,

7:11 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

7:16 Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

HYMN: #218 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (vs. 1)

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,
From heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

GOSPEL Luke 1: 26-38

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God.

Luke 1:26-38

1:26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,

1:27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

1:28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

1:29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

1:30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

1:31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

1:32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.

1:33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

1:34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

1:35 The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

1:36 And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.

1:37 For nothing will be impossible with God."

1:38 Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

1:52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

1:53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

1:54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

1:55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

All: Thanks be to God

SERMON: "Let It Be With Me"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING

Jerry Jones

OFFERING PRAYER

Remembering the great things God has done for us, we are now invited to return these symbols of our gratitude to God. Even when we offer small things, when they are given with the love of Christ in our hearts, God can transform our gifts into mighty miracles. Let us fill the hungry with our gifts. Let us lift up the lowly with our compassion. Let us remember a world in need. With mercy and love, let us offer ourselves and our gifts. Amen. (The Abingdon WORSHIP ANNUAL 2020 p.275)

CLOSING HYMN: #593 "Here I Am, Lord" (vs. 1)

Here I Am Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart

I, who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart

BENEDICTION:

May God Strengthen you according to the gospel. May the proclamation of Jesus Christ dwell in your hearts and in your lives. And may the power of the Holy Spirit be with you now and forevermore in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.** (The Abingdon WORSHIP ANNUAL 2020 p.276)

Go Now in Peace to Love God and One Another!

Note: Deep gratitude to our volunteers and staff members who make our worship possible, and to our congregants whose continued efforts help to keep our community safe from Covid19. We lift up gratitude for the collaboration involved in making this worship service happen for the glory of God and the delight of Creation.

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Pastor Marion Hubbard - 203.241.9763

Ministers: All members of the New Milford UMC