

Welcome to St Peter's UCC Virtual Worship Service!

Subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#) to catch a new service at 10am each Sunday! We also share a [podcast](#) weekly of the scripture readings and sermon. The podcast can also be found on most podcast catchers & platforms, under "The Redheaded Preacher." Give us a like and 5-star rating to help others find us!

Open Holy Communion. We have communion the 1st Sunday of the month and we invite all Christians and seekers after God to partake of the Lord's Supper with us regardless of denominational background. To participate from home, please have a small cup of juice, wine, or other beverage you are comfortable with, and a piece of bread with you. When Rev. Lanford prompts us to "take and eat" (and "drink"), then we will all do so - physically separated, but together in spirit.

Who We Are. St. Peter's is an Open and Affirming congregation. We've been in the heart of downtown Skokie for over 152 years. We are a part of the United Church of Christ, which means we are passionate about our faith and open in our thinking. We believe in a Triune God who loves everyone, regardless of gender identity, orientation, race, status, or physical or mental ability, and we **welcome all people** to share worship, membership, marriage, baptism, funeral, and fellowship with us.

Attendance. We would like to get to know you better, too! If you are comfortable doing so, please put your first name and last initial in the comments section under the video, and where you are watching us from!

Donations. We have several options for giving, and your donation helps support our church and its various ministries. Now more than ever, every contribution (large or small) is important to keep us going:

- **Text Your Gift.** Text the amount you want to donate to **844-997-2346**.
- **PayPal.** Visit **[PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.com/stpeteruccskokie)** Uncheck the "Paying for Goods or Services" box to not pass on the fees to St Peters.
- **Vanco Give+ App.** Download the Vanco GIVE+ app from **iTunes** or **Google Play**, put in the church's zip code 60077 and select St. Peter's from the drop down. Set up an account with a password (or process as a guest), select your donation frequency, amount, and add payment info. There is also an option here to offset the processing fee.
- **Mail a Check.** We are collecting mail daily, and depositing regularly throughout the week.

Contact Us. You can email us – we are accessing email from home during the Shelter-in-Place order. Or call and leave a voicemail, we are picking up messages regularly while we are not in the building. Follow us on **[Facebook](#)** and **[Instagram](#)** for daily updates and messages, and check our website for additional details, weekly announcements, and more.

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

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(Oakton and Laramie)

847-673-8166

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St. Peter's United Church of Christ
Oakton Street and Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL
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OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, December 20, 2020 10:15 AM
Fourth Sunday of Advent

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"
Gabriel's Message, a traditional Basque Carol

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Hear, O Israel! Love God, your Sovereign!

***Congregation: We love our God and praise God's
great name!***

P: Hear, O people! Praise the Light who is
coming.

C: We lift our voices in praise!

P: Hear, O worshipers! Make yourselves
ready still.

C: We open our hearts in hope.

P: Let us praise our God for the promise of a new age!

ALL: Praise God!

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: The promises of God are meant for us to enjoy. Yet we have broken covenant and declared our independence from the Giver of Life. Then, when we are brought down from the thrones of our pretension, we wonder why. Let us confess the sin that separates us from those holy promises.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God, in whom all things are possible, we confess that we have doubted what we cannot explain. We have sought strength and enjoyment apart from You. We have taken pride in ownership more than giving praise through stewardship. We have sometimes neglected to thank You, either in good times or when You have supported us during days of uncertainty. In talking about wanting life to 'go back to normal,' we have unknowingly resisted the newness You offer us in following Christ. Forgive us, we pray, for installing ourselves as our real deities. Lead us, rather, in paths of genuine trust and discipleship. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hebrews 9 tells us "For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf . . . he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him" (vv. 24, 26b-28).

By the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and his work on the Cross which best demonstrates that grace, our sins are forgiven, and a new life is given! Please join me, Advent church, in claiming this gospel by saying together, "Alleluia! Thanks be to God!"

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

142

People, Look East

1. Peo - ple, look east, the time is near of the
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more
 4. An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

a - ble, trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

Peo - ple, look east and sing to - day:
 Peo - ple, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

LIGHTING THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Lighting the Candle of Love this morning and sharing some thoughts on what love means to them are Annie Noorts and Molly Uchtman.

RESPONSE: "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

(v. 4)

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

ELW 240

Traditional Yiddish Folk Tune
Lyrics by Wayne L. Wold

Am Em/G F Dm

1. Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah:
2. Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah:
3. Light three can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah:
4. Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah:

3 E Am/E E Am E/B

let the light ban - ish dark - ness. He___ shall bring sal -
let the light ban - ish dark - ness. He___ shall feed the
let the light ban - ish dark - ness. Lift___ your heads and
let the light ban - ish dark - ness. He___ is com - ing,

6 Am/C Dm Dm/F Dm

va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills___ the
flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead___ them
lift high the gate - way for the King___ of
tell the glad tid - ings, Let your lights___ be

8 E(sus4) E E(sus4) E Am

prom - ise.
home - ward.
glo - ry.
shin - ing!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Old Testament:

Gospel:

Marcia Hilliard

Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26

Luke 1: 26-38

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn"

by Marty Haugen

ELW 242

Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn

Marty Haugen

$\text{♩} = 63$

D G Am⁷ G/B D

1. A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, For
 2. To us, to all sor - row and fear, Em -
 3. In dark - est night his com - ing in shall be, When
 4. Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, Though

4 G/B C Am⁷ D⁷ G Am⁷

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for
 man - uel comes a sing - ing, His hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, As morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, The ris - ing sun shall

7 G/B D Am⁷ D C G

now he is born, Be - hold the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, Yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - uel comes a So warm and gen - tle and car - ing;
 crown you with light, Be strong and lov - ing and fear - less;

10 D G Em Am/C D

Come as a ba - by weak and poor, To bring all hearts to -
 Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul And hymns of lov - ing
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, The lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer, And love, our end - less

13 Em D⁷ G C B⁷ Em

geth - er, He o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door And
 kind - ness, The thun - der of his an - nounce - ment To
 won - der, The weak be raised a - bove the strong, And
 sto - ry, May God fill ev - 'ry day we share, And

Tag at end with ritard

16 Am⁷ D⁷ G C/G G

lives not in - side us for - ev - er,
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness,
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der,
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

12/19/2018

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER ('debts')

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil;**

**for Thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen**

A CALL TO OFFERING

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

What can I give Him, poor as I am?

If I were a Shepherd, I would bring a Lamb.

If I were a magi, I would do my part.

Yet what can I give Him? Give my heart.

(Written by Christina Rossetti)

SERMON

"Sacred Surrender"

HYMN: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" # 89"

89

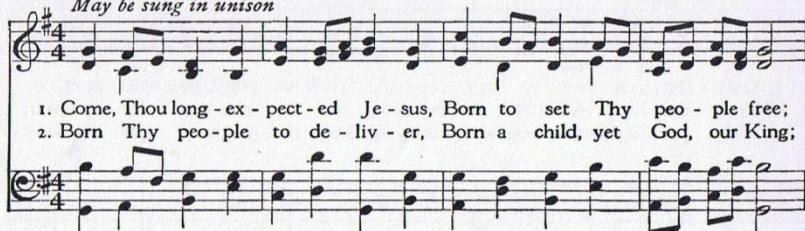
His Advent

CHARLES WESLEY, 1744

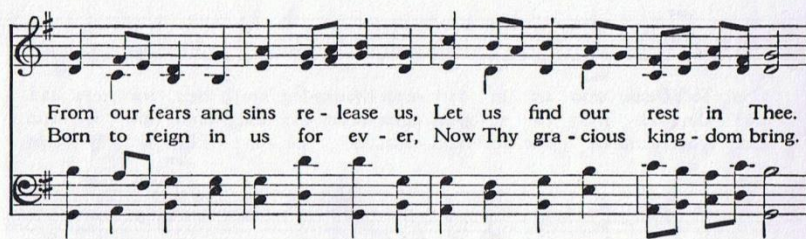
8. 7. 8. 7. D.

IN BABILONE
Dutch Traditional Melody

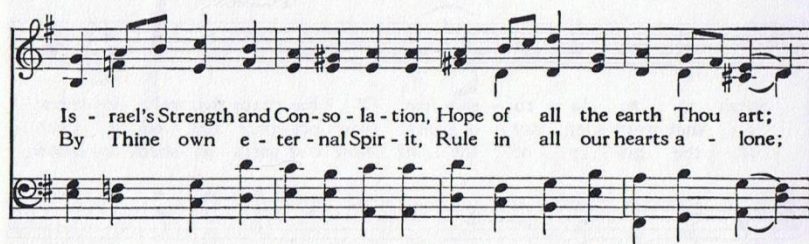
*With dignity and graceful rhythm
May be sung in unison*



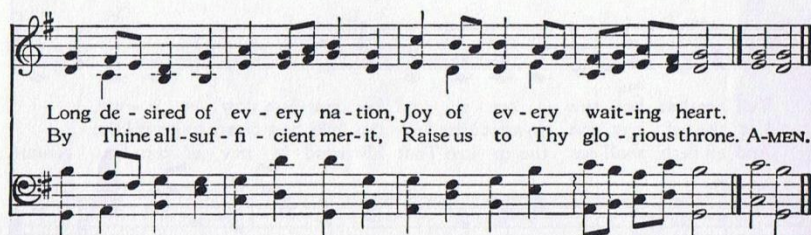
1. Come, Thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child, yet God, our King;



From our fears and sins re - lease us, Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's Strength and Con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it, Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Long de - sired of ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery wait - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne. A - MEN.

Music used by permission of Mrs. Julius Röntgen.

BENEDICTION

P: Beyond the darkness, there is a star.
Beyond the noise, there is an angel song.
Beyond the rush, there is a wondrous stillness.
May the God of Advent days
Touch your lives with hints of a holy night. Amen.

*POSTLUDE:

"Rejoice! Rejoice! Emanuel Shall Come to you, O Israel!"
arr. Traditional

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER	Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! With Mary we sing: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Luke 1:46-47, NIV). Welcome to worship.

The Micah 6:8 Committee is hosting a Zoom Coffee hour after worship today, December 20th, featuring a new, brief video from the Night Ministry sharing what they've been up to lately! Join Zoom Meeting information is here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88579139263> One tap mobile:

+13126266799, 88579139263# US (Chicago)
Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 885 7913 9263

A reprint from our Quarantine Weekly: Christmas Eve Worship Service ... and Goodie Bags!

St. Peter's United Church of Christ's Christmas Eve worship service this year will be at 7:00 PM on December 24th on our YouTube channel.

The pre-recorded worship service will include many of the elements that we enjoy at our traditional services – readings, carols, candlelight, and communion – presented with a 2020 twist! Members and friends are INVITED to stop by St.

Peter's between 3-5pm on both Dec 23rd and 24th to pick up a small gift bag for each member of the household. Bags will include a "Silent Night" hand-held candle with protective circle, a candy cane, and a consecrated single-serve communion pack that has been blessed by Pastor. We do this to increase the personal connection with St. Peter's that we have all been missing so much lately. We will also host a Zoom Gathering at 6:00 PM on Christmas Eve – a chance to chat with friends and fellowship with one another just before the Christmas Eve Worship service at 7 PM. So, to recap:

- Dec 23 & 24 from 3-5pm at Laramie Door – pick up your Christmas Eve Service Supplies!
- Dec 24 at 6pm – Join members and friends for a Zoom Gathering Dec 24 at 7pm – Worship with the Christmas Eve Worship Service on YouTube!
- Dec 25 – Have a very Merry Christmas Day!!!

(If you plan to use your pre-filled Communion cup and wafer during our Christmas Eve virtual worship, it does not need to be pre-consecrated but it would be consecrated via prayer and the Spirit during the service. Pre-consecrated sets would work for those desiring the Communion right then and there or who do not have YouTube).

We hope you will tell others about our upcoming YouTube Christmas Eve Service and join in on

Thursday night! If you can't make 7 o'clock, it'll be waiting for you if you wait until later that night, the next day, and on into the future. The homily will also be included in Rev. Lanford's podcast The Redheaded Preacher, now available on SoundCloud AND NOW wherever you listen to Podcasts! Find us on Itunes, Spotify, Overcast, Iheart Radio, Stitcher, Podcast Addict and more! If you have a platform that doesn't have it, let the office know and we'll get it on there!

No Worship Service on Sunday, Dec 27th – tune in at 10:15 AM however if you wish for a (probably) brief recorded message from Pastor ... not a full service!

HOSPITALIZED: Both Carol and Ralph Burmeister were admitted last week to Glenbrook Hospital and both have COVID-19. Carol went home Thursday. Laurie Mitchell will be having hip surgery Tuesday. Dale Todd is recovering from his bout with the Virus, as is Mike and Sarah Taheny, and Annie's brother Lawrence and some other of her relatives. Please keep them all in prayer.

We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church. No amount is too small! So many thanks to everyone who's been keeping us going with your donations! See inside front cover for details on how to donate.

Thank you to all who came forward to write something personal about an Advent Candle theme, and light their Candles as part of our services: Olivia Altmayer, David Iannotti, Barb Todd and Beth Sterba, and Molly and Annie today.

Soft Goods Drive. Now through January start cleaning out your storage areas and give us all your soft goods such as clothing, accessories like belts, purses, shoes, linens, bedding, stuffed toys, coats, etc. You need to call the office to schedule a drop off. Laura is there on Mondays but not always near the door, so call ahead if you plan to come. If that doesn't work, we can coordinate with our volunteers to meet you there when it works for you. (847) 673-8166.

Jewel Holiday Meal program- tomorrow we expect to successfully distribute 160 Jewel Christmas ham dinners, thanks to all for your donations and to helpers! Thanks so much, so many in need were blessed thanks to your donations for these dinners at the Village Crossing Jewel cashiers!

The Quarantine Weekly for last week again included information about our usual December mission projects and fundraisers, with links to lists or ways to donate. Please read it if you haven't, and check these email-letters regularly for important information. Something that was neglected but not any longer is the annual United Church of Christ offering for Veterans of the Cross and the Christmas Emergency Fund. Donations to this fund through

St. Peter's U.C.C. or directly help our retired (and in some cases still employed) clergy, widowed clergy spouses, and some lay employees with health insurance premium supplementation, emergency cash grants, pension supplementation for those retirees with low pension funds, and Christmas 'Thank You' gift checks. All gifts and supplementations are administered by the U.C.C. Pension Boards' charitable arm, the Board for Ministerial Assistance. Checks sent to the church should be marked in the memo section as designated for this Veterans of the Cross offering. Thank you!

About the Sunday School Advent Mission Project helping babies and infants through the Township

Food Pantry: Drop-off times that remain are: Monday, December 21st from 9 AM to 11 AM, then 12PM to 2 PM (we'll be picking up the Holiday dinners at 11:15 AM from the Jewel) and Monday, January 4th from 9 AM to 2 PM. Supplies are for newborns and infants and include but not limited to diapers, wipes, onesies, toys, bath supplies, formula, etc.

Live Stream begins January 3rd at 10 AM – Beginning with the new year, you will still be able to watch your worship service on Sunday mornings on YouTube ... they will still include a link to the bulletin in the description (also available on our website every week under the "Worship" tab), and they will still feature everything our worship service always includes – Prelude, Call to Worship, Readings, Special Music, Sermon, Prayers, and Postlude. However, the service will be

broadcasted (aka streamed) LIVE AS IT HAPPENS from our Sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Lectors now have to come in to read. Important things to know about this are:

- We don't currently have people joining us in the sanctuary – we have not “regathered” for worship yet. But when we DO, we will also continue to live stream in this exact way (and maybe even better, as we learn more about what we are doing).
- You will find the live stream exactly where you find the video now – simply go to St Peter’s UCC YouTube channel, and it will start playing automatically when the service begins.
- If you can’t watch it right at 10 AM the video will be available immediately following the service under “Past Live Streams.” Let us know if you have any problems with this.
- Broadcasting the live service will hopefully give the feel of being actually IN the church, which we are all eager to get back to.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Jenn Schneider
VICE-PRESIDENT	Judy Paige
TREASURER	Mandy Steegmueller
SECRETARY	Carolyn Kuechler
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Marcia Hilliard



Support Our Mission this Christmas!

During this holiday season, make your seasonal gifts from anywhere using our eGiving tools. St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie offers PayPal, Vanco electronic donations & text donations.



See the first page of this bulletin for links to donate



Text Your Donation!

Simply text your seasonal gift amount to [844-997-2346] and then follow the instructions on your phone to complete your donation.

Now through January

WINTER SOFT GOODS FUNDDRIVE



ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CONGREGATION
OF ILLINOIS

**DROP OFF AT
THE GYM
8013
LARAME,
SKOKIE OR
CALL TO
SCHEDULE
(847)
673-8166**



**WE NEED
CLOTHING
LINENS
BEDDING
STUFFED
TOYS
ACCESSORIES
AND MORE**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 20, 2020

Luke 1:26-38

Birthing a Promise ***Christmas Fund Offering***

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent, the season of watchful waiting for the coming of the Christ Child. If you have practiced a ritual of lighting Advent candles, either in community or in your own home, then this Sunday you will light all four candles. As we do, we celebrate and acknowledge the gifts of this season - Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we are also invited to receive the Christmas Fund Offering. As the promise of God's light and presence shines through the advent candles, we can bring hope, peace, joy, and love to those we honor with our special offering. Soon it will be time to put the advent wreath away for another year. But through your gift to the Christmas Fund Offering, you can keep hope, peace, joy, and love alive all year long for those who have served the church.

The Christmas Fund funds four programs: Christmas Thank You Checks, Pension Supplementation, Health Benefits, and Emergency Grants.

Christmas Thank You Checks are for retired United Church of Christ clergy and lay employees. Retirees with limited financial resources receive a gift at Christmas time as a way of saying "thank you" for years of service to the UCC. Last year, more than a quarter million dollars was given to 521 individuals, and the number of those helped increases every year.

Pension Supplementation is for lower-income retired United Church of Christ clergy and lay employees. These are monthly payments designed to bring household incomes up to a basic level to be able to afford basic needs like food, utilities, and medical expenses.

Health Benefits supplementation is for lower-income retired UCC clergy and lay employees who may receive assistance in paying Medicare premiums.

Emergency Grants are for currently active or retired clergy or lay employees who are facing unforeseen circumstances that create financial need.

Give to the Christmas Fund:

<https://www.pbucc.org/index.php/christmas-fund-home>.



SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

December 20, 2020

PSALM 89:1-4, 19-26

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to
all generations.

I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to my servant David:

'I will establish your descendants forever,
and build your throne for all generations.'"

Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said:

"I have set the crown on one who is mighty,

I have exalted one chosen from the people.

I have found my servant David;

with my holy oil I have anointed him;

my hand shall always remain with him;

my arm also shall strengthen him.

The enemy shall not outwit him,

the wicked shall not humble him.

I will crush his foes before him and strike down
those who hate him.

My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with
him;

and in my name his horn shall be exalted.

I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on
the rivers.

He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God,
and the Rock of my salvation!'

LUKE 1:26-38

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

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

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

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

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

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

³²He 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.

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

³⁴Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?”[○]

³⁵The 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.

³⁶And 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.

³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.”

³⁸Then 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.”