



Crossroads UMC Worship 12-05-2021

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

L: If life was a home, then we would pray—

P: may love be the foundation. May God be the cornerstone. May the Spirit be the windows—ushering light in. And may hope be the walls—holding us together.

L: In this hour of worship, let us work toward building that home together.

P: We may not know the path ahead, but God is here, even now.

L: Let us give thanks for a foundation of love.

P: Let us worship Holy God.

Candle Lighting for Second Sunday of Advent

Prayer of Confession *(in unison)*

Holy God, When John was Born, Zechariah leaned down and whispered words of love into his ear. We know that you do the same for us, day in and day out, yet we fail to hear it. We forget that in the beginning we were made good. We doubt that we could possibly be enough. We hustle for our self-worth and wear ourselves out aiming for perfection. We deflect words of praise. We hide behind shiny first impressions. Forgive us. Trusting our worth is the hardest job. Open our ears as you open our hearts, so that we might rest on the foundation of goodness you have laid for us. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Words of Assurance

One Voice: Family of faith, No matter how old we get, God continues to say to us: “You are loved; you are forgiven.” That is the foundation of our lives. That is the truth upon which we build our home. So breathe deeply. There is grace and peace here. Join me in proclaiming this good news:

ALL: We are loved. We are forgiven. We are claimed. This is our foundation. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:57-66, 80

When the time came for Elizabeth to have her child, she gave birth to a boy. Her neighbors and relatives celebrated with her because they had heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy. On the eighth day, it came time to



circumcise the child. They wanted to name him Zechariah because that was his father's name. But his mother replied, "No, his name will be John." They said to her, "None of your relatives have that name." Then they began gesturing to his father to see what he wanted to call him. After asking for a tablet, he surprised everyone by writing, "His name is John." At that moment, Zechariah was able to speak again, and he began praising God. All their neighbors were filled with awe, and everyone throughout the Judean highlands talked about what had happened. All who heard about this considered it carefully. They said, "What then will this child be?" Indeed, the Lord's power was with him. The child grew up, becoming strong in character. He was in the wilderness until he began his public ministry to Israel.

Sermon
Sermon Series

Laying the Foundation
Close To Home
Pastor Scott Walters

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer
Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

Postlude

(Prayers are adapted with permission from a prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.)