

## 12-22-24 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“As we approach Christmas Day, we become more aware of the yearning of our hearts for Emmanuel.”

*Beth A. Richardson*

“Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.”

*Charles Wesley*



Micah 5:2-5a + Luke 1:39-55

### Questions for Reflection —

- What has your Advent journey been like this year? During the watching and waiting of Advent how have you been aware of God's presence and activity in your life and in the world? What is left for you to do in order to be ready to welcome Jesus anew into your life on Christmas Day? In the midst of the final holiday rush what will help you pause and remember what Christmas is truly about?
  
- What does the message of God's love mean for you this Christmas? How has divine love been birthed in your heart? How can you show unconditional love to others this Christmas season? How can we as a congregation best demonstrate God's love to people rejected and marginalized by society? What is God calling forth from us as an incarnation of God's work in our communities and the world?
  
- Who has been a God-bearer in your life? How might you be a God-bearer to those whom you encounter? In what ways do you tend to place limits on what God can do in and through you? What would it mean instead for you to follow the example of Mary and place your life at the service of God's will? What would it mean for our congregation to do the same? How are we called to bear the promise of God's grace and deliverance in the world today?

### Daily Household Prayer

Holy God, the mystery of your eternal Word took flesh among us in Jesus Christ. At the message of an angel, the virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your will. Filled with the light of your Spirit, she became the temple of your Word. Strengthen us by the example of her humility, that we may always be ready to do your will, and welcome into our lives Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.