

# SOUTHSIDE FELLOWSHIP

Creating brave spaces that nurture and inspire the human spirit

*Advent : Restoration*

*December 18th, 2022*

*For just this moment, Mary, make yourself real, so that I might grasp the timeless wisdom you ensconce like a pearl – that lingering beneath the surface of all our weary skins, murmurs the breath of God, waiting to leak from our bodies into the world if only we give our tired consent.*

~ Suzanne Ehst, Advent 2004

## GATHERING

**Welcome**

**Centering music**

**Call to Worship** (From the Advent lectionary)

Leader: Behold! Do not be afraid; God is with us.  
God is our strength and our salvation!

**People: Lord, we stand in your presence in faith,  
not fear.**

Leader: God will send angels to keep watch over  
you, to comfort you, to keep you.

**People: Lord, our strong hope is built on your  
unfailing love.**

Leader: Our hearts yield to you and trust in your  
transforming power.

**All: Praise ye the Lord!**

**Candle Lighting and Song** *Longing for Light* VT 715

## LISTENING FOR THE WORD

**Scripture** Luke 1:26-38 (based on *The Message*)

**A Time for All God's Children**

**Hymn** O Come, O Come, Immanuel VT 210

**The Poet's Word** *The Annunciation* by Denise Levertov

**Sermon** *Mary said "Yes!"* Debbie Bledsoe

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**Hymn** *The Angel Gabriel Called Mary Blessed* VT 221

**Offering**

**Sharing our lives and our prayers**

**Praying in the Way of Jesus** *Our Mother*

## THE WORD IN THE WORLD

**Hymn** *Hope is a Candle* (All five verses!) VT 211

**Benediction**

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*Southside Fellowship is an inclusive Anabaptist/Mennonite congregation that understands faith as a journey. At the core of our community is the boundless love of God, the justice-centered life of Jesus, and the mystery of the Spirit. We welcome all people to join us, including those who have been excluded elsewhere because of gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, ability, economic status, marital status, age, or religious uncertainty.*



Michael Felix Gilfedder: *Blue Madonna* (Mary, Mother of God), 1987  
Oil and egg emulsion tempera on wood with gesso relief.