



FROM  
GENERATION  
TO GENERATION...  
*We can choose a better way*



"Wilderness Blossom" by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)



TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Charlotte Lovett

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Tim Thiessen

SCRIPTURE READING

Page No. 578

Isaiah 35:1-10

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

A Little Child Will Come to Lead Us

SCRIPTURE READING

Page No. 783

Matthew 1:18-25

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

We Can Choose a Better Way

Tracy L. Evans

\*SONG OF FAITH

A Better Way

Bulletin p. 6

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in a God who offers second chances  
and does not hold grudges.**

**We believe in a God who opens the door to new life  
and leaves the porch light on for us when we get lost.**

**We believe in a God who believes in us—  
believes that we can make a difference,  
that we can choose grace over comparison,  
love over hate,  
peace over war.**

**And so we strive to live our lives in love.**

**We strive to listen as Joseph listened,  
and to be the people that God calls us to be.**

**It's all that easy, and it's all that hard.**

**This we believe. Amen.**

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 35

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY

Doxology (Verse 4)

Hymnal, No. 143

All creation join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*SENDING SONG From Generation to Generation (Verses 1, 2, and 3)

Bulletin, p. 8

\*BLESSING AND CHARGE

As you leave this place, may you go knowing that  
from generation to generation,  
we have been claimed and loved.

From generation to generation,  
God has been by our side.

From generation to generation,  
we are not alone.

The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow  
knows you by name, loves you, and calls you forth,  
saying, "Go be the person you are called to be,  
love wildly, do justice, and come back soon."

May it be so. **Amen.**

\*POSTLUDE

Freu dich Sehr

Gerald Near

\*Please rise in body or spirit.

We invite anyone who wishes to consider membership in this church to contact the pastor or a member of the session. You may also indicate interest in membership by checking the appropriate column in the ritual of friendship booklet. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.

**Lectionary Readings for December 18** : Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

The Food & Shelter items of the month for **December are winter hats, gloves, and warm blankets. Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.**

**Hearing-assistance** devices and **large print hymnals** are available from the head usher.

# Here in This Place

## Gather Us In

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1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,  
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.  
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.



FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION...

*We can choose a better way*

# A Better Way

GOD REST YOU MERRY 8.6.8.6.8.6 with refrain

Text: Anna Strickland (2022)

Music: Traditional English carol (18th cent.)

When He Said Like  
 Jo - seph planned to leave her  
 Ga - briel, "Jo - seph, woke from  
 Ma - ry's state he  
 qui - et - ly and  
 do not fear his  
 sleep to find his

pon - dered her dis - grace  
 not cre - ate a scene  
 make Ma - ry your wife  
 path - way had been changed  
 He But  
 She Still  
 cal - cu - lat - ed  
 Ma - ry still would  
 bears in - side her  
 here to - day God

all the shame the  
 grow with child; what  
 womb the hope of  
 calls us all to  
 scan - dal would cre - ate  
 then would her fate  
 ev - er - last - ing  
 choose the bet - ter  
 ate be?  
 life way  
 But  
 When  
 The  
 Be -

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not con - tent to see her stoned he of - fered her some  
 Jo - seph went to sleep that night an an - gel in - ter -  
 son that she will bear to you is Je - sus the Mes -  
 - yond our wild - est dreams is still a call - ing that re -

grace  
 - vened Oh there is a bet - ter way, God's bet - ter way Oh  
 - siah"  
 - mains

we can choose the bet - ter way

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# From Generation to Generation

♩ = 90

From gen-er-a-tion to gen-er-a-tion, we have shared the Christ-mas sto-ry

of a ba-by in a man-ger, who was born in Beth-le-hem.

Hope is wing-ing, Peace now ring-ing, Joy we're sing-ing, Love he's bring-ing.

1. There is room for ev-'ry sto-ry. There is hope through God's great glory.  
2. God will meet you in your fear. And bring peace both far and near.  
3. We can choose a bet-ter way. And find joy in ev-'ry day.  
4. We see God in one an-oth-er. As we learn to love each other.

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