

**Worship 03.15.20 “It’s Time: Don’t Be Afraid”  
The Story – Chapter 22**

**INVOCATION**

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *from Galatians 4*

Leader: When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

**All: to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Luke 1:26-38**

Leader: In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said,

**All: “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”**

Leader: Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her,

**All: “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”**

Leader: “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

**All: The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.”**

Leader: “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

**Matthew 1:18-26**

Leader: This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,

**All: “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”**

Leader: All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

**All: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).**

Leader: When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

### **PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**

**All:** Lord God, strengthen us by your Word to believe that our times are in your hands. Give us courage to respond to the vision you are revealing to us in Mary's words, "May your word to me be fulfilled. Bless us with direction, just as you did Joseph, so that the name and work of Jesus may be seen in us. Send now a fresh outpouring of your Holy Spirit in our time, that we may "fear not." In the name of our Lord Jesus we ask it; Amen.

### **CONFESSION AND WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

Leader: Lord God, in your presence, we confess:

**All:** You have called me to believe that "my times are in your hands," yet I struggle with fear. You invited me to "fear not," yet I do. Forgive my doubts about your plan for my life; forgive us as your church for longing for the days that were, rather than the times you hold in your hands.

*-We pause to remember and reflect on our sin-*

Leader: God the Father revealed his vision to the world in the sending of his Son to be born as one of us; to die in our place. Our God accomplished that vision using fearful, sinful people just like you and me, showing us that he desires to work through us to give birth to his vision here in our midst. By the power of God, who rose Jesus from the dead, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Leader: What, then, is our response to God's promises?

**All:** It's time to "fear not!" Amen.

### **PRAYERS**

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy...

**All:** Hear our prayer.

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**All:** 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

### **BENEDICTION**