Advent 4 — Rooted in Christ, Rising in Promise

December 20 · 2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16 · Luke 1:46b–55 or Psalm 89 · Romans 16:25–27 · Luke 1:26–38

Theme: God's promises take flesh in unexpected places and ordinary lives.

Leader: From the roots of Jesse, a new branch grows. From the little town of Nazareth comes the promise of a Savior.

All: We are rooted in God's faithfulness, and we rise in hope.

Leader: God chose Mary, an ordinary young woman, to bear extraordinary good news. God's promises take root in humble and unexpected places.

All: We trust that God is working among us, even in ways we cannot yet see.

Leader: Our congregations may be small, our resources limited, and our future uncertain. But God's promise is not limited by what we can see or imagine.

All: Let it be with us according to your word, O God. Root us in Christ, and raise us up for the sake of the world. Amen.

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

1. Where might God be doing something new in our congregation or community?
2. What would it look like for us to respond, like Mary, with trust and openness to God's call?