

The
Season
of
Advent



2nd Sunday in Advent
December 10th, 2023

Gathering

During the Prelude we invite you to greet one another with love outside the Chapel, and allow those within to meditate, pray or just listen.

Prelude “A Time for Peace” by David T. Clydesdale

During this piece you may recognize how the music depicts our moments of Peace, interspersed with times of anxiety or chaos. God's Peace is always there in the background, ready to help us calm down when we stop to allow God in.

Welcome

*Advent Candle Lighting - “Come, Child of Light” vs. 2

*congregation please stand in body or spirit

Leader: Into the stillness of a Bethlehem night, God came.

People: Restore us, O God.

Leader: God came so that love might win over hate, peace over war and violence.

People: Restore us, O God.

Leader: God came that we might know peace in person and see it in action.

People: Restore us, O God.

Leader: Undeserving, we kneel at the manger. The peace of new life is ours for the asking.

People: Restore us, O God.

Leader: A grace beyond comprehension is given; peace which passes all understanding.

People: Restore us, O God.

*Opening Hymn #105 “People Look East” vs. 1, 4, 5

Poem “On the Edge of Peace” by Jennifer Melton

Waiting in the dark, on the edge of the Light that is coming.

Waiting on the edge of Peace.

As we wait for the presence of Christ,

what Peace are we waiting for Christ’s Light to bring?

What Peace are we longing for?

When we look around in this darkness...

We see unrest on our borders

And we see persecution of people in the land where Jesus came from.

We see people fighting to suppress others
And people desperate to be seen.
We see powers at war
And the powerless with no escape.
We long for the Light in this Darkness.
Restore us, O God.
We wait for you to shine your Light over here
Where we stand
On the edge of Peace.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Divine Love, you call us to be at peace with all creation, but our hearts are full of worry, discontent, and impatience. Prejudice, violence, over-consumption, and abuse of our planet are all too pervasive in our common life, and peace seems elusive, at best, if not impossible. Yet into our lives and world you came, the Prince of Peace, and we hear you whisper to us still, “peace, peace.” Forgive us for all in us that fails to promote peace with you, self, and neighbor, that we might be peacemakers with one and all.

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, because God is always faithful, know that you are loved and forgiven and be at peace.

People: **God’s mercy restores us to live in peace with all creation. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*Musical Response #113 “Angels We Have Heard On High” (*Refrain*)

*Passing of the Peace of Christ

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Special Music “A Carol of Hope”

by Don Besig & Nancy Price

The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scriptures: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon “Restore Us, O God: Advent Peace”

*Hymn #108 “Of the Father's Love Begotten” vs. 1, 3, 5

Time for Response to Sermon

Joys and Concerns and Pastoral Prayer

Leader: Lord in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayers**

The Lord’s Prayer

Announcements

Sending

*Closing Hymn #136 “Go, Tell It On the Mountain”

*Benediction

Postlude “Go, Tell It On the Mountain” arr. by Charles Lindberg

Feel free to stand, chat and generally share in Fellowship as the Postlude sends us out into the world in Love.

We welcome all who worship with us this day. May you experience God’s presence and find inspiration for your journey of faith. This morning the leaders in worship are:

Rev. Michelle Fincher, Pastor; **Heidi Thomas**, Music Director;
Calvary Singers; Ryan Beach and Dylan Rimkus, Advent Candle Readers;
Cathy Jaynes, Liturgist; **Ryan Hodel**, Zoom Host

All music today is used by CCLI –1800777/One License #A-725921