

First Congregational United Church of Christ
December 4, 2022



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Second Sunday of Advent - Peace

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Musician: Linda Noble

Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter: Bob Carter

Liturgist: Nancy Starr

Advent Candle Lighter: Bruce Tyler

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Words to Light the Advent Candle of Peace

People who put up their Christmas Tree: In this season of Advent, we journey into darkness. A darkness not of fear, anxiety, or danger, but of quiet, calm, and slowing down. This is a time of reflection and renewal.

People who have presents bought: We pause to look at the shining stars against the black sky, to listen to the wind as it blows through the creaking branches, and warm ourselves by the crackling fire.

People who have baked goodies: We discover the seeds of peace that were planted deep inside our soul, the soil of our beings. They grow and stretch and wait for the time to break out into the world.

Lighting of the Candle of Peace

People who have family to share with: Creator God, who sent into the world the Prince of Peace, help us nurture the seeds of peace that grow and bind us together in ways only you can imagine. May there be true justice, abundance for all, and may we be in harmony with each other, your world, and your kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Words of Lament

God of Mercy, it is hard to find mercy in a world dominated by systems of scarcity, hierarchy, and selfishness. Our nations, our communities, and even bodies of faith too often favor one group over another. Some have more than they can possibly use, and some will not survive the day or year because they lack the basic necessities of life: food, clean water, shelter, clothing, and health care. Arise, God of Love, bring peace into this world that feeds, that heals, and that binds us together in compassion. Help us leave fear and hate behind. Amen.

Words for Blessing the Earth

One: O, Creator of this world and the universe, we marvel at the seasons here on the North Shore of Lake Superior. We are in awe of the creation of Lake Superior which abides from generation to generation.

Many: We are in awe of the Boundary Waters and all life that resides in it, and all that passes through it.

All: We are in awe of the birds and the trees, the diversity and beauty of each flight, and the patient growth that spans decades and centuries.

One: As we approach the Winter season and nature slows down, may each bear find a place to hibernate, each bird the safe flight as they go South, and each seed a place to grow in the Spring.

Many: May those animals and birds who stay awake and in place find enough shelter and food to bring them through the winter, seeing them safely through the cold and snow.

All: May the seasons of this place continue to bring harmony between all life and the planet. May we, as humans, do our part to be in relationship and partnership, so all may have a place, food, and life.

Words of Poetry & Lighting the Candle of Peace

It is a custom in our congregation to light our Peace Candle during worship, as a witness to the Prince of Peace and our communal intention to be peace-makers as a Just Peace Church.

It is not enough by David Whyte

It is not enough to know.

It is not enough to follow the inward road conversing in secret.

It is not enough to see straight ahead,

to gaze at the unborn thinking the silence belongs to you.

It is not enough to hear even the tiniest edge of rain.

You must go to the place where everything waits,

there, when you finally rest, even one word will do,

one word or the palm of your hand turning outward in the gesture of gift.

And now we are truly afraid to find the great silence asking so little.

One word, one word only.

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Readings

1st Scripture Isaiah 11:1-10 (New Revised Standard Version)

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious

2nd Scripture Acts 2:42-47 (Common English Bible)

⁴² The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. ⁴³ A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were united

and shared everything. ⁴⁵ They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. ⁴⁶ Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. ⁴⁷ They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.

Children's Message: Being a community that cares

Message: Devoted to Breaking of Bread and Prayers

Musical Reflections

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father/Mother God, who are in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Our Time of Giving

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen

News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community

Closing Hymn Red Hymnal #89 O Come, All Ye Faithful

- 1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him,
born the King of angels.

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

2. Sing, choirs of angels,

sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest: [Refrain]

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: [Refrain]

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Benediction

Sending Music