

Prepare the Way of the Lord
Sunday, December 10, 2023
Advent II - Peace

Welcoming & Announcements

Centring Music

The Rocking Carol

A traditional Czech Carol; arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

Lighting of the Christ Candle

On this second Sunday in Advent, we light this candle and name it, Peace. As we light this candle, we remember our commitment to bring peace to all through our love and caring as disciples of Christ.

**O God come, travel with us
as we prepare the way for Advent Peace.**

Choral Response **Prepare the Way of the Lord**
(Voices United 10)

*Words: Isaiah 40:3; adapt. Michael Burkhardt 1990; Music: Michael Burkhardt 1990
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Prepare the way of the Lord!
Prepare the way of the Lord!
Make a straight path for him, make a straight path;
prepare the way of the Lord!

Opening Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
(Voices United 2)

*Words: Charles Wesley 1744; Music: Psalmody Sacra 1715
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- 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free:
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
- 2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.
- 3 Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
- 4 By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Advent Prayer

Solo Mary, Did You Know?

Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene

A Time to Wonder

Scripture Reading

Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13

Choral Response **I Know Your Word** (More Voices 108)

Words: Psalm 119:105, adapted by Simeí Monteiro; English trans.

Simeí Monteiro and Joan Sutton; Music: Simeí Monteiro

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I know your Word, your Word is a lamp to my feet, O God.
I know your Word, your Word is a lamp to my feet, O God.
I know your Word is a lamp, O God, to light my path forever.
I know your Word is a lamp, O God, to light my path forever.

Reflection "Prepare the Way of Peace"

Hymn of the Day **Let There Be Peace on Earth**

Words and Music: Sy Miller & Jill Jackson, 1955

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- 1 Let there be peace on earth
and let it begin with me;
let there be peace on earth,
the peace that was meant to be.
With God, our creator,
Children all are we;
let us walk with each other
in perfect harmony.
- 2 Let peace begin with me,
Let this be the moment now,
With ev'ry step I take
Let this be my solemn vow:

To take each moment
and live each moment
in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth,
and let it begin with me.

Invitation to Offering

Offertory Music

Choral Response **Come Touch Our Hearts** (More Voices 12, v. 1)

Words and music: Gordon Light, 2002; arr. Andrew Donaldson, 2002

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- 1 Come touch our hearts
That we may know compassion,
from failing embers build a blazing fire;
love strong enough
to overturn injustice,
to seek a world more gracious,
Come touch and bless our hearts.

Offering Prayer

When we reach out in love and understanding to others,
Peace is your gift to us.
When we answer your Gospel in our giving,
Peace is your gift to us.
When we pledge ourselves to your direction,
Peace is your gift to us.

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayers & The Lord's Prayer

Parting Hymn

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace
(Voices United 684)

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- 1 Make me a channel of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your healing power,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you:

- 2 Make me a channel of your peace:
where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.
 O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
 so much to be consoled as to console,
 to be understood as to understand,
 to be loved as to love with all my soul.

- 3 Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Benediction

Postlude

Gloria from the Twelfth Mass

Wolfgang A. Mozart, edited by George Blake

Worship Leaders – Pastor Beth Parsons
Music Leader – Sharon Prindle-Collins
Chime Choir lead by Margaret Chambers
Soloist – Sam Boehner
Welcoming – Ron Norman
Greeters – Carol-Ann and David Staples
Advent Prayer – Margaret Bates
Spirit Kids Program – Marcia Goodwin and Ruth Schulz
Scripture Reading – Arlene Vickery
Offering Invitation and Prayer – Clare Walker
Technical Support – Rob Glenn and Bob Krueckl
Flowers for the service are offered by Deanna Bertelsen
in celebration of the life of her husband, Reg Bertelsen.