



Peace United Church of Christ
Rev. Tom Williams
December 3, 2017
Communion/First Sunday of Advent



WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Meet & Greet

***CANDLE LIGHTING:** First Candle Lit: **HOPE**

Chad & Janel Klika Family: The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In commemoration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that language—the coming of Christ—because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ is coming. Christ is always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so we light the first candle, the candle of Hope, and dare to express our longing for peace, for healing and the well-being of all creation.

Hymn: #6 (Notebook) *"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Verse 1*

All: Loving God, as we enter this Advent season, we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Show us the creative power of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ.

***OPENING HYMN #4** (Notebook)

"Come, Thou Long-Expecting Jesus"

WE WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

Gracious and Most Merciful God, hope glistens in the eyes of children looking forward to gifts and glitz but it's so often lost in

the maze found in the memories and stress known by adults. Enable us whether old or young, child or adult to find in this season, the spirit of hope reborn, joy rekindled that we may truly make it a season of expectations and excitement. And, as we continue on this journey, we pray that You continue to call us to be makers of peace, doers of justice, practitioners of kindness. Hear now our silent prayers of things we have done and things we have failed to do.

***DECLARATION OF PARDON**

Leader: Amen. Let us say what we truly believe.

All: Our confessions are witness to our belief that as we forgive others, God forgives us and that forgiveness is assured by our faith in God's continuing presence as promised by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus whom we believe to be the Christ. Therefore, we declare and accept God's forgiveness. **AMEN.**

***THE GLORIA PATRI** "Glory Be to the Father"

WE SHARE IN GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 64:1-8
I Corinthians 1:3-9

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON "In a Time of Despair, Daring to Hope"

WE JOIN OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

PRAYER HYMN #264 (Notebook) "He Leadeth Me"

TIME OF PRAYER Pastoral Prayer - Silent Prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*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 debts, As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

IN THANKFULNESS WE PRESENT OUR OFFERING

PRESENT OUR GIFTS: *We are on the way with you, gracious God.
We put our faith in you. Bless our giving and our gifts.*

OFFERTORY

***Offering Response**

Doxology - "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** (unison)

Gracious and Loving God, as stewards of that which has been shared with us, we are grateful for the opportunity to share with this congregation and its ministries. Enable us to use this offering, we pray, in ways that continue to be responsive to Your call to feed the hungry, lift up the broken hearted, welcome the stranger. And we give thanks that as stewards of these gifts, that call continues to be heard and welcomed in our midst. Amen.

WE CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN #246 (Notebook) "One Bread, One Body"

(Please see the bulletin insert for the Communion Litany)

EVERYONE is welcome to share in this sacrament of love. There are no restrictions on the Lord's Table.

Please hold each element until all are served.

WE ARE SENT FORTH

***CLOSING HYMN** #22 (Notebook) "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**