

Peace United Church of Christ
Rev. Tom Williams
December 10, 2017
Second Sunday of Advent
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WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Meet & Greet

*CANDLE LIGHTING: Second Candle Lit: PEACE

Barb Kesler: Last Sunday we lit the first candle—the candle of hope. Today we light the second candle, the candle of peace. We light it knowing full well that peace is elusive, and in some parts of the world, it is almost completely absent. Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities

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

All: Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning, we thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ.

*OPENING HYMN #6 (Notebook) verses 2 & 3

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

WE WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious and Most Merciful God, a candle symbolizing our desire for peace has been lit but life seems so scary and our response is more guns, bigger weapons of war. Enable us to dare to speak and think and pray for peace and work that it might be known in all the world. 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 40:1-11

Mark 1:1-8

CHILDREN'S SERMON Mini Mission for Love Baskets

SERMON "Prelude, Advent – Whatever!"

WE JOIN OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

PRAYER HYMN #8 (Notebook)

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

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 ARE SENT FORTH

*CLOSING HYMN #42 (Notebook) "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

** When you see an * in the bulletin, you are invited to stand in body or in spirit.*