



December 10, 2023
Second Sunday in Advent

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome

Pastor Larry

Prelude

Joy to the World

Harmony Bell Choir

The prelude signals the beginning of our sacred time together. During the prelude, you are invited to prepare your heart for worship by focusing your attention upon God.

***Call to Worship**

Quinn Hetherington

L: Get ready, people of God! The time of hope and peace is at hand.

P: We are called to action rather than reaction.

L: Open your hearts to God's word and God's will.

P: Help us to be workers for God rather than observers.

L: Come, draw near to God in faith.

P: Let us prepare our hearts to receive the wondrous gifts of God. AMEN.

***Opening Prayer**

Quinn Hetherington

Patient and loving God, we so easily launch ourselves in preparation for the secular festival of giving and parties and the swirl of social events; but we forget that the true preparation is the readiness of our hearts to receive you. Help us look again at our lives and turn them around so that they may be in tune with your will. We ask this in Jesus' Name, AMEN.

Lighting of the Second Candle: Peace

The Walker Family

View monitor for response.

Reader 1: In days when God’s people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, “Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins” (Isaiah 40:1).

Reader 2: We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

Congregation: We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of God’s shocking hope and just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. Amen.

*** Hymn** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* UMH 211
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***Passing the Peace of Christ** Quinn Hetherington
Before the foundation of the world Christ forgave us and forgives us still today. Let us forgive as we have been forgiven and share the peace of Christ. Peace be with you.
And also with you.
May we share a greeting of peace with each other.

Children’s Time Pastor Larry

Ministry of Music *Carol of the Bells* Harmony Bell Choir

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Understanding *All Praying* Quinn Hetherington
O Lord, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, and strength to follow on the path you set before us; through Jesus Christ. Amen

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:8-21

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

²¹On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn

Let There be Peace on Earth

UMH 431

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Sermon

"Gifts that Won't Break: Peace"

Pastor Larry

Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;*
the third day he rose from the dead;**

Choral Benediction

O Little Town of Bethlehem

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

Postlude

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Song of God appear.*

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
And order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show
And cause us in her ways to go. **Refrain***

*O come, O come, great Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times once gave the law
In cloud and majesty and awe. **Refrain***

*O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree,
An ensign of thy people be;
Before thee rulers silent fall;
All peoples on thy mercy call. **Refrain***

LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH

*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.*

*Let peace begin with me;
Let this be the moment now.
With every 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.*

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"*

*2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th' incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"*

*3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,*

*risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"*