

Peace: Go and Change  
Second Sunday of Advent  
December 5, 2021



**MEDITATION**

*“If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.” – Mother Teresa*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING WORDS**

**Leader:** And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. **C: And also with you.**

**PRELUDE** “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus Ah!” “Think Not the Lord Delayeth”  
and “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE**

*Chris Polloni, Deacon*

L: For many of us, the call to head home is one of joy and of hope. We can't wait to reconnect with family, with history and tradition, with a wonderful time of freedom and loving support. We can't wait to go home.

**All: There are those who fear going home, and there are times when going home brings back memories that are not so good and not so healing. We are reminded of the times when we didn't fit in, when we didn't measure up, when we weren't loved like we needed to be loved. Home can be a difficult place for some.**

L: The prophet Baruch tells us God will remember any of us who feel exiled from home and will bring us to a place where we can walk safely in God's glory. John the Baptist tells us that the road home is always under construction, mountains leveled, and valleys filled in, to make smooth the path that leads us to our true destination, where we can live in peace and unity with all.

**All: We light these candles, the candle of hope and the candle of peace, as a sign of our assurance that though the road is hard, we believe it is worth the journey. It is time to go home.**

**ADVENT SONG OF HOPE**

“Peace Waits for Us at Advent”

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Chris Polloni, Deacon*

L: We make our hearts a stable,

**All: A home where the Holy One can be found within us.**

L: We make our hearts a stable,

**All: A warm, sturdy shelter where peace can live and grow.**

L: We make our hearts a stable,

**All: A place of comfort where room is made to welcome Christ's birth anew.**

L: We make our hearts a stable,

**All: A refuge from life's storms to prepare for God's everlasting love.**

## UNISON OPENING PRAYER

*Chris Polloni, Deacon*

**Holy God, the source of life and peace, as we come together this day, open our ears to hear, open our eyes to see, and open our hearts to welcome you so that we grow in all your ways and follow your paths. Help us spread your love to one another, and all creation, as we prepare for the coming of the One who calls us home to you, the true source of our salvation. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** (insert)

"People Look East"

Chalice #142

*You are invited to sing quietly to the music with a mask on.*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING – Baruch 5:1-7

*Chris Polloni, Deacon*

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

## NEW TESTAMENT READING – Philippians 1:3-11

*Hope Oliveira, Junior Deacon*

## SERMON

"Peace: Go and Change"

*Rev. Christina Williams*

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND JOY & CONCERNS**

*After the Pastoral Prayer you are invited to share your joys and concerns. When names are spoken out loud, you are invited to respond, "O Lord, hear our prayers."*

**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 of our daily bread, and forgive us of our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING****\*DOXOLOGY**

*You are invited to sing quietly to the music with a mask on.*

Praise God from whom all blessing flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love had done:  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One Amen.

**\*UNISON OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Holy One, this Advent season we wait in peace, and we give in peace—a peace that is deeper than our anxiety and fear—a peace that grows from our trust in your loving power. Receive these generous offerings and use them to bring your peace to our world. Amen.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**SONG OF PREPARATION** (insert) "Come to the Table of Grace" (hope, love) GTG #507

**INVITATION****WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## BLESSING OF THE ELEMENTS

## SHARING OF THE MEAL

### UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

With grateful hearts we praise you, O God, for your great goodness and mercy in the gift of Christ. Through broken bread and poured wine, the sacred memory Christ has come and fed us. May we feed others as you first fed us. May we bless others as you have first blessed us. May we give to others as you first gave to us. May hope, peace, joy, and love found here at this table abide with us this Advent season. Amen.

### \*CLOSING HYMN

“It Came Upon A Midnight Clear”

Pilgrim #129

*You are invited to sing quietly to the music with a mask on.*

### \*BENEDICTION

May God’s door of welcome swing open in your heart and life.

May Christ’s humble dwelling within you remind of the peace you already know.

May the Spirit lead you into more possibility and hospitality than you can imagine.

And may you make room at the inn for all who come to knocking.

May it be so for you, for us, and for this church. Amen.

### POSTLUDE

“Freu Dich Sehr”

Setting by Paul Manz

*\*Stand in body or spirit as you are able.*

### Ministering to Us Today

Chris Polloni, Deacon and Rev. Christina Williams will be leading us in worship today. We are grateful to Babette Bach, Sarah Bach, and the NFCC Choir for providing the music, and to Hope Oliveira and Sarah Bach, our technical staff for the day. Thank you for ministering to us in these ways.



**The flowers this morning are given in memory of Reverend Robert W. Markham/Papa by the Clements Family.**

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