

Where Peace Takes Root – Communion Sunday

Second Sunday of Advent – Dec. 7

MEDITATION

“Faith is the root. Peace is the fruit.” –Puritan Proverb

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS

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

PRELUDE

“Prelude in C major”

J.S. Bach

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING – PEACE

Paul & Isabella Smith

First Reader: Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when “the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them” (Isaiah 11:6).

All: Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God’s creation.

Second Reader: We light this candle of PEACE as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

Light the second candle of the Advent wreath.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Melessa Fox, Deacon

L: In this Advent season, we watch for signs of peace.

All: Peace that grows in small and surprising places.

L: We look for a shoot of new life rising from an old stump.

All: For God is always planting hope where we thought the story was over.

L: We remember the promise of a world where no one harms or destroys.

All: A world where all creation lives together without fear.

L: Come, let us welcome the One on whom God’s Spirit rests—

All: The One who comes with wisdom and understanding, counsel and strength, knowledge and awe.

L: Come, let us prepare room for the One who comes in Peace.

All: We come with open hearts, ready to grow peace in our lives and in our world.

***SONG OF PRAISE** “Angels We Have Heard on High” *Refrain only 2x* *Red 116*

OPENING PRAYER *Melessa Fox, Deacon*

Holy God, in this season of waiting, you come to us with visions of peace—a child leading the way, animals resting together, a world healed and whole. Plant your peace in us today. Let your Spirit rest on us as it rests on Christ—giving us wisdom, gentleness, and courage for kindness. Where life feels like a stump, let your hope rise. Where fear takes hold, let your light shine. Where relationships are strained, let your peace take root. Make us ready, O God, for the One who comes to bring peace to all creation. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** “Comfort, Comfort O My People” *Black 101*

WORD FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN *Lisa Allen, Church-Life Coordinator*

ANTHEM “Light Our Darkness” *Choir & Junior Choir, Bea and Keira*
Words: Pamela Martin, Music: Lloyd Larson

SCRIPTURE READING | Isaiah 11:1-10, p. 784 *Melessa Fox, Deacon*

L: The Word of God for the people of God. **All: Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION “Where Peace Takes Root” *Rev. Christina Williams*

***RESPONSIVE HYMN** “O Day of God, Draw Near” vs. 1,2,4,5 *Black 611*

PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

During the prayers of the people, you are invited to share your joys and concerns out loud. All are invited to respond, “O Lord, hear our prayers.”

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(All are invited to sing.)* *In Pew*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"I am the Bread of Life"

Choir

Words: adapted from John 6: 32-51, Music: Arnold B Sherman

*DOXOLOGY

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 OF THANKSGIVING

God of surprising growth and quiet miracles, you take what seems small—and you grow it into peace for the world. Bless these gifts and bless our lives so that they may become seeds of peace in our homes, our communities, and everywhere your Spirit leads. Use what we bring today to lift the weary, comfort the hurting, and nurture hope where fear has taken root. In the peace of Christ, we pray. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

See insert

*CLOSING HYMN

"I've Got Peace Like a River"

Black 478

*BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION "Blessing" Choir, Junior Choir, Cherub Choir, Bella & Paul Smith, Kiki
Words/Music: Natalie Sleeth

POSTLUDE

"Here I am, Send me"

John Purifoy

** Please stand in body or spirit.*

Many thanks to the volunteers who enriched our morning together!

Tech Deacon, Amelia Allen; Advent Readers & Candle lighters, Paul and Isabella Smith; Choir, Linda Thomas, Joyce Kenneally, Meg Tivey, Alan King, Chris Polloni, Clifford Moore; Junior Choir, Bea and Keira; Cherub Choir, Bella & Paul Smith, Kiki; Hospitality & Food donation, NFCC Holiday Potluck

Leading worship today: Rev. Christina Williams, Minister, Dr. Lynne Marshall, Guest Pianist, Lisa Allen, Church-life co-director, Melessa Fox, Deacon

NEW HERE TODAY?

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here!
To help you navigate Sunday mornings with us, please see the guide below.

1. **Order of Worship:** **An asterisk means stand in body or spirit. **Bold text** is spoken in unison.*
 2. **Kid's Connection:** *On Communion Sundays the children join us in worship as they engage in activities in their pray space.*
 3. **TAKE TWO** *is an adult faith formation group that meets after worship with Lisa Allen every other Sunday. Join the discussion this Sunday.*
 4. **Coffee and Conversation:** *You are welcome to gather with us after worship to meet some new friends in the Covenant Room, down the hall on the right.*
 5. **Have Questions?** *Please reach out to Rev. Christina or the Deacon of the day.*
-

Music covered under One License #A-728849



Today's altar flowers are given in loving memory of Virginia Ellen Nielsen Baffoni by Ginny Nielsen and Susan Nielsen Fallavollita.

Come to the Table of Grace 507

Capo 3: (D) (A) (Bm) (D7/A) (G)

F C Dm F7/C B $\flat$

1 Come to the ta - ble of grace. Come to the

(A) (D) (A) (D) (Em)

C F C F Gm

ta - ble of grace. This is God's ta - ble; it's

(D/A) (G) (D/A) (A7) (D) (G) (D)

F/A B $\flat$ F/C C7 F B $\flat$ F

not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace.

- 2 Come to the table of peace...
- 3 Come to the table of love...
- 4 Come to the table of hope...
- 5 Come to the table of joy...

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be distributed. Grape juice and gluten-free bread are served.

HYMN OF INVITATION “Come to the Table of Grace” (grace, hope, joy)

Back page of Order of Worship

RESPONSIVE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

L: This is the table of peace and promise—where God brings life from stumps and grows hope in places that feel worn down.

All: We come with open hearts, ready for peace to take root in us.

L: Here we remember the One on whom the Spirit rests—full of wisdom, understanding, and compassion; the One who judges **for** the poor and seeks justice **for** all who are oppressed.

All: We come to follow Christ, who gathers the lost and welcomes every child of God.

L: Come and see, turn and taste the goodness of God. Here is bread for the journey and the cup of new life.

All: We come to be nourished, renewed, and sent as growers of peace.

PRAISE AND THANKS

L: For the earth that holds hidden life, for shoots rising from old stumps, for peace growing quietly beneath the surface—

All: We notice and give thanks.

L: For Jesus, the Shoot of Jesse, who brings justice and equity for the forgotten, and teaches us to live without fear—

All: We turn toward him in gratitude.

L: For your Spirit resting among us, deepening our compassion, awakening our courage, and rooting us in hope—

All: We turn toward your presence, O God.

L: For this bread and cup, simple gifts through which you grow in mercy, strength, and peace—

All: We give thanks with open hearts.

L: For your dream of a world where the wolf rests with the lamb, and children lead us—

All: We notice, turn, and give thanks to you, O God of peace and promise!

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

L: Come, Holy Spirit—Breath of Life. Bless this bread and cup, so that they may become for us signs of peace taking root and justice blooming in our lives. As we eat and drink, fill us with the courage to grow the Peaceable Kingdom wherever we go.

All: Make us one body—restored, renewed, and sent to bring your peace to the world. In Christ's name. Amen.

SHARING BREAD AND CUP

The gifts of God—rooted in hope, growing in peace, shared in love.

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Come, Holy Spirit—Breath of Life and Love, Through this meal, let Christ be noticed among us in the small shoots of kindness, the quiet stirrings of justice, the childlike visions of peace. Turn our hearts toward your dream for the world. Make our gratitude overflow into acts of healing, justice, and hope— until peace takes root in all creation. Through Christ, our Peace and our Joy. Amen.