

Sunday December 7, 2025 10:00 A.M.

Second Sunday of Advent
A Service of peace

We're so pleased that you've come to worship with us this morning. While this bulletin is a guide to the service, if you are unfamiliar with the ritual customs of the Anglican Church, simply relax with the liturgy and let the rest of the congregation carry you in worship. After the service please join us downstairs for coffee, tea, and juice.

(Congregational participation in **BOLD**)

Greeting/Land Acknowledgement

HYMN # 102 Prepare the Way, O Zion *(Blue Book)*

We gather together in this place:
prophets and dreamers, singers and poets,
we who dare to imagine a world renewed;
we who dare to dream God's dream.
We watch with John and the ancient prophets.
God's peace will soon appear.

The hills and valleys will meet,
and all things will be at rest.
We long for a world restored, renewed.
The fire of God's justice burns in our hearts.

Come and worship, all you who dream and wait.
We have come to wonder and praise.

Collect
God of promises,
your vision for peace stretches our imaginations,
pushing us beyond platitudes
and stirring up the fire of justice in our hearts.
Show us our place and our purpose
in leveling mountains and raising valleys,
in straightening roads and clearing pathways.
We pray as people of anticipation,
who long for peace with anxious energy
as we await the arrival of Christ among us. **Amen**.

Advent Candle Lighting
The birth of Jesus has been told and retold a thousand times and in a thousand ways.
Its impact cannot be contained in any one perspective.
But who is telling the story changes how we hear it, how we imagine it, how we experience it.
We light the candle of hope
because hope creates a path for a new, unknown story to unfold.

Light the first candle.

Close your eyes for a moment…
… Jesus, like John, and other prophets before him, calls us in the loudest of cries to peace.

Today, we also light the candle of peace because peace requires us to pay attention to the needs of those around us.

Light the second candle.

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10
Reader: Susan Himann
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church
Thanks be to God

Second Reading: Psalm 72:1-7,18-19
Reader: Susan Himann
Give the Ruler your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the Ruler's heir;
That they may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice.
That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the little hills bring righteousness.
They shall defend the needy among the people; they shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
They shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.
They shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.
In their time shall the righteous flourish;
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
Blessed be the Sovereign GOD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous deeds!
And blessed be GOD's glorious Name for ever!
and may all the earth be filled with their glory.
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church
Thanks be to God

PSALM HYMN # 117 Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming *(Blue Book)*

The Gospel Reading: (*standing*)
God be with you
And also with you
The Good News of Jesus Christ according to Matthew
People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ
The Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1-12
Reader: Deacon Lynne Smith
The Gospel of Christ
People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Character Narrative: John the Baptist- *Wayne Stewart*

Homily- The Rev. Dr. Jane Rowland

Prayers of the People – *Spencer Stevens*
At the end of each stanza of our prayer, we will pause to breathe three deep, slow breaths.

Confession
Hearing John's exhortation to repent, let us invite into our hearts the refining fire of God's Spirit, trusting that God will hear us, forgive us, and refine us.

God of peace,
we confess the ways that we maintain "peacefulness" at the expense of seeking justice for our neighbors and our world. We turn our eyes away from human suffering to maintain false contentment in our own hearts. We settle for compromises that harm the vulnerable, rather than risk discomfort or loss.
We ask to be soothed rather than stirred up.
Make us a holy and risk-taking people.
Forgive and inspire us.
Shape us as bold witnesses to your coming reign.
We pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The Peace

OFFERTORY HYMN # 108 Hark,
a Herald Voice is Sounding (*Blue Book)*

Prayer over the Gifts

Invitation to the Table

Eucharistic Prayer
Celebrant: God be with you.
People: And also with you
Celebrant: Lift up your fears, your hopes, your dreams.
People: We lift them up to God.
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to our generous, imaginative God.
People: It is right to offer thanks and praise
Celebrant: It is a joyous occasion, ….
… join their unending hymn.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord; God of pow'r and might;
Heav'n and earth of your glory are full.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest x2

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Blessed is he who comes in the names of the Lord.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord; God of pow'r and might;
Heav'n and earth of your glory are full.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest

Celebrant: Holy are you, …
…mystery of our faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Celebrant: Send your Spriit upon us, …
…Now and forever.

Amen, Amen, Amen.

The Lord's Prayer
Blessed One, our Father and our Mother
Holy is your name.
May your love be enacted in the world.
May your will be done
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread
And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For all that we do in your love,
and all that your love brings to birth,
and the fullness of love that will be
are yours, now and forever. Amen.
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The gifts of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God

Chant # 94 Wait for the Lord, Whose Day Is Near
(Blue Book)

THE COMMUNION

HYMN # 572 Let There Be Light
(Blue Book)

The Prayer after Communion

Affirmation of Peace
Let us affirm God's gift of courageous and prophetic peace.
We believe in a courageous and prophetic peace—
a peace founded through sacrificial love
and a relentless pressing in
toward places of pain and wounding.
We commit to justice as peace,
and embrace repentance and humility as foundational steps.
We believe there is always more to learn and understand
—that a posture of curiosity and grace leads us
to the heart of God and one another.
We believe in pursuing shalom,
a whole-bodied peace, for all God's creation;
seeking peace in families; peace in neighborhoods;
peace between nations; peace for Mother Earth;
and peace in the quiet depths of our own souls.
We believe in praying for peace;
speaking peace over those torn apart by painful divides
in streets and conversations; peace for those holding deep grief;
peace for those buried under heartache, chaos,
and unanswered questions.
We trust this peace is not just a dream, but a promise.
With Jesus as the Giver of Peace,
we claim anew the deep peace within us,
committing to channel peace through love and power
in all that we say and do.

Announcements

HYMN # 88 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
(Tune 374 Blue Book) (Blue Book)

The Dismissal

Benediction
Go forth from this place,
allowing God to forge you into instruments of peace
for the hard work of peacemaking.
So may God harden our resolve, not our hearts;
strengthen our will, not our arms; sharpen our minds, not our words.
May we listen to the cries of others like John in the wilderness,
guarding our hearts from being defensive or indifferent.
And may we be moved to peace not for the sake of avoiding an argument,
but for the sake of the gospel.

Go out into the world, embracing the will to dream,
and may the peace we have experienced here sustain you for the days ahead.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia.