

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Reverend John Potter, Worship Leader
Online Worship
Sunday, December 6, 2020

PRELUDE "Silent Night" – arranged by Joel Raney Adam Peithmann

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Barbara Papagian

INTROIT "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" – Bob McGee
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

THE SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING
Samuel, Kenneth, Justin and Cameron Knowles

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: The prophet Isaiah declared that justice and peace shall come through the family of Jesse.

People: **This justice shall be for all of creation.**

Leader: Peace shall be established in all the world.

People: **Get ready! Prepare for God's peace to reign!**

Leader: Blessed be God who does such wondrous things!

All: **Let us prepare our hearts to receive the wondrous gifts of God.**

INTRODUCTION

Today is the lighting of the candle of peace. It is difficult to think of peace in the tumultuous world today but if we look carefully around us, we can find peace quite easily. The peaceful sleep of a baby, snow that falls quietly and peacefully, a walk in the peaceful woods, sitting in stillness praying to a peaceful God. In God there is peace. Hear these words from the Gospel of John; "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. John 14:27

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE

Peace is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle, we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ.

ADVENT PRAYER (Unison)

Prince of Peace, reveal yourself to us today. We need peace in our lives, our homes, our families, our church, and our whole world. Help us to slow down and seek out the peace you provide, so we may become peacemakers for ourselves and others. In your name, Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen

HYMN # 153 "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

PASTORAL PRAYER

TIME OF SILENCE

OUR 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, forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vs. 4)

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 God, Emmanuel.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:6-7 and Luke 1:26-55

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

“So, what Is normal?”

Rev. John Potter

CLOSING HYMN # 150

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

CLOSING WORDS

BENEDICTION (Unison)

POSTLUDE

“Praeludium in C” – Dieterich Buxtehude

Please note: In these difficult times, we are holding you all in our thoughts and prayers. For those who are able, we are grateful for your continuing contributions to the stewardship of our church.

The Reverend John Potter is a minister of the United Church of Christ and a graduate of Amherst College and Andover Newton Theological School. John was the pastor of our church from 1980-1992. After he left Manchester, John served Old North Church in Marblehead, Massachusetts. In 2002 he took a yearlong sailing sabbatical, and when he returned, his wife, Marcia, and he moved to Maine. Since then John has served The Community Church of South Freeport (an interim position), The First Congregational Church of Wiscasset (2003-2004) and Union Church of Vinalhaven. John and Marcia love the Maine coast and spend summers sailing along the coast with their three dogs. John and Marcia have three children and nine grandchildren and live in Harpswell, Maine.

Hymn No. 153**“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”**

1. It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold; “Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all gracious King.” The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world; above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing, and ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.
3. And you beneath life’s crushing load whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way, with painful steps and slow, look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing; O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!
4. For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old, when with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold; when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

Hymn No. 150**“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”**

3. All hail the Sun of Righteousness! He is risen with healing in his wings. His glory by no more may die; born to raise us from the earth to second birth. Hark! the herald angels sing to the newborn King. Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”
1. Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King; peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!” Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!” Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”
2. Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord! Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin’s womb. Veiled in flesh the God head see; hail the incarnate Deity, pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”
3. Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all the 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 newborn King!”