

December 4, 2022

Second Sunday of Advent

We Gather In Peace

Prelude: "Joy To The World" Words: Isaac Watts, Music: Lowell Mason, Arrangement: Kevin Olsen

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

'Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'

**When conflict seems never-ending,
relationships rocky,
when we want to deny and pretend,
the Holy invites us to make space
for truth-telling
and we find Peace.**

Candle is lit.

Hymn VU 6 "A Candle Is Burning" vs. 2

A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation – see last page ...

Call to Worship

We gather to await the coming of the Messiah, God's anointed one.

**He will judge the people with righteousness,
granting justice to the poor and deliverance to the needy.**

We work and wait for peace on earth, and goodwill between all people;
that will last as long as the sun shall shine by day, and the moon by night.

His governance will be a blessing;

Like the spring rains that nourish the land.

Hymn VU 5 "All Earth Is Waiting"

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows await the seed of God.

All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,
'A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel.'

One whose name is 'God with us', our Saviour shall be,
through whom hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain,
open new highways, new highways for our God,
who is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

In lowly stable the Promised One appeared.
Yet, feel that presence throughout the earth today,
for Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;
again, on arriving, Christ brings us liberty.

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Prepare us, O Lord, for your ways. With expectant hearts may we strive to do your will. With our arms open wide may we embrace those in much need of comfort and hope. May those who trust in you experience the peace of steadfast love, faithfulness and righteousness. This we pray in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus your Christ. Amen.

Peace Is Extended

Anthem: "Waiting" words and music by Jay Althouse

Dorchester Choir

Time for the Young and the Young @ 

Hymn VU 359 "He Came Singing Love"

He came singing love and he lived singing love;
he died singing love.

He arose in silence.

For the love to go on we must make it our song; you and I be the singers.

He came singing faith and he lived singing faith;
he died singing faith.

He arose in silence.

For the faith to go on we must make it our song; you and I be the singers.

He came singing hope and he lived singing hope;
he died singing hope.

He arose in silence.

For the hope to go on we must make it our song; you and I be the singers.

He came singing peace and he lived singing peace;
he died singing peace. He arose in silence.
For the peace to go on we must make it our song; you and I be the singers.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 72:1-8, 18-19 VU 790 *parts one and three*

Give the ruler your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal heir,
**for judging your people rightly,
and upholding the poor with justice;**
that the mountains may bring forth peace for the people,
and the hills, prosperity with justice.

May your anointed defend the cause of the poor among the people,
save the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor.

**May your anointed live as long as the sun endures,
as long as the moon from age to age.**

May your anointed be like rain falling upon the grass,
like showers that water the earth;

**may your anointed be one in whose days
justice shall flourish and peace abound
till the moon is no more.**

Blessed are you, O God, the God of Israel,
who alone does marvellous things.

**Blessed is your glorious name for ever.
May the whole earth be filled with your glory.**

Scripture: Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.' "

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

*The other readings for this week are: **Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13***

Message "AFU"

Hymn VU 18 "There's a Voice in the Wilderness"

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where God, our God, may go!

O Zion, that bringest good tidings,
get thee up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their King.
Like the flowers of the field they perish,
like grass our works decay;
the power and pomp of nations
shall pass, like a dream, away.

But the word of our God endureth,
whose arm is ever strong;
God stands in the midst of nations,
and soon will right the wrong.
God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
the lambs so gently hold;
to pastures of peace will lead them,
and bring them safe to fold.

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where God, our God, may go!

We Go To Share Peace With The World

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

God's Word of peace is coming into the world: peace for those living in war zones, peace for those who are refugees or internally displaced people who have fled war zones, peace for those bound by addictions, peace for those living with mental health issues, peace for those who are anxious. We offer up our tithes and offerings to help prepare the way of the Lord, we offer up our gifts as symbols of peace.

Offering Hymn VU 55 vs. 4 "In the Bleak Midwinter"

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

Prayer of Dedication

O come to us, Emmanuel, and make our giving holy. For what is here is freely given, with hope and joy and love. Let these offerings join with others that this world may become your peaceable kingdom. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

God of Love, "A voice cries in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord!" Yet we need you, by your Holy Spirit, to prepare a way in our hearts and minds and lives.

Prepare among us the path of peace. Grant the peace that comes in following your ways, in practicing justice and righteousness, in sharing our gifts for your sake.

Prepare among us the path of joy.

We pray for those whose spirits need to be buoyed up and who have forgotten childhood's gift of taking delight in the simple pleasures of life, which come from you, Extravagant God.

Prepare among us the path of love.

We pray for all who need to be embraced by love:

all who are cramped and narrowed in spirit;
all who have lost the ability to trust;
all who ache for a signal they are cherished, or even noticed by someone;
all who struggle with a lifetime burden of being told they are not good enough.

Prepare among us, O God, the path of hope.

We pray for those in need of hope today:

all who mourn the death of a loved one, especially the friends and families of Brian Chanyi, and Paul McMillan.

all who grieve the end of a relationship;
all who are worried for a friend;
all who are anxious for a family member's health;
all who are overwhelmed by illness or disability, especially the Rev. Grafton Antone, the Rev. Jim Evans, Glenda McMillan, and their loved ones, and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts

all who live in the midst of social collapse;
all who live in the midst of warfare and terrorism;
all who live in grinding poverty.

O God of hope, peace, joy and love, we honour you now and always, through Jesus, your Anointed One, who taught us to pray, saying,

**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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn VU 44 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

It came upon the 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.

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.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not
the love song which they bring.
O hush the noise, and cease your strife,
to hear the angels sing.

For, lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

Commissioning and Benediction

O come, desire behind our greatest needs.

O come, Prince of Peace.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Amen.

Response: VU 12 vs. 4 "She Walked in the Summer"

When you walk in the summer through the heat on the hill,
when you're wound with the wind and one with Her will,
be brave with the burden you are blessed to bear,
for it's Christ that you carry everywhere,
everywhere, everywhere.

Postlude: "Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming" Geistliche Kirchengesang
Arrangement: Bernadine Johnson

ALL:

Choir rehearsals are Thursdays at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

DORCHESTER:

December 25th is the last Sunday to make a donation to Dorchester United Church for your 2022 tax receipt.

Lectionary Readings for next week: (December 11, 3rd of Advent, Year A)
Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10 OR Luke 1:47-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11