

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 2020

Growing and Deepening our Spiritual Lives in an Affirming and Inclusive Community

ADVENT SERIES

'I Believe Even When....."

"Raise your voice... do not be afraid." — The Messenger

Advent 4
"I Believe in the Light: Illuminating Peace

WE GATHER

Prelude
Welcome

Crossing the Threshold
Soloist (Ruth Cross)

I believe in the light, I believe in the light,
that has come, that has come, and is coming.

I believe in the light, I believe in the light,
that has come, that has come, and is coming.

As we wait for the dawn of the eve of Christmas
As we wait for the dawn of the eve of Christmas,

We see the star rising
We see the star rising
We hear the glad tidings
We hear the glad tidings
of peace and goodwill
of peace and goodwill.
We know we are not alone

We know we are not alone

You are invited to light your Advent Candle of Joy during the prayer,
at the same time as we light the candle.

Prayer of Opening

Holy One,

as we await again the arrival of the one called Prince of Peace,
we long for the peaceful waters that run deep and wide underneath
all of life.

We thank you for the glimpses we catch
of your gift of peace on earth.

Even in the midst of fear,
of challenge, of struggle—
even when we are not sure that
goodwill among us can be found,
ignite the flame of peace within us, (*candle is lit*)
**People: ... that we might glow with its brilliance
from the inside out.**

**I believe in the light
I believe in the light,
that has come... that has come...
and is coming.**

Holy One, may the light of this Candle of Joy
Help us face the silence of unknowing
and embrace it as the pregnant pause before
joyful new beginnings.

Amen.

Opening Hymn

Hark the Glad Sound VU #29 vs. 1, 3 & 4
Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
The Saviour promised long:
Let every heart prepare a throne,
And every voice a song.

He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to bless the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches
ring with your beloved name.

WE PROCLAIM

Our Time to Shine

Song: "This Little Light of Mine"
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine x3
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Out in the dark, I'm gonna let it shine, x3
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.

There's no time to lose, so we're gonna let it shine, x3
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.

Prophetic Reading from Isaiah

Isaiah 9:2-7 (Adapted)

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:8-14

The Witness of Music

"When Angels Sing"
by Mark A. Miller/Herb Frombach
Video - Brent Tucker, Accompanist
Brittany Ray, Soloist

Within each lifetime an angel's voice is heard;
celestial sounds pierce time and space.
For just a moment, the breathless beauty
of heaven's song reveals God's grace.

Peace in our hearts, peace when angels sing,
peace, be still and listen heart.
Listen when angels sing.

Despite our sorrow, the dawn brings life anew;
and raging storms begin to cease.
For just a moment, the breathless beauty

If heaven's song brings us peace.

Reflection
Peace Video

WE RESPOND

Litany of Belief

Minister: I believe that humans seem to have a fondness for conflict
AND

People: I believe that we are capable of learning non-violent
ways to negotiate difference.

I believe that this pandemic has fostered so much sadness, grief, and
loneliness
AND

**I believe that it has shown us that actions of love, actions of
care, actions of kindness can settle the heart and bring peace.**

We believe, even when we are discouraged.

**We believe, that when we are discouraged,
raising our voices for justice and acting with love offer us peace!**

Prayers in the Stillness

I invite you to get in a comfortable position of rest.

I invite you to get as quiet and still as you can.

I invite you to a deep breath and a deep listening posture—perhaps
eyes closed or fixed on a candle—as we prepare for a time of prayer.

“Stillness” Song

The gentle pull of God
is often lost amidst the rush
of all the obligations which lay a claim on us.

Yet just beyond the frantic pace
our restless feet have trod
lie deep still pools of quietness—
the dwelling place of God.

Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Be the air I breathe

Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Free me to receive

O take me to that secret place
where lost in wonder and in awe,
the moment comes and I rejoice
to be and be with God.

Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Be the air I breathe
Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Free me to receive

Prayers of the People

Celebration of Communion

Advent communion hymn (Tune VU #36)

All who come with hearts confessing,
now approach this meal of grace.
Let us, with love's richest blessing,
Christmas hope and joy embrace.
Come with praises, come with praises,
celebrate the power of love.

To this table bring your vision
for a world of peace and love.
Where all people share their wisdom
truth and justice shall increase.
Come with praises, come with praises
Celebrate the power of peace.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Our God, Song of the Ages, be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up with gladness.
Let us give thanks to the Holy One of Peace.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy One of Life,
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, And so,

with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Now Mary sings her birthing song
Till every voice can sing along
And voices weak will rise up strong
Her choir is one where all belong

Holy are you and blessed is Jesus the one called Christ. Breaking forth into light from On the night in which he gave in to the powers of injustice,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

[sung]

For deeper love we spread the bread
I won't be full till all are fed
Till every soul has home and bed
The rest of us can't move ahead

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Drink from this, all of you;
this is my source of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.”

[sung]

We follow where the Christ has led
To table that for all is spread
And no one's sitting at the head
But deeper love in wine and bread

And so,
in remembrance of your loving acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves as a holy and living lights of hope, love, joy and
peace.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on all who share this meal,
and on these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine.

Make them be for us your love and light
so that our hearts may be broken open for the world
and our lives poured out in service.

Communion is shared

After Communion Hymn vs. 3 (Tune VU #36)

May the bread and wine unite us
in our quest for peace on earth.
May our hearts be moved within us
to embrace our own new birth.
Come with praises, come with praises,
Celebrate the way of peace.

WE GO FORTH

Carol of Resistance

Go Tell It on the Mountain VU #43

Chorus

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Chorus

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Saviour's birth

Chorus

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent our salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Chorus

Announcements

Benediction

We wait for justice

but we do not wait to work for change;

We wait for restored health

but we do not wait to work to heal;

We wait for wholeness

but we do not wait to work at binding brokenness;

We wait for peace

but we do not wait to work to eliminate hatred.

And so, my friends, like bells ringing out the news
that God is ever-present with us,

fill the night left by sadness with messages of peace.

Go into your lives humming the tunes that keep pace alive in you
and that spur you on in your work of justice and reconciliation.

Raise your voices and repeat after me...

“do not be afraid!”

“do not be afraid!”

“We will not be afraid!”

“We will not be afraid.”

“God is ever-present with us,”

God is ever-present with us.”

Amen

Amen

CLOSING BLESSING VU #964

Go now with peace, go now with peace,
May God's grace and love surround us,
Everywhere, everywhere, we may go.

Postlude

Worship Notes

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