

**Peace United Church of Church  
Second Sunday of Advent  
December 8th, 2024  
10:30am**



*A Road Runs Through It, Jan Richardson*

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Prelude

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bells

Call to Worship

Rest and recover, nourish body and soul,

**Prepare the way!**

Agitate and rabblorouse, make good trouble,

**Prepare the way!**

Light candles in the darkness, pray without ceasing,

**Prepare the way for Christ's peace!**

\*Song

*O Loving Founder of the Stars*

#111 NCH

***O loving founder of the stars, to all of faith light without end,  
O Christ, redeemer of us all, to earnest prayers your mercy lend.***

***Who grieving at the cry of pain-the anguish of our dying race-  
Did death itself for us destroy, and guilt assume through loving grace:***

***As Savior from the heavens forth, when earth draws near its final hour,  
You from the virgin mother's womb appeared in love's redeeming power.***

***O Christ, who braved earth's deepest pain, all kneeling low your name adore;  
All heaven and earth your name confess and praise you, Sovereign, evermore.***

***Your judgment of this world draws near, O Holy One, until that day  
protect us all your faithful ones against the Faithless One, we pray.***

Lighting the First Advent Candle

The Oestreich Family

Introit

*This joy I have, the world didn't give it to me,  
This joy I have, the world didn't give it to me,  
This joy I have, the world didn't give it to me,  
No, the world didn't give it, the world can't take it away.*

Reader: Today is the second Sunday in Advent. Today we light the candle of peace. It's hard to imagine that peace will ever come to our war-torn and violent world. Nevertheless, we can take small steps toward peace. We can listen attentively to each other before we speak. We can apologize for misunderstandings. We can advocate for justice. We can practice Sabbath rest. We can choose to forgive. We can extend grace to each other. There are so many small ways we can help bring peace.

\*Song (sung by congregation)

***This peace I have, the world didn't give it to me,  
This peace I have, the world didn't give it to me,  
This peace I have, the world didn't give it to me,  
No, the world didn't give it, the world can't take it away.***

\*Passing of the Peace

Story for All Ages

Amanda McElray Hunter

Sending the Children

***Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
Gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!***

Hebrew Bible Reading

*Malachi 3:1-4*

Bud Trnka, reader

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like washers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord, as in the days of old and as in former years.

New Testament Reading

*Luke 3:1-6*

Bud Trnka, reader

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Ceasar, 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,

"The voice of one crying out in  
the wilderness:

'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."

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Choir Anthem

*O Nata Lux*, Morten Lauridsen

*O Light born of Light,  
Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
with loving-kindness deign to receive  
suppliant praise and prayer.*

*Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh  
for the sake of the lost,  
grant us to be members  
of thy blessed body.*

Sermon

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

Song

*Maranatha*, Nathaniel Mahlberg

***Maranatha, Heart of Hope  
Humble the high, uplift the Low  
Emmanuel, our luminous Mystery  
Dawning within to set us free***

***Chorus:***

***Rejoice! Rejoice!***

***Emmanuel***

***Rejoice! Rejoice!***

***Emmanuel***

***Maranatha, Love Supreme  
You hold our broken world so tenderly  
Emmanuel, our luminous Mystery  
Dawning within to set us free***

***Chorus:***

***Maranatha, Way of Peace  
Born with us so that our suffering cease  
Emmanuel, our luminous Mystery  
Dawning within to set us free***

***Chorus:***

***Maranatha, Joy Divine  
Bringing us the awe of the Sublime  
Emmanuel, our luminous Mystery  
Dawning within to set us free***

***Chorus:***

Community Prayers & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer of Jesus

**Our Father and Mother, 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Choral Amen

Offertory

Byron Klimek, cello

\*Doxology

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise God above ye heavenly host,  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen!***

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Closing Song

*Comfort, Comfort O My People*

#101 NCH

***"Comfort, comfort O my people, tell of peace," thus says our God;  
Comfort those whose hearts are shrouded, mourning under sorrow's load.  
Speak unto Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.  
  
For the herald's voice is calling in the desert far and near,  
Bidding us to make repentance since the realm of God is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;  
Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.  
  
Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain!  
Let your hearts be true and humble, for Messiah's holy reign.  
For God's glory evermore shall be known o'er all the world;  
And all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.***

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

Assisting in Today's Service:  
Cindy Macaulay, greeter  
Julie MacKenzie, Phyllis Cook, and Warren Post, Ushers

## **Peace United Church of Christ Staff**

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**Amanda McElray Hunter** - Children, Youth and Small Group Coordinator

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